

Name:
Section:



Date:
Score:

Miguel's Act of Courage

Watch the video, read the story, and answer the questions given.

He knew he couldn't do it.

He just knew it.



Public speaking was not his thing.

Every time Miguel was asked a question in class, and put on the spot, he froze.

His mind would go blank.



He couldn't think.

The pressure was too much.

One day, Miguel's favorite teacher (Mr. Lee) randomly called on Miguel in English class.

"Miguel, do you have any ideas on the topic?" Mr. Lee asked.

The topic was courage.



Miguel had many ideas on courage.

In fact, in his own life, Miguel was striving to be more courageous when it came to interacting with others and speaking in public.

You see, Miguel was shy.



Well—at least in school he was.

At home, Miguel was **boisterous** and playful. He enjoyed playing video games with his friends, Mikey and Jacob.



One time, in fact, they played video games for 9 hours straight.

They loved joking, pranking one another, and fishing.

With his friends, Miguel felt comfortable.



School was different, however.



At school, Miguel felt nervous.

And this nervousness caused him to **isolate** himself from others.



He wanted to fit in.

He wanted to be accepted.



But there was a fear that overcame Miguel when he was with large groups of people.

He feared messing up.



He feared not being accepted.

Instead of embracing his fears, Miguel often **secluded** himself.



He spent much of his school day on his phone watching reels and playing video games.

His phone was his escape from uncomfortable situations.

Whenever a moment came to socialize, Miguel pulled out his phone.



Deep down, Miguel knew that he needed to interact more with others.

He wanted to be more sociable and liked by his peers.

Miguel had decided a few weeks before that he needed to overcome his shyness by being more courageous.

This meant Miguel would have to socialize and interact with others even when he was gripped by fear.

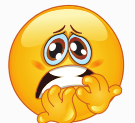
As Mr. Lee and the class looked at Miguel, he felt uneasy and nervous.

Mr. Lee asked the question again, "Do you have any ideas on courage, Miguel?"

"Courage is when you refuse to let your fears control you," Miguel said. "It is when you..."

Miguel started feeling nervous again. He realized the entire class was staring at him.

He began to freeze up.



It was at this moment that Miguel decided that he would not let his fear of public speaking control him.

"It is when you embrace your fears that you become courageous," Miguel said.



And just like that, Miguel had answered a question in front of the class.

To some people, answering a question in front of the class doesn't sound like much.

But for Miguel, this was an act of courage.

For Miguel, this was a confidence booster.

"Great answer, Miguel," Mr. Lee said. "Now can anyone else share?"

Comprehension Questions

1) How does Miguel feel about public speaking?

2) What happens when Miguel is asked a question in class and put on the spot?

3) How does Miguel cope with his nervousness in social situations at school?

4) What realization did Miguel have a few weeks before the English class incident?

5) How does Miguel overcome his fear of public speaking at the end?

Answers

1) How does Miguel feel about public speaking?

Miguel feels that public speaking is not his thing, and he thinks he can't do it.

2) What happens when Miguel is asked a question in class and put on the spot?

Every time Miguel is asked a question in class, he freezes, and his mind goes blank due to the pressure.

3) How does Miguel cope with his nervousness in social situations at school?

Miguel copes with his nervousness by spending much of his school day on his phone watching reels and playing video games as a way to escape uncomfortable situations.

4) What realization did Miguel have a few weeks before the English class incident?

Miguel realized that he needed to overcome his shyness by being more courageous and interacting more with others.

5) How does Miguel overcome his fear of public speaking in the end?

Miguel decides not to let his fear control him, and he successfully answers Mr. Lee's question about courage in front of the class.

6) What is the theme of the story?

The theme of the story revolves around overcoming fear and shyness to embrace courage and social interaction. Miguel struggles with public speaking and socializing at school due to his shyness and fear of not being accepted. The story highlights Miguel's internal conflict as he recognizes the need to be more courageous, especially in social situations. Ultimately, Miguel takes a step towards overcoming his fear by speaking up in class and providing a thoughtful answer on the topic of courage. The theme encourages personal growth, self-acceptance, and the importance of facing one's fears to lead a more fulfilling and sociable life.

7) Summarize the story in roughly 20 words;

Shy Miguel, fearing public speaking, confronts his social anxiety - defining courage in class, and taking a step toward overcoming shyness.