

HANDOUT

5.4 Walking in someone else's shoes

CHARACTER CARDS

Take one character card, pair up with a classmate, and read your card aloud while your partner practices being an empathetic listener. Then switch roles: practice being empathetic as your partner, as his character tells you what he is experiencing.

Rochelle was one of five students selected to represent her school in a national math competition. The final showdown was between Rochelle's team and another school. The score was tied with only one question remaining. The question went to Rochelle, who got it wrong, allowing the other team to win.

Anita's best friend confided in her about a surprise birthday party she had planned to throw for her brother. Anita accidentally let the secret slip, and now her best friend won't talk to her.

"Jessica was bullied so badly that her dad used to have to walk her into school so she didn't get attacked. She'd eat her lunch in the nurses' office so she didn't have to sit with the other girls. As well as her being mixed race, her parents didn't have money so she never had fashionable clothes or a cool backpack."

Lenny has worked at the same pizza place for over a year and has always done a great job. One day, he overcharged a customer by accident. The new boss thought Lenny did it on purpose to pocket the difference and fired him.

After practicing for months, Kelsey tripped and fell during her routine for the school talent show. One of her classmates, who was using a cellphone to videotape the show, posted the clip of Kelsey's fall on the Internet the next day.

"Jennifer changed schools a lot when she was in elementary school because some girls were mean. In one of the schools a girl gave her invitations to hand out to her birthday party that Jennifer wasn't invited to."