

## THE NEW GIRL

by Jenny Boswick

It was at school the other day that we had a new girl. She was thirteen years old and her name was Sally and she came from Manchester.

It was a very hot day when she joined our school. There she was with her yellow hair in plaits in front of her. She was wearing make-up. There was black mascara and red lipstick and her eyebrows were black which was unnatural. Her white blouse was undone at the neck and her tie was not done up. She wore dangling earrings and a necklace and several rings on her fingers. She was also wearing red nail varnish and a strong perfume, all of this was against school rules.

Her black skirt was dreadfully short and not the regulation length. She would get told off for that as well. Her bare legs were very brown. She obviously sunbathed a lot.

And she was chewing gum!

All the boys flocked round her and she was very happy with this. She was the centre of attraction. One could almost hear the boys thinking of asking her out for a date even though they had only just seen her. All we other girls simply cringed.

Along came Miss Clunk who introduced Sally to us in the playground and told me to show her round. I did not want the job. I did not want anyone to think that I was like her.

There were two flights of stairs to our classroom. All the girls went on ahead. The boys hung back. I walked up the stairs with Sally. The boys followed us closely laughing but I don't know why.

Miss Jones, our form teacher, asked the new girl to come to the front and introduce herself. Miss Jones was horrified at Sally's appearance.

"How can you sit down in that skirt?" the teacher asked her.

"The same way as anyone else," replied Sally.

The boys laughed.

"You will go to the cloakroom and wash your face and get rid of that make-up and, in future, you will wear a skirt that, at least, touches your knees. Now go and wash!"

"Where's the cloakroom, Miss?"

Guess who had to go to the cloakroom with her.

### QUESTIONS FOR DETAILED ANSWERS

1. What is your general impression of Sally? Explain clearly in no less than 30 words.
2. What is it about her that you most dislike?
3. Is there anything about her you admire? Explain your answer
4. Think about her appearance. What one aspect of her appearance would you never copy and why?

5. Why were her eyebrows unnatural?
6. Who is Miss Clunk?
7. Why do you think the boys followed Sally up the stairs and were laughing?
8. Do you think Miss Jones's criticisms of Sally were right? Explain why.
9. Who had to accompany Sally to the cloakroom?
10. Why do you think Sally dressed like this?

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