Name _____ Date _____

Character Comparisons, Story 1

Rosa's family had moved to a new town during the summer, so when school started in the fall, Rosa was a little bit nervous, even though she had made a few friends over the summer. Her mother offered to drive her to school on the first day, but Rosa declined. She wanted to ride the bus and get a look at the other kids on her way to school.

As luck would have it, she knew two girls on the bus. She had met Keisha and Patti at the local swimming pool this summer, and they called her over to sit with them.

They talked on the ride in to school. They took turns trying to impress each other with stories about all the fun they had during their summer vacation. Keisha and Patti seemed to be popular with the other kids, because everyone said "hi" to them when they got on the bus. They also introduced Rosa to everyone. Rosa was relieved. Maybe things would get off to a good start after all.

Then some children got on at the next stop, and Rosa noticed some of them were picking on a little girl with thick glasses. No one let the little girl sit with them. Someone threw her lunch out the window. Rosa couldn't believe that she wasn't crying after that treatment. "Who's that?" she asked Keisha and Patti.

"Oh, don't pay any attention to her. That's Peg. She doesn't have any friends," said Patti. Then, much to Rosa's shock, Patti made oinking noises.

Rosa [illegible] could explain [illegible] has [illegible]

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At lunch, Rosa sat at the popular kids' table in the cafeteria and joked around with Keisha and Patti. It felt good to have someone to joke with. It was only the first day of school, and she already had friends – popular friends!

After she finished eating, Rosa went outside to play with her new friends until class started. She saw Peg leaning up against a tree, at the other end of the school, and for a moment wondered why she hadn't been in the cafeteria. Then she remembered what had happened to Peg's lunch on the bus that morning. Suddenly, Rosa felt sad.

That night she baked cookies with her mother, and told her about Peg. "I think I have to make a decision," Rosa said to her mother.

The next morning she sat with Keisha and Patti on the school bus again. When Peg's stop came, and no one wanted to let her sit down, Rosa waved her over. "There's room here, Peg."

"What are you doing?" Patti hissed at her, but Rosa ignored her.

"They steal your lunch again, Peg?" Rosa asked her. Peg nodded glumply. Rosa gave her a peek into her lunch box. "Thought so. I packed an extra ham sandwich just in case. And some cookies." Then she turned to Keisha and Patti, who were rolling their eyes. "Bullying hurts people. Her name is Peg. And she does have a friend: me."

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