

# The Unspoken Rules of Middle School

- 10 **1.** Avoid the school gorillas at all costs, especially in the  
18 corridors, or learn how to grow taller, faster!
- 29 **2.** Survey the classroom as soon as you enter; adopt a seat  
37 warily to avoid a permanent position you'll regret.
- 46 **3.** Clothes count — pick your wardrobe wisely to be cool.
- 56 **4.** **DON'T GET THE CHEESE TOUCH** or your life will be  
58 ruined, **FOREVER!**
- 68 **5.** Never, ever (ever) use the word **PLAY**; you don't play  
74 in middle school, you **HANG OUT.**
- 81 **6.** Pay attention in wrestling class or risk  
88 being pinned to the ground more times  
95 than a tent peg in windy weather.
- 101 **7.** Sing inaudibly at school play tryouts,  
108 especially if your mom makes you go.
- 115 **8.** Sign up for any responsibility that gets  
123 you a free pass from algebra, or free  
125 hot chocolate!



## Quick Questions

**1.** What two perks could you get as a result of volunteering to do a responsibility?

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- \_\_\_\_\_

**2.** Survey the classroom as soon as you enter; adopt a seat warily to avoid a permanent position you'll regret. What does the word 'warily' mean in this rule?

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**3.** Who do you think the 'school gorillas' might be? Explain your answer.

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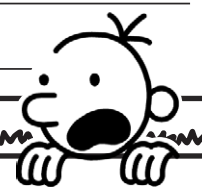
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**4.** Who might find 'The Unspoken Rules of Middle School' most useful?

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- 1.** What two perks could you get as a result of volunteering to do a responsibility?
- a free pass from algebra
  - free hot chocolate
- 2.** Survey the classroom as soon as you enter; adopt a seat warily to avoid a permanent position you'll regret. What does the word 'warily' mean in this rule?
- In this rule, the word 'warily' means carefully to avoid being positioned in the wrong seat, permanently.
- 3.** Who do you think the 'school gorillas' might be? Explain your answer.
- Pupils' own responses, such as: The 'school gorillas' might be older or taller children at middle school who could cause problems for the smaller students as they walk through school.
- 4.** Who might find 'The Unspoken Rules of Middle School' most useful?
- Pupils' own responses, such as: Newcomers to middle school might find 'The Unspoken Rules of Middle School' most useful to help them understand what middle school is like and how to get on alongside other students.

