

Purple and Yellow Socks Q&A

post-reading comprehension and discussion questions



Comprehension Questions

◆ Part 1

1. How long has the writer been in Japan? What sort of work does she do?
2. What does Roy look like? Where is he from?

◆ Part 2

1. What do the students come to tell Roy about?
2. Why do the students look worried for Roy?

◆ Part 3

1. How does Roy respond to the concern of the students?

◆ Part 4

1. Did Roy's supervisor finally require him to wear matching socks?
2. What reason did Roy give to his co-worker for wearing differently colored socks?

Comprehension Questions (sample answers)

◆ Part 1

1. How long has the writer been in Japan? What sort of work does she do?

She has been in Japan for over two years. / She is in her third year in Japan. She teaches some classes and seminars at an educational center and does visit-teaching at schools in the prefecture. / She teaches at an educational center and also visit-teaches at schools in the area.

2. What does Roy look like? Where is he from?

Roy has long, curly, black hair, dark skin and brown eyes. He is from England.

◆ Part 2

1. What do the students come to tell Roy about?

They come to tell him that his socks don't match.

2. Why do the students look worried for Roy?

They think that Roy has made a big mistake (, and they are afraid he will get in trouble).

◆ Part 3

1. How does Roy respond to the concern of the students?

He smiles and tells them that his socks are matching socks of different colors. He takes off his slippers to show them.

◆ Part 4

1. Did Roy's supervisor finally require him to wear matching socks?

No, she didn't, because she understood his character. / No. Even when teachers complained to her, she still supported Roy because she understood his character.

2. What reason did Roy give to his co-worker for wearing differently colored socks?

To teach his students about accepting differences. / He said that he was using his socks to teach his students about accepting differences between peoples and cultures.

Discussion Questions

1. If you met a teacher like Roy, how would you respond to him?
2. Have you ever tried to make a point through your clothing or other action?
3. When my daughter refuses to wear matching socks, I smile, remember Roy, and let her wear her socks in her own way. In the same case, what would you do?

Discussion Questions (with Japanese translation)

1. If you met a teacher like Roy, how would you respond to him?

ロイのような先生がいたら、あなたはどんな反応をするでしょうか。

2. Have you ever tried to make a point through your clothing or other action?

自分の言いたいことを、服装やその他の行動で表現しようとしたことはありますか。

3. When my daughter refuses to wear matching socks, I smile, remember Roy, and let her wear her socks in her own way. In the same case, what would you do?

私(筆者)の娘が左右そろいの靴下を履くのを嫌がったとき、私はにっこり笑って、ロイのことを思い出し、娘の好きなようにさせました。この場面で、あなたならどうしますか。