

George was almost through his second year of school. He was doing very well. He always made sure he had his homework. He always raised his hand when his teacher asked questions. He listened, was respectful of others and usually opened the door for his class during recess. But suddenly he changed.

George stopped raising his hand or even smiling in class. He rarely had his homework and would cry every morning when his mom made him go to school. The teacher thought he might be under the weather, but his behavior lasted too long for a simple illness. Finally his teacher, Miss Hilton, questioned him about his attitude change.

“They won’t stop teasing me about my clothes!” cried George. “I know that my shoes have some holes and my coat’s second hand, but I can’t help that. When the other kids tease me it really hurts and I just don’t want to be here anymore!”

George ran away sobbing. Miss Hilton spoke to the rest of the class. She explained, “we are all here at school to learn. Saying hurtful things, making fun of people, stops us from learning. If we don’t learn in school, it’s really hard to be happy when we grow up.”

The children that made fun of George began to understand what they’d done. They ran to George, apologized and never teased him again. George began to perk up and finished school with flying colors!