

## It's Denise

Time seemed to slow down. There Dennis was, standing in the middle of the playground, in a girl's dress and make-up with one shoe on. Silence spread across the playground like snow. Everyone stopped what they were doing and turned to look at him.

"Dennis...?" asked Darvesh incredulously.

"No, it's Denise," replied Dennis. But the game was up. Dennis felt like he'd looked at Medusa, that Greek mythological monster who turned people to stone. He couldn't move. He looked at Lisa. Her face was dark with worry. Dennis tried to smile.

Then out of the silence came a laugh.

Then another.

Then another.

Not the kind of laughter that greets something funny, but that cruel, mocking laugh, meant to hurt and humiliate.



## Quick Questions



1. Find and copy the sentence in which the author uses a simile to describe the scene when Dennis was standing in the middle of the playground in a dress.

2. Who spoke first to Dennis after everyone had stopped and turned to look at him?

3. Why do you think Lisa's face was 'dark with worry' when Dennis looked at her?

4. Explain what you think Dennis will do next.



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## Answers

1. Find and copy the sentence in which the author uses a simile to describe the scene when Dennis was standing in the middle of the playground in a dress.

**Silence spread across the playground like snow.**

2. Who spoke first to Dennis after everyone had stopped and turned to look at him?

**Darvesh**

3. Why do you think Lisa's face was 'dark with worry' when Dennis looked at her?

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think Lisa's face was dark with worry as she encouraged Dennis to dress up but is now worried how others will react.**

4. Explain what you think Dennis will do next.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think Dennis will run back home because he feels humiliated and he will be unlikely to dress up ever again.**

