

## You Choose: Student appearance

**Directions:** Read the Story. Then, following the example below, pick a question to answer. Print this page and create a story that tells about the outcome.

Lori is a high school freshman. She is very smart and very funny, but many students define her solely by her appearance. Lori is very short and chubby. Lori has poor eye sight, so she needs very thick glasses. Her dad just got laid off from work and her mom is on disability, so Lori doesn't get to wear the most up-to-date clothing and has very unappealing glasses.

When Lori walks through the hallway at school, a group of her classmates mock her: waddling with their cheeks full of air, making glasses with their hands, calling her "Oompa-Loompa-Lori" and asking if she got her clothes from the thrift store.

Lori starts to skip her classes. When her teachers don't really seem to notice, she starts to skip school. Her schoolwork suffers. She also avoids hanging around her family, because she feels embarrassed. She spends most of her time alone in her room. Her parents are upset with her about this, because she is normally a great student. They don't understand why she seems so distracted from her schoolwork and cannot spend time with the family.



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**WHAT SHOULD LORI DO?**

**Example Question:** What might happen if Lori tells her parents?

**Outcome:** Lori’s parents might finally understand why her schoolwork is suffering and why she is skipping school. They might try to find some new clothing on sale for Lori that is more up to date. Or they might encourage her to get a part-time job, possibly babysitting, so she could afford new clothes herself. Her parents might talk with Lori about involving the school personnel to get more support for Lori at school.

**Other Questions:**

What might happen if Lori confronts her peers?

What might happen if Lori continues to skip school to avoid the bullies?

What might happen if Lori tells her teachers about her bullies?

What might happen if Lori talks to a school counselor about the situation?

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How do you think this outcome would affect the student, their self-esteem and their future?

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