

Absolutely Lucy by Ilene Cooper **Answer Sheet**

Before Reading

Chapter 1 Shy Guy

What does it mean to be "shy"? _____ **Shy people have a hard time talking to people they don't know. They are embarrassed or afraid to meet people and prefer to spend time with a few people they know well.**

How can you tell if someone is shy? _____ **They don't look at your face when you talk to them. Their face turns red. They are quiet or don't say hello.**

How could you respond to someone who seems shy? **Be friendly but don't make them talk to you. Be kind. Don't make fun of them.**

After Reading

Chapter 1 Shy Guy

What is the problem for Bobby in Chapter 1? **Bobby is shy. He doesn't have friends to play with. Kids at school call him Cry Bobby.**

On page 2, how does Bobby show he is shy? **He keeps his head down when the teacher talks to him. He cried at school a lot.**

How do Bobby's parents try to help? **They tried to send him to camp. They tell him to be friendly.**

Chapter 2 The Birthday Present

Before Reading:

Draw or write about a birthday present you've gotten. Was it a surprise? **Answers vary.**

After Reading

Chapter 2 The Birthday Present

How would you describe Bobby as a character? Use evidence from this chapter and/or chapter 1 to support your description.

Bobby is shy. He doesn't have friends. Bobby is kind. He does not make fun of Jenny when she can't say "Absolutely."

How does the author show that Bobby is worried about his present?

Page 4 Bobby remembers he didn't take good care of his turtle. On page 11 Bobby felt his stomach go up and down.

Before Reading

Chapter 3 Lucy

How did you get your name? *Answers vary.*

If you could name a pet, what name would you pick and why? *Answers vary.*

After Reading

Chapter 3 Lucy

Why does Bobby name his dog Lucy? *His favorite babysitter was named Lucy. She helped him feel less shy, and he hopes his dog will do the same.*

Bobby reads about Beagles in a library book. You can also read about all kinds of dog breeds at akc.org.

Before Reading

Chapter 4 Lucy in Trouble

Draw or write about a pet you know who caused trouble.

After Reading

Chapter 4 Lucy in Trouble

What does Lucy do to cause trouble? *She chews on things like clothes and papers.*

How does Bobby's dad react to Lucy's mess? *He said "It was my fault. I shouldn't have left the folder on the sofa." But he was mad.*

Circle the character traits Bobby's dad shows when Lucy causes trouble:

impatience bravery *patience* fear kindness *forgiveness* hatred

Use examples from the text to show what character traits Bobby's dad has.

He said it was his fault, and he smiled at Lucy and said, "It's very hard to stay mad at you." He made a joke about his dog eating his homework.

Before Reading

Chapter 5 Lucy to the Rescue

Make a prediction. What do you think the rescue in this chapter could be?

Answers vary.

After Reading

Chapter 5 Lucy to the Rescue

Why is it hard for Bobby to make friends? Page 29 Meeting new people makes his heart pound and his face turn red. He feels afraid.

How does Bobby respond when the toddler at the park is afraid of Lucy? Use words from the text to support your answer.

Page 32 and 33 He took Lucy to the other side of the park, and "Bobby knew it was hard to give something new a chance."

Before Reading

Chapter 6 One Friend

List 5 words that describe a good friend:

Answers vary.

After Reading Chapter 6 One Friend

Why does Bobby go to Mr. Davis' house? Lucy pulled him there.

How did Lucy help Bobby make a new friend? She made him go to Mr. Davis' house.

Before Reading

Chapter 7 Dog School

Have you ever tried to train a dog? _____ If not, talk with someone who has, or you can watch a dog training video at www.akc.org.

What is important to remember when training a dog? Circle all that apply.

- a) **Be patient and positive**
- b) Punish often
- c) Train several hours a day
- d) **Give lots of treats and praise**

After Reading

Chapter 7 Dog School

Why does Lucy need to go to school? **She doesn't come when called or sit.**

Do you think Bobby should go with her? Why or why not? **Answers vary.**

Before Reading

Chapter 8 Two Friends

What advice would you give someone who wants to make friends, but is shy? **Answers vary.**

After Reading

Chapter 8 Two Friends

Read the excerpt from page 54.

"Hi," said a girl about Bobby's age.

Bobby looked at the ground. "Hi," he mumbled.

"My name is Candy," the girl said. "This is Butch." She pointed to her dog, a boxer.

..."How long have you had Lucy?" Candy asked.

Before Bobby could answer, Candy said, "We've had Butch about two months."

What does this excerpt tell you about how Bobby and Candy are different?

Candy has no problem talking to new people. Candy talks a lot, but Bobby is shy.

By the end of the chapter, how does Bobby feel about Candy? What words from the text show how he feels?

Page 62 "The worst thing about being shy was never knowing what to say next. Bobby could see this wasn't going to be a problem with Candy. She talked enough for both of them."

Before Reading

Chapter 9 One More Friend

Draw a picture of you and your friend doing something you enjoy.

After Reading

Chapter 9 One More Friend

On page 65 Bobby has a funny feeling in his stomach. What is that feeling? **He was going to miss Candy.**

On page 70 how does Lucy help Bobby make a new friend? **She pulled on her leash so Bobby had to cross the street to give the new boy his ball.**

On page 70 the author writes *"The boy was in no hurry to get his ball. He just stood there as Bobby and Lucy came toward him. His eyes were down on the sidewalk.*

He's not very friendly, Bobby thought. Then Bobby realized that he knew that look. He knew it very well."

What does Bobby realize about the boy? **Bobby saw that the boy was shy.**

Which character traits describe Bobby in this chapter? Circle all that apply.

kindness anger revenge loyalty **bravery** love **fear**

After Reading Absolutely Lucy

Discussion Questions

Answers vary.

Sometimes people who are shy seem unfriendly. They may not look at you or talk to you. Sometimes you might think shy people are being mean when this happens. Was Bobby trying to be mean when he didn't talk to other kids?

What gave Bobby the courage to speak to a boy he didn't know?

How did Lucy show Bobby that it's worth the effort to try to make new friends?