



“Good Enough”

Respond to each statement by checking “Agree” or “Disagree.” Be prepared to justify your responses.

	Agree	Disagree
1. People judge others based on what they’re wearing.		
2. Wanting approval from others affects our everyday choices.		
3. Physical objects can hold great importance and meaning.		
4. Money can’t buy happiness.		
5. Kindness is always fashionable.		
6. “Perhaps what matters when all is said and done is not who puts us down but who picks us up.”—Kate DiCamillo		
7. When you figure out what is important, it’s easier to ignore what is not.		
8. “Always be a little kinder than necessary.”—J.M. Barrie		

Name: _____ Date: _____

Close-Reading Questions

"Good Enough"

1. How does Dori feel compared to how everyone else feels? (inference, page 23)
2. Chronologically, when does this first section take place? (structure, page 23)
3. What does this line tell you about Dori's mom? (inference, page 23)
4. The Orion shirt is fictional. What real-life trends does it remind you of?
(making connections, page 25)
5. Why does Dori say she doesn't want the shirt? (motive, page 25)

6. Dori says she doesn't care what she wears. Based on these lines, is that true? (inference, page 25)

7. Dori spends much of this story avoiding looking at others. Why? (character, page 26)

8. Does Carleen know that the shirt is a knockoff? Explain. (inference, page 26)

9. What does Dori mean? (theme, page 26)

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Critical-Thinking Questions

"Good Enough"

1. On page 24, Dori's Mom asks, "They're 'the thing'?" What does she mean? What's "the thing" at your school right now? Does this story make you view it differently?
2. On page 24, Dori says that the girls in the A group scare her a little. Why do you think this is?
3. Dori says the girls in the A group are "never really outwardly mean." What does she mean? Is not being outwardly mean different from being kind?
4. Why might the author have chosen stars and hearts as the logos on the two shirts?
5. How does Dori change over the course of the story?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Analyzing Poetry

Below is Francisco X. Alarcón's poem "Ode to My Shoes." Read the poem a few times. Then answer the questions on the following pages.

An **ode** is a type of poem expressing the writer's thoughts and feelings about a particular person, place, or thing. Often, an ode is written to praise or celebrate that person, place, or thing.

Ode to My Shoes by Francisco X. Alarcón

- 1 my shoes
rest
- 3 all night
under my bed
- 5 tired
they stretch
- 7 and loosen
their laces
- 9 wide open
they fall asleep
- 11 and dream
of walking
- 13 they revisit
the places
- 15 they went to
during the day
- 17 and wake up
cheerful
- 19 relaxed
so soft

Listen to this
poem read aloud at
scope.scholastic.com

Structure

1 How many stanzas are there?

2 How many lines are in each stanza?

3 At the end of each line, write down how many syllables are in that line. What do you notice? What is the largest number of syllables in any line?

Meaning

4 Personification is describing something that is not human as though it were human. Explain how the poet uses personification in "Ode to My Shoes."

5 How is the last line of the poem a little different from the rest of the poem?

6 In your own words, briefly summarize what the speaker says his shoes do.

7 What is the tone of this poem? In other words, what is the speaker's attitude toward his shoes? Explain why you think that.

8 Do you think the way the speaker describes his shoes reveals anything about the speaker himself? Explain.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Preparing to Write: Ode to a Shirt

Directions: After reading the story "Good Enough" and the poem "Ode to My Shoes," complete the activity "Analyzing Poetry." Then follow the directions below to write an ode either to an Orion shirt or to the knockoff Orion shirt that Dori receives for her birthday. Write your ode from Dori's point of view.

- 1** An ode is a type of poem that expresses the writer's thoughts and feelings about a specific person, place, or thing. Usually, an ode is written to praise or celebrate the person, place, or thing that it's about. Think about what Dori might praise about the real Orion shirt and what she might praise about the knockoff. Jot your ideas down in the spaces provided.

**WHAT DORI MIGHT PRAISE ABOUT
A REAL ORION SHIRT**

**WHAT DORI MIGHT PRAISE ABOUT
THE KNOCKOFF ORION SHIRT**

Asking yourself these
questions might help you
come up with ideas:

- Does the shirt make Dori think about something good?
- Did the shirt teach Dori something?
 - Does Dori admire something about the shirt?
 - Does the shirt help Dori with something?
- Does Dori like the way the shirt looks, feels, fits, etc.?

- 2** Now that you've spent a little time brainstorming, it's time to decide: Which shirt will you write your poem about? Put a check on your choice.

a real Orion
shirt

the knockoff
Orion shirt

- 3** Brainstorm a list of adjectives that Dori might use to describe the shirt you chose.

ADJECTIVES

Think of words that

- describe the shirt physically.
- describe the personality Dori might imagine the shirt having, in the way that poet Francisco X. Alarcón describes his shoes as being cheerful and relaxed.

- 4** In "Ode to My Shoes," Francisco X. Alarcón describes his shoes at a particular time (night), in a particular place (under his bed), and doing a particular action (falling asleep and dreaming). Choose a time, place, and action for the shirt. The action you choose doesn't need to be something a shirt actually does; you can use personification as Alarcón does. You may write more than one idea in each box.

TIME

PLACE

ACTION

- 5** Now it's time to write the first draft of your ode. Use the ideas that you brainstormed—but let your mind be free. You might come up with new ideas as you start to write, which is great.

Write your poem on your own piece of paper. Here are some things to think about:

- Remember that you are writing about the shirt from Dori's point of view. Your poem should reveal something about what the shirt means to Dori.
- Something that is unique about "Ode to My Shoes" is that there are four lines in each stanza, and no line has more than four syllables. Do you want to try using this structure? You don't have to, but it could be a fun challenge.
- Take a look at the last stanza of Alarcón's poem. He describes an action the shoes do and then lists three adjectives (*cheerful*, *relaxed*, and *soft*) to describe the shoes, adding the word "so" before the last one. Do you want to conclude your poem in a similar way?

Name: _____ Date: _____

"Good Enough"

Character Thinking Tool

The questions in this activity are about the character of
Dori

1. Think about how Dori counts to 210 by 7s, chews on her lip, and avoids eye contact with others. What do these behaviors reveal about her?

2. What does Dori think is the reason her mom comes home between shifts? Why does her mom *really* come home?

3. Why does Dori want an Orion shirt? Have you ever felt that way about an item of clothing or other object?

4. A. On page 26, Dori says, "At the lockers early in the morning, Lisa looked at me, not unkindly." What does Dori mean?

B. Do you think middle schoolers act "not unkindly" sometimes? What are some ways everyone could be more kind?

5. A. What kind of sister is Dori? How do you know?

B. What else does Dori do that shows that she cares for her family?

6. A. Why does Dori think getting an imitation Orion shirt is worse than getting no Orion shirt at all?

B. How much does approval from others affect our daily choices? Give an example of a choice that might be affected by what others think or say.

7. What is shame? Compare the moments when Dori feels shame in the story.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Making Inferences

Making an inference means using clues from the text to figure out something the author doesn't tell you directly.

Directions: Answer the questions or follow the directions that appear in italics to fill in the chart. We completed the first row for you.

Clues	Inference
<p>1. On page 23, Dori says:</p> <p>"After a few splashes of cold water, I dried my face, took one more deep breath, and attempted a smile."</p> <p>"She pulled me out to the deck and I twirled around, not trusting myself to speak, as my brothers complimented me on my new shirt."</p>	<p><i>What do these lines suggest about how Dori is feeling?</i></p> <p>Dori is very upset about something but does not want to show that she is upset. You can infer this from the fact that she says she "attempted to smile" and didn't trust herself to speak.</p>
<p>2. <i>Find two lines in the story that support the inference on the right.</i></p>	<p>Dori's family does not have a lot of money.</p>
<p>3. On page 25, before Dori opens her last present, she says:</p> <p>"I smiled and said thanks and wondered what was in the big box. Until I realized. I tore open the wrapping paper . . ."</p>	<p><i>What did Dori think was in the box?</i></p>

Clues	Inference
<p>4. Find two lines in the story that support the inference on the right.</p>	<p>Dori wants the A group to like and accept her.</p>
<p>5. At the end of the story, Dori says:</p> <p>"A fake? Depends what's real, I guess."</p>	<p>What might Dori say is "real"?</p>

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“Good Enough” Quiz

Directions: Read “Good Enough.” Then answer the questions below.

- At the beginning of the story, Dori has been crying in the bathroom. Why has she been crying?
 - She thinks her mom spent too much money on the shirt she gave Dori for her birthday.
 - She is upset that the shirt she got for her birthday is a knockoff.
 - She is remembering being teased by the girls at school.
 - She is angry with her mom for not buying her a real Orion shirt.
- On page 23, Dori says “I was preoccupied with my math homework . . .” Dori means that she is
 - worried or anxious.
 - feeling or showing frustration.
 - very enthusiastic or eager about something.
 - lost in thought; focused.
- On page 24, Dori says that Lisa and her friends “are in the A group.” Dori means that the girls are
 - smart.
 - generous.
 - popular.
 - in a special club.
- What does the Orion shirt represent to Dori at the beginning of the story?
 - fitting in
 - comfort
 - freedom
 - growing up
- Which line BEST supports your answer to question 4?
 - “They’re just, you know, soft cotton, like knit.” (p. 24)
 - “Yeah, but they’re expensive.” (p. 24)
 - “. . . I began thinking about myself in an Orion shirt—imagining how it would feel to get one of those purring compliments . . .” (p. 25)
 - “I imagined my mother standing at the display at the Bargain Mart.” (p. 26)
- At the end of the story, Dori tells the girls in the A group that the knockoff shirt is the best present she ever got. Why?
 - She is trying to hide the shame that she feels.
 - She thinks the knockoff shirt is higher quality than a real Orion shirt.
 - She is trying to convince the girls that the knockoff is a real Orion shirt.
 - She has come to see the shirt as a symbol of her mom’s love for her.

Constructed-Response Questions

Directions: Write your answers in a well-organized response.

- Describe Dori’s relationship with her family. Use details from the story to support your answer.
- Analyze the title of the story. What does it mean? How does it connect to the story? Support your answers with text evidence.

Name: _____ Date: _____

“Good Enough” Quiz

Directions: Read “Good Enough.” Then answer the questions below.

1. At the beginning of the story, Dori has been crying in the bathroom. Why has she been crying?

- Ⓐ She is worried about her family not having enough money.
- Ⓑ She is upset that the shirt she got for her birthday is a knockoff.
- Ⓒ Carleen teased her at school.
- Ⓓ She is angry with her mom for not buying her a real Orion shirt.

2. On page 23, Dori says “I was preoccupied with my math homework . . .” She means that she is

- Ⓐ worried.
- Ⓑ bored.
- Ⓒ excited.
- Ⓓ lost in thought.

3. On page 24, Dori says that Lisa and her friends are “in the A group.” Dori means that the girls are

- Ⓐ smart.
- Ⓑ generous.
- Ⓒ popular.
- Ⓓ in a special club.

4. What is the main reason Dori wants an Orion shirt?

- Ⓐ She wants to wear what other girls are wearing.
- Ⓑ The shirt is soft and comfortable.
- Ⓒ Her school dress code requires her to wear one.
- Ⓓ She likes the star design on the collar.

5. Which line BEST supports your answer to question 4?

- Ⓐ “‘They’re just, you know, soft cotton, like knit.’” (p. 24)
- Ⓑ “‘Yeah, but they’re expensive.’” (p. 24)
- Ⓒ “. . . I began thinking about myself in an Orion shirt—imagining how it would feel to get one of those purring compliments . . .” (p. 25)
- Ⓓ “I imagined my mother standing at the display at the Bargain Mart.” (p. 26)

6. At the very end of the story, Dori sees the knockoff Orion shirt as a symbol of

- Ⓐ not fitting in.
- Ⓑ high-quality clothing.
- Ⓒ being popular.
- Ⓓ her mom’s love for her.

Constructed-Response Questions

Directions: Write your answers in a well-organized response.

7. Which details in the story show that Dori and her family have a close, caring relationship? Explain.

8. Think about the title of the story, “Good Enough.” What is “good enough” in the story? Support your answer with text evidence.

Note: *Scope* does not accept Google Docs. If you are e-mailing your entry, please send a .pdf or .doc file.

Good Enough Contest

An ode is a type of poem that expresses the writer's thoughts and feelings about a specific person, place, or thing. Write an ode either to an Orion shirt or to the knockoff—from Dori's point of view. Five winners will each get *The Next Great Paulie Fink* by Ali Benjamin.

Entries will be judged on:

- | | |
|--|--------------|
| ⇒ appropriate reflection of Dori's character | ⇒ creativity |
| | ⇒ clarity |

My name: _____

My home phone number: _____ My grade: _____

My teacher's name: _____ My teacher's e-mail: _____

School name: _____

School address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

School phone number: _____

My parent or legal guardian consents
to my participation in this contest.

Parent's or legal guardian's signature: _____

Include this form with your entry and send both to: scopemag@scholastic.com
or mail them to: Good Enough Contest, c/o *Scope*, P.O. Box 712, New York, NY 10013-0712

ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED BY December 20, 2019!