

August and Via at School

Part A

Reread pages 91-96 and 107-108

In this activity, you will infer August and Via's thoughts from evidence in the text.

Both August and Via are upset around their first days at school. Use the thought bubbles to write thoughts they might have had about their first few days. You can flick back through the book to recall August's first days at school. Thoughts can come straight from the book or what you imagine them to be thinking, based on what they have gone through. Are there any similarities between their experiences? Two examples are done for you.

With a partner, compare the thought bubbles that you have come up with for August and Via.

Then use the thought bubbles to capture your own thoughts when you first started school.

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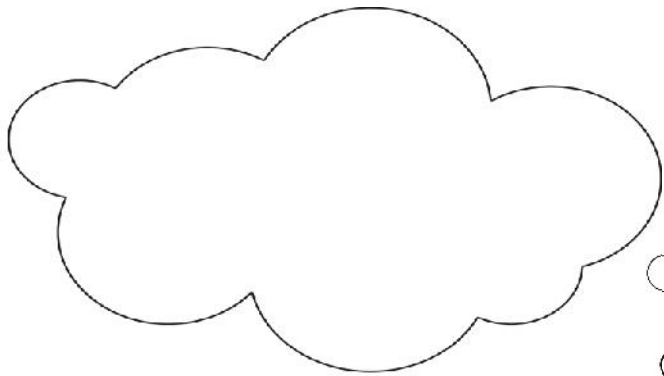
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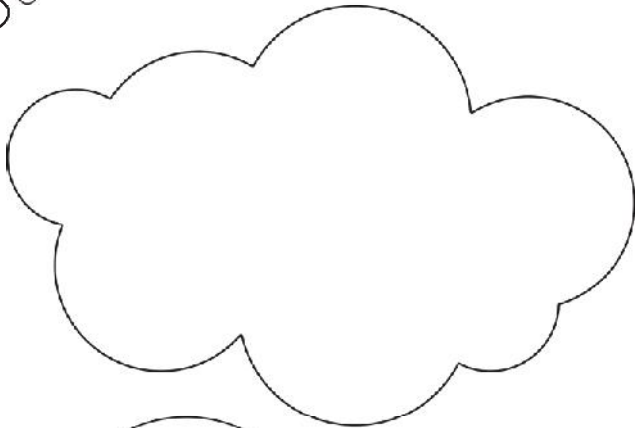
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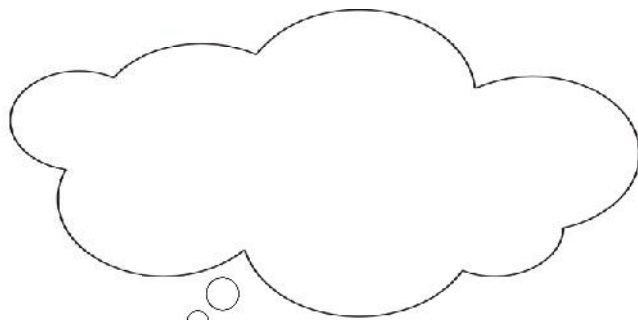
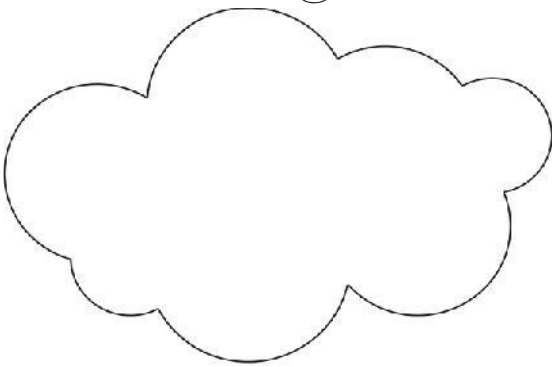
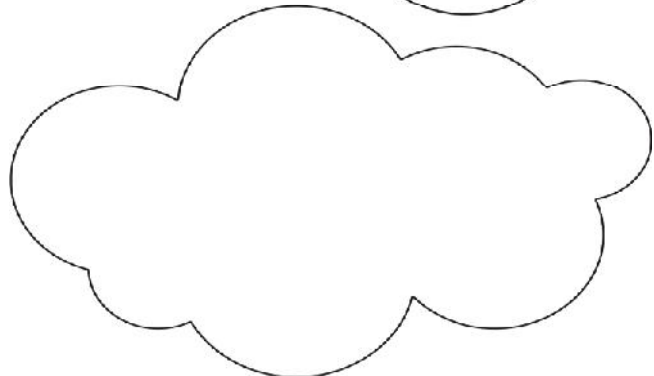
I don't want anyone at school to know about August.

Via

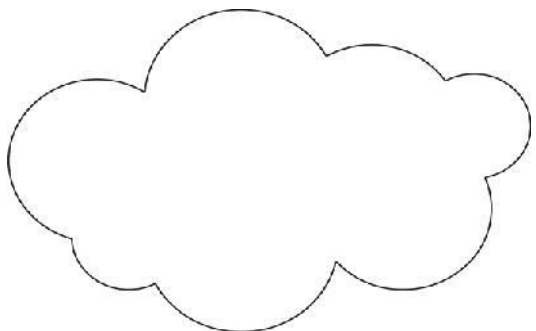
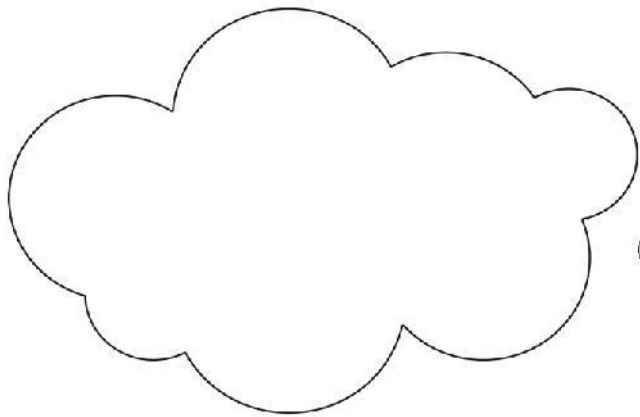


That kid in the lunch hall said someone was sitting there. They weren't!

August



Me



August and Via at School Answers

Part A

Thoughts related to events in the books. August's thoughts related to bullying, acceptance and embarrassment. Via's thoughts related to lost friendships, embarrassment about August, growing up and change and new friendships. Thoughts related to themes and inferences deduced from the book.

Part B

Script or narrative including details inferred from the book.

Challenge Task

Answers explaining that Via's experiences are the normal experiences of a child starting a new school. They put August's experiences in perspective in that he is having, at the same time, a normal school experience of negotiating friendships, and an extraordinarily challenging experience of being clearly 'different'. Via's experiences help us to empathise with August's - we are likely to have been through similar experiences and through Via's more familiar experience, we are likely to appreciate and put ourselves in August's position more easily. Very few of us have experienced August's situation and the comparison with Via's story helps us to step into his shoes.