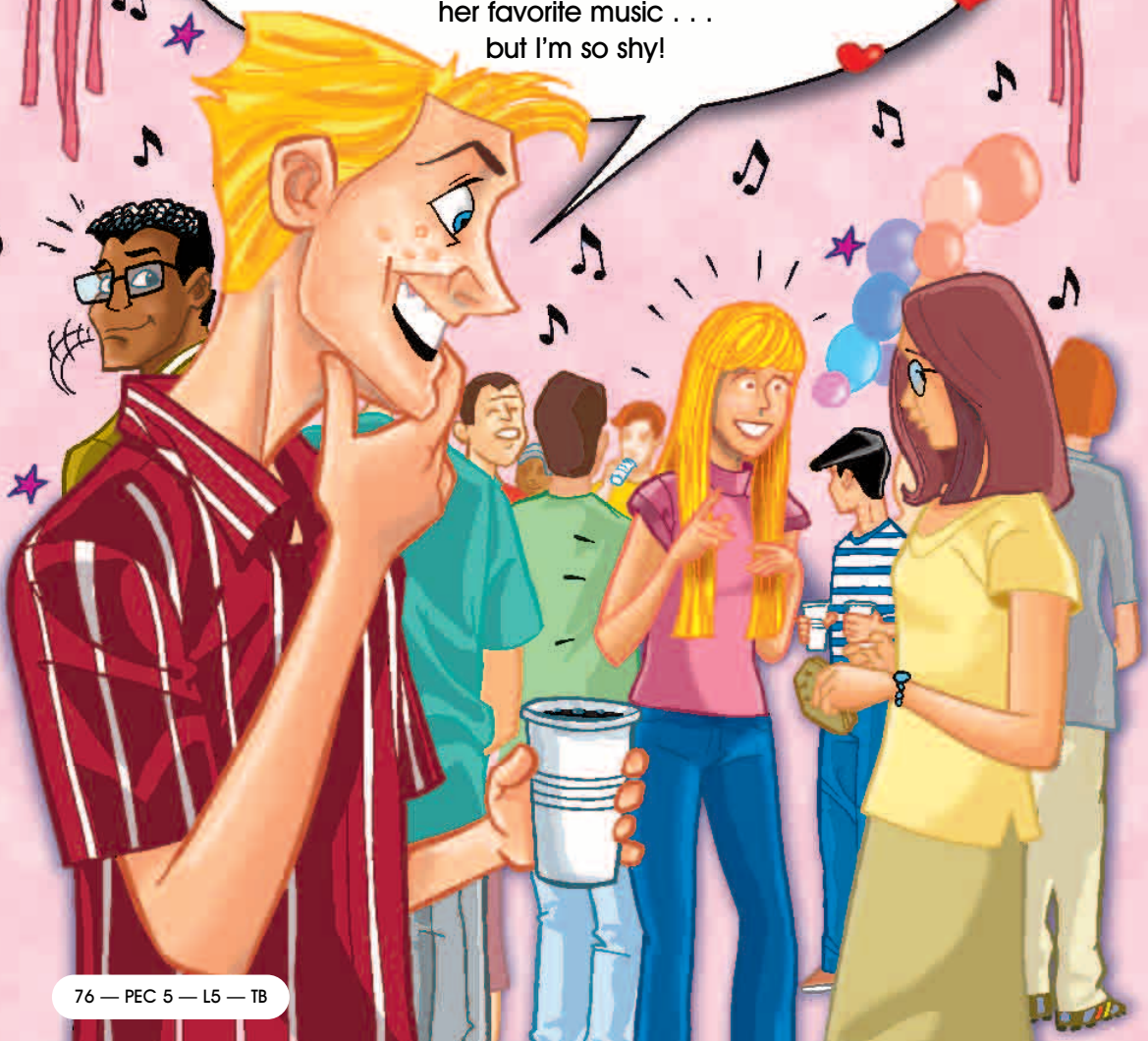


DISAPPOINTED

Lucy's already here!

Oh, man, I need to take a quick peek at myself in a mirror; I think there's some food in my teeth! Wait a minute, I need to get myself together! I'm just going to walk over there and then . . . then what am I going to say? Well, I could ask her some questions about herself—about her classes, her after-school activities, her favorite music . . . but I'm so shy!



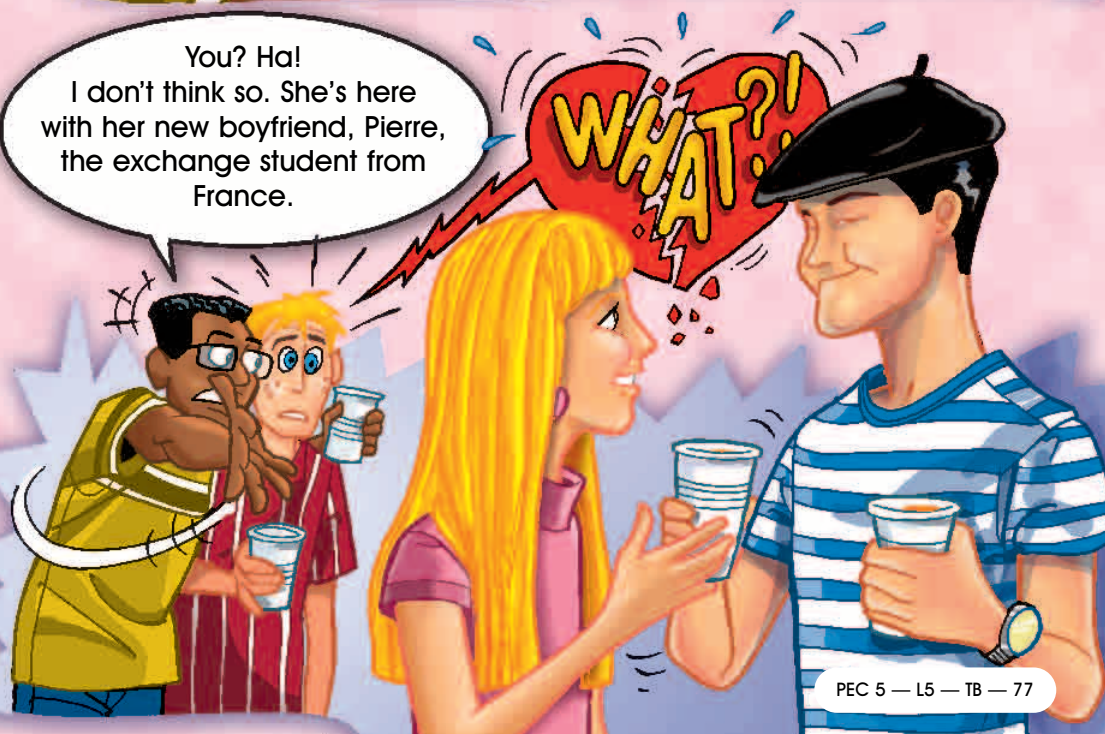
Dude,
are you nuts?
Who are you
talking to?

Huh? Oh.
Hi, Johnny. Oops, I guess
I was talking to myself. Hey,
um, Lucy Jones is here.
You know, I think she
likes me.

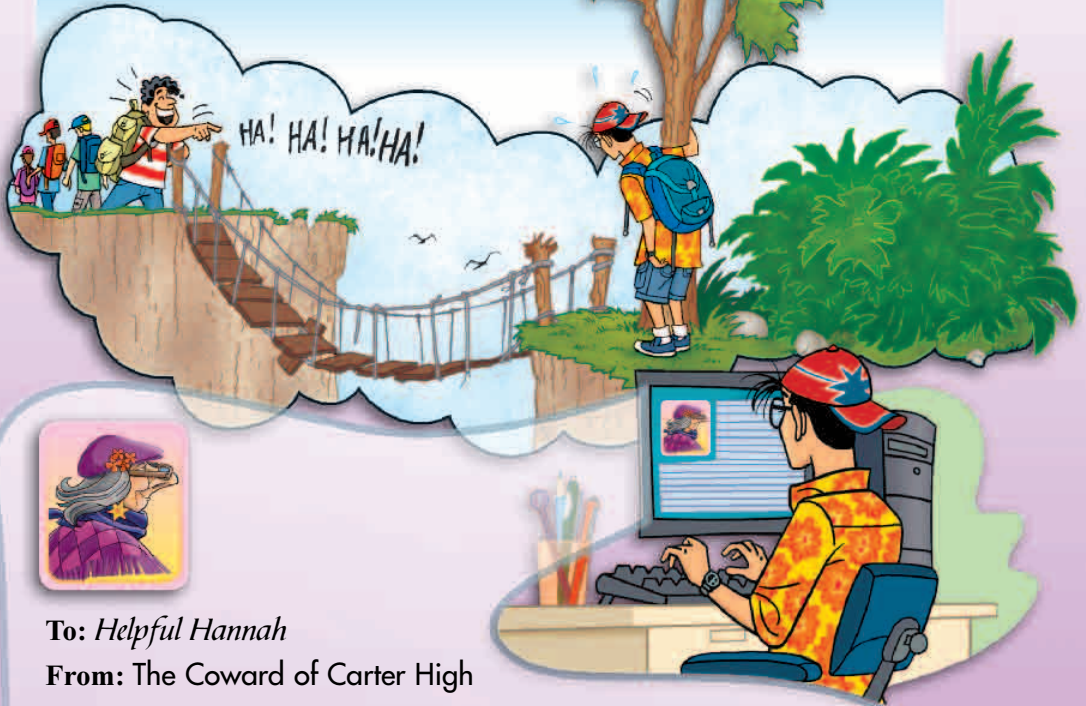


You? Ha!
I don't think so. She's here
with her new boyfriend, Pierre,
the exchange student from
France.

WHAT?!



**HELPFUL HANNAH
CAN HELP ANYONE!**



To: *Helpful Hannah*

From: The Coward of Carter High

Hi, Hannah,

I have a big problem. I'm too embarrassed to talk to anyone, and I really need your help!

Last week, some of my friends and I went to a park that has a really high rope bridge. A couple of guys crossed it, and then it was my turn. I started to feel really sick, and I just couldn't do it. I told them that I couldn't cross it because I didn't feel well.

My friends told me not to worry about it, that I could try again later. But then one of them said, "He's not sick; he's just a big coward!"

Well, I don't know, maybe he was right. I guess I was afraid. But everybody knows that I'm a pretty shy, sensitive guy. So I just can't believe that somebody would say that to me! I really thought this person was my friend.

Now I think the whole school knows what happened. I'm mortified!



To: The Coward of Carter High

From: *Helpful Hannah*

First, let me just say that you are not a coward. What happened to you on the rope bridge could happen to anyone. The guy who said that was really rude.

In a perfect world, no one would be rude to anyone. But . . . sometimes it happens. It's hard enough when it's a person you don't know, but when it's a friend, it's terrible.

I think you really have to talk to him. This would be a difficult thing to do for anyone, and because you're shy, it could be especially difficult for you. So just be honest and tell him how you feel; then let him explain what happened.

You know what? I bet he just wanted to tease you. He probably doesn't even realize that you are so upset about what he said! I'm sure you guys will be good friends again.