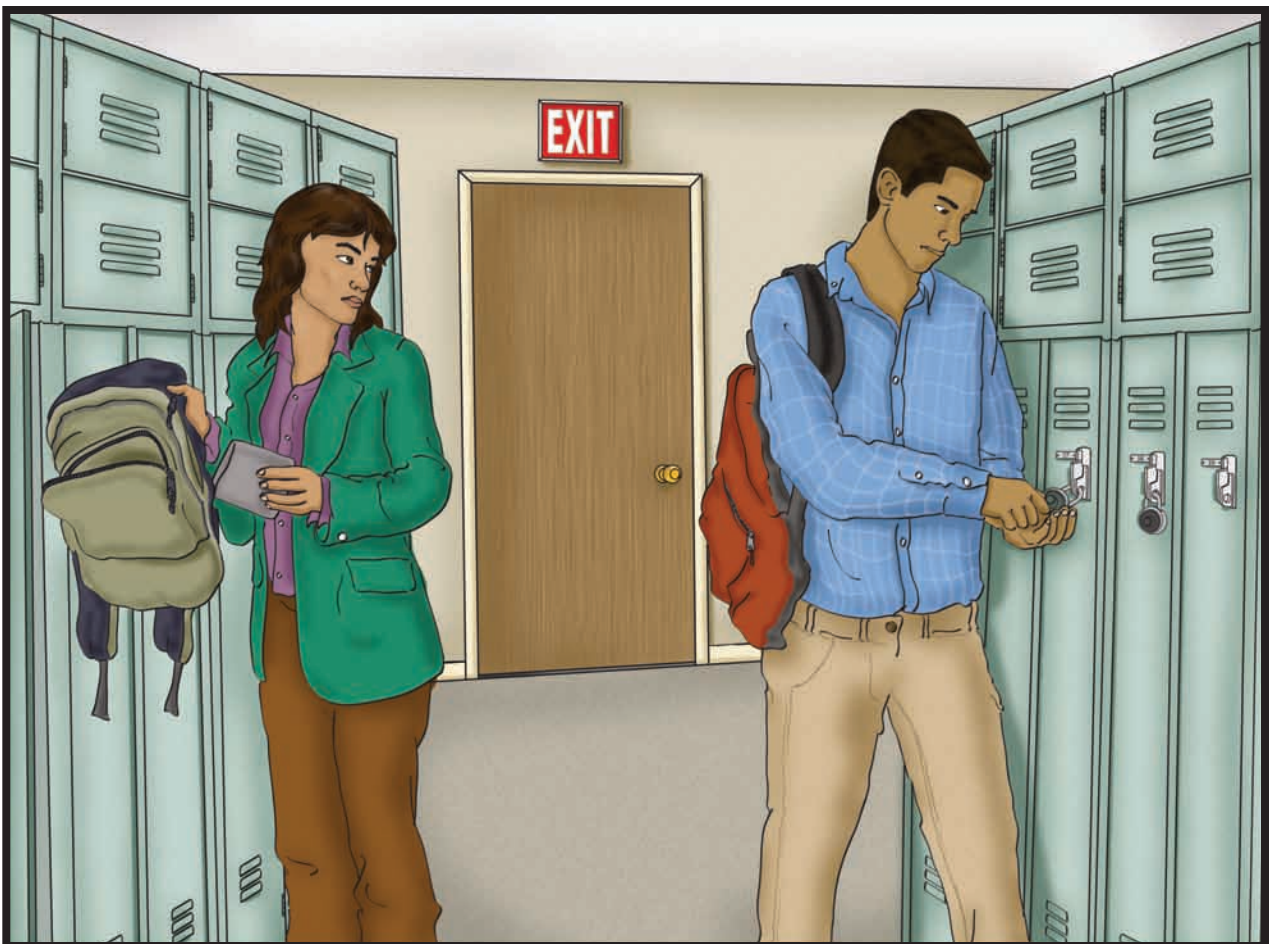


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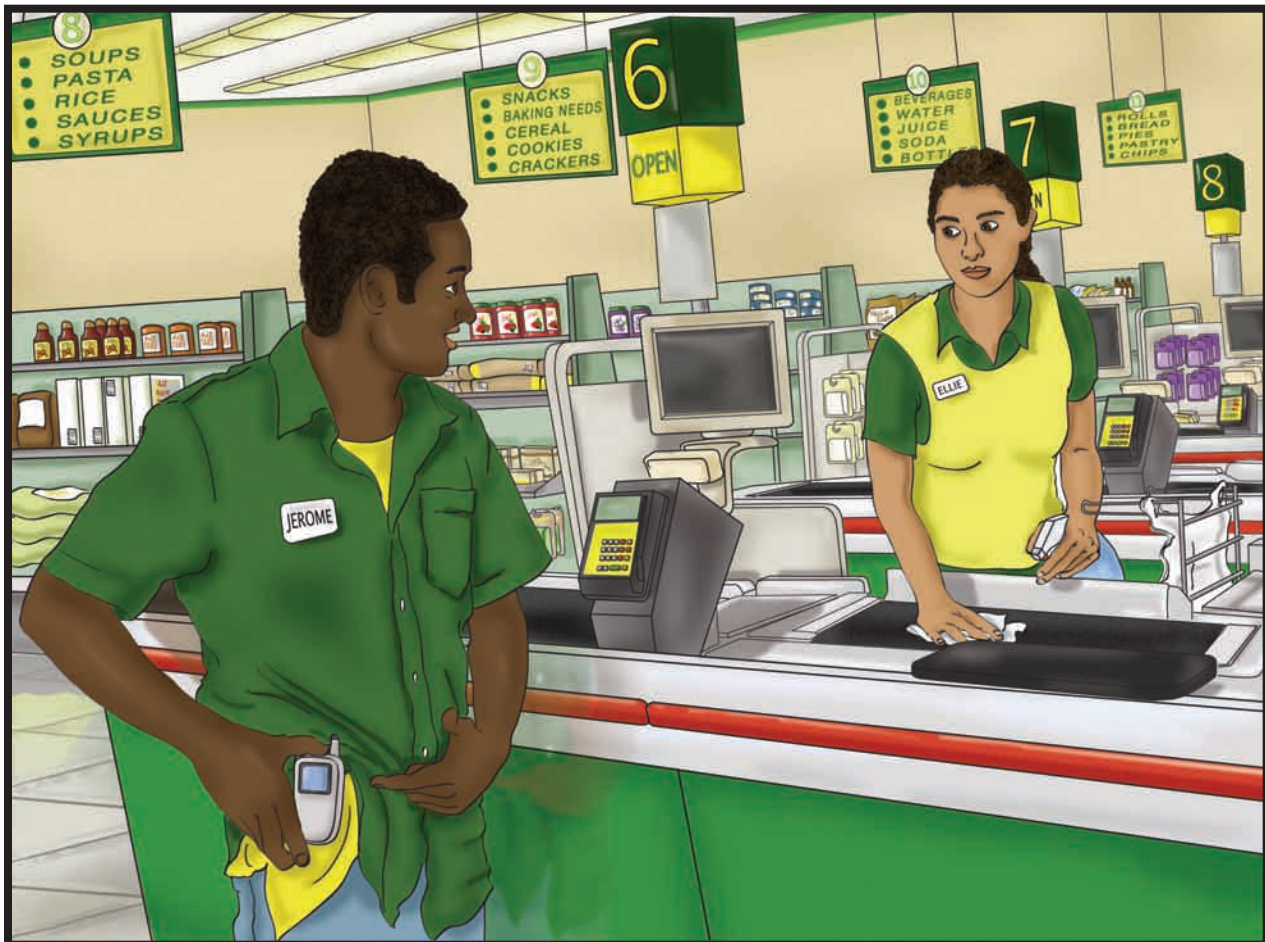
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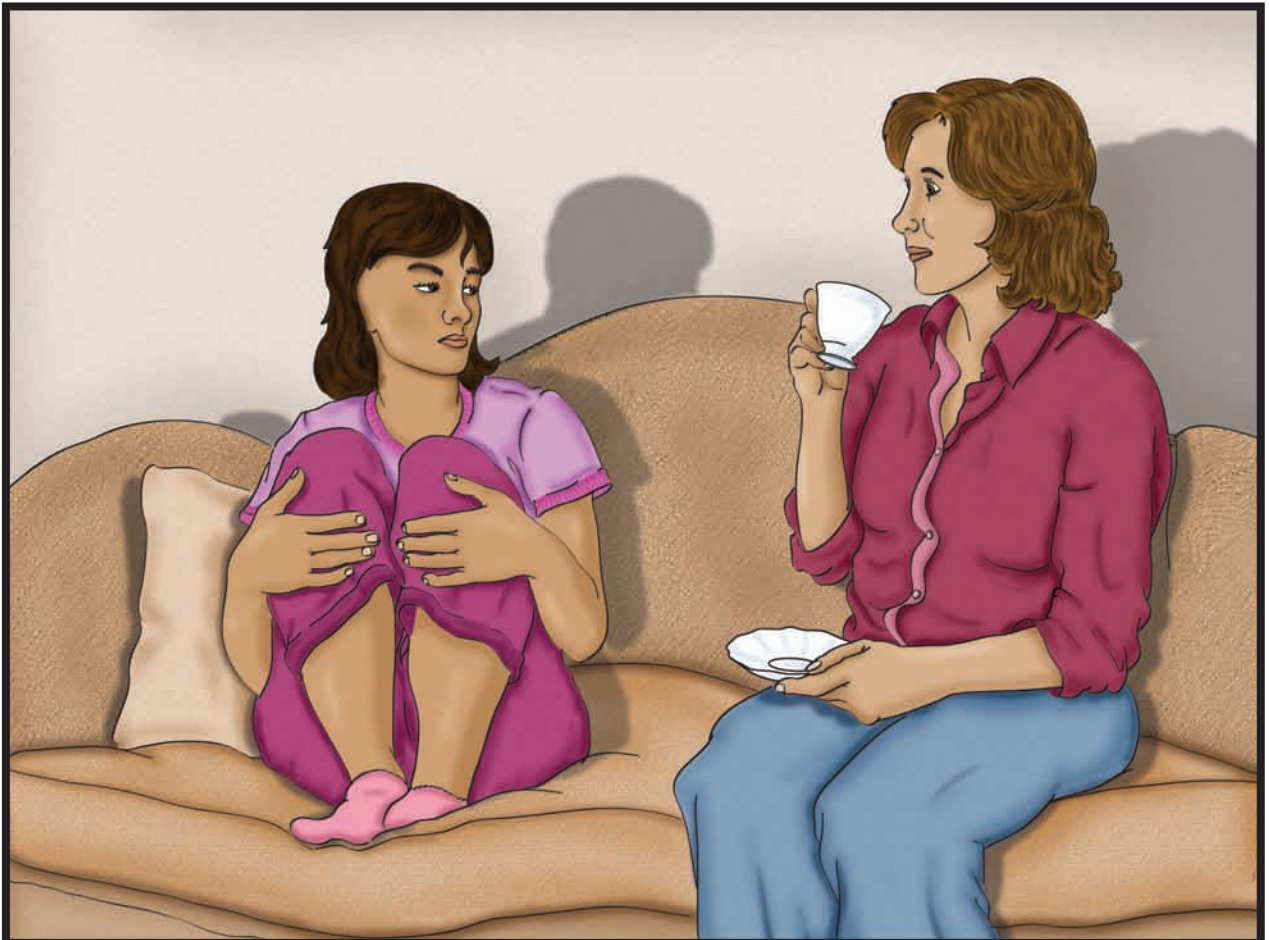
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# Vocabulary

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**plaid** - *checkered appearance*

*Maria found her plaid slacks in the pile of clothes.*

**present** - *introduce or put forward*

*How you present yourself when you have a job is important.*

**appropriate** - *proper, correct*

*Check in the mirror to see if your clothes are appropriate for work.*

**inappropriate** - *not proper, not correct*

*Dirty and mismatched clothes are inappropriate for work.*

**frustrated** - *discouraged, feeling unsatisfied*

*Maria felt frustrated that she was not ready for breakfast.*

# 1 Fast Isn't Always Good!

## Maria Gets Ready For Work



***Maria hated to get up for work.***

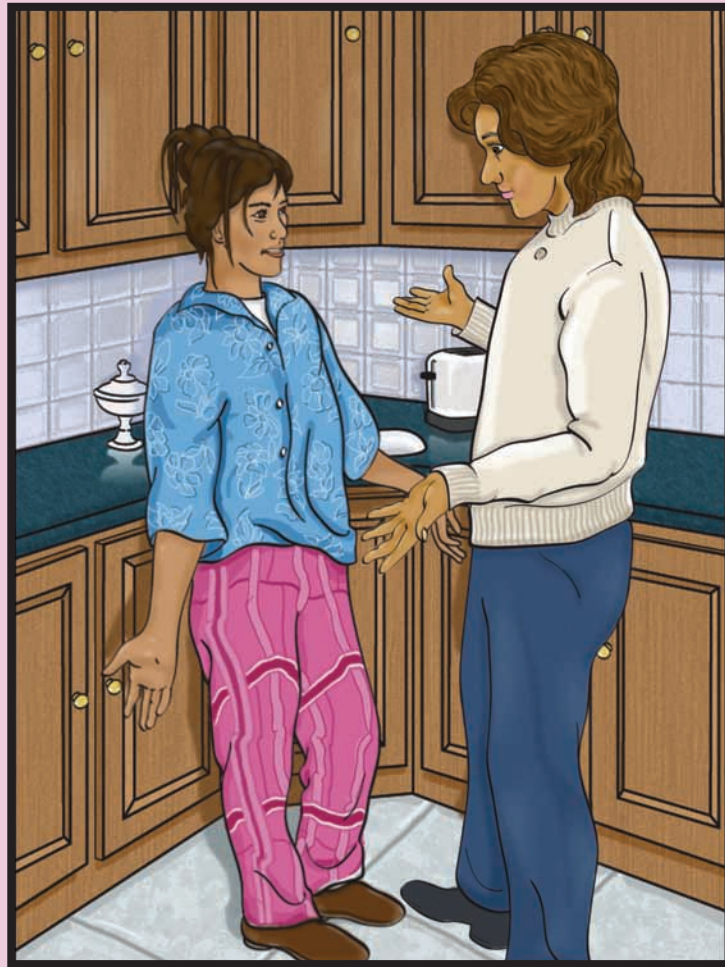
**M**aria hated to get up on workdays. Each morning, she turned off the alarm clock as soon as it rang. She liked to stay in bed and listen to the morning songbirds. She enjoyed the sounds of her family getting ready to start the day. As Maria turned over in bed to delay getting up, she heard her mother's footsteps in the hall.



***Maria thought, “Good thing Mom didn’t open the door all the way!”***

A moment later, Maria heard her squeaky bedroom door open. Maria thought, “Good thing the lights are out so Mom can’t see this room!”

“Time to get up and dress for work, Maria,” her mother called. Maria stretched and got up. She pulled off her nightgown and threw it onto the pile of clothes on the floor. She poked her foot through those clothes looking for something to wear to work. She located the plaid slacks from Tuesday, her favorite Hawaiian shirt from Wednesday and yesterday’s underwear and socks.



***“Mom, wasn’t I fast?”***

Smiling, she pulled them on. Pleased she had dressed so quickly, Maria ran to the kitchen for breakfast. “Mom, wasn’t I fast?” Maria asked excitedly.

Looking Maria over carefully, her Mom replied, “Well, Maria, fast is not always good. How you present yourself when you have a job is important. It means you need to think about how you look and dress.”



***“Are you wearing clothes that match?”***

Mom continued, “Did you take a shower? Are you wearing neat and clean clothes that match? Did you check in the mirror to see if you look appropriate for work? If not, no breakfast until you do!”

“Darn, Mom! How do you always know?”





## Questions:

The look on Maria's face and her body language showed that Maria was:

- a. laughing      b. happy      c. frustrated

Sometimes people get upset and \_\_\_\_\_ when things don't turn out as they planned.

1. At what time of day does this story take place?
2. What was Maria expected to do?
3. What did Maria do that her mom did not agree with?
4. How could Maria have saved time so that fast would have been good?

# Vocabulary

---

**admiring** - *pleased, appreciative*

*Jerome was admiring the shiny, red convertible when the owner came up behind him.*

**elderly** - *old, mature*

*An elderly man joked with Jerome.*

**slacker** - *lazy bones, loafer*

*Jerome did not want to be a slacker on the job.*

**coworker** - *person with whom you work*

*Ellie was Jerome's coworker.*

**startled** - *to be frightened*

*Mrs. Green startled Jerome when she came up behind him.*

novella

# 35 Getting Ready

Clothes and Social Behavior



***He didn't know anything about girls.***

**J**erome worked hard all week but no matter what he was doing, his thoughts kept returning to Friday night's party. He wanted to see his friends from the training center. Alan told him that some girls were going. That scared Jerome. He didn't know anything about girls, except Ellie and Shana. And, of course his mom and his aunts. But they didn't count as girls. Jerome had two brothers. He was sure that was why he could talk to 'guys' better than girls.



***“Hey, Nat, how do you decide what to wear?”***

Jerome’s older brother, Nat, was comfortable around girls. Jerome decided to ask him for help. Mom had given him the perfect chance. She had turned over the cooking responsibilities to the two brothers for the evening. Jerome and Nat were out in the yard talking while they cooked dinner on the grill.

“Hey, Nat, how do you decide what to wear when you go out?”  
Jerome asked.

“Well, Jerome, first I think about where I’ll be going. That helps me make a decision. Let me ask you. Would you wear a bathing suit to the movies? Would you wear your dress jacket to the beach?”

“Don’t be silly, of course not,” Jerome responded shaking his head.



***“I like to be comfortable.”***

Nat grinned as he said, “I wasn’t trying to be silly. Thinking about where you are going will help you decide what to wear. What would you feel comfortable wearing for Shana’s party?”

“I like my camouflage shorts and tee shirt and my sandals,” Jerome quickly answered. “They are comfortable. I like to be comfortable.”

“True, they would be comfortable. But comfort isn’t everything when you are invited to a party. You are expected to show respect for the host and all the guests. Your appearance and your choice of clothes help do that.”



***“Usually long pants are more acceptable.”***

Nat continued, “Usually long pants and a polo shirt or a shirt that buttons are more acceptable, as well as some kind of shoes that cover your feet. That’s what I have found to be appropriate, unless the invitation says ‘casual’. Did your invitation say that?” Nat asked.

“No! Oh, boy, now what? Will you help me pick out an outfit? I don’t feel confident that I can pick out something that will be right. I bet you know what girls like. I don’t want to look funny, especially if girls are there!”



## Questions:

Jerome turned to his older brother, Nat, for help. Nat's body language and facial expressions showed:

- a. anger                      b. interest                      c. sadness

Family members often help each other by listening and sharing experiences about social situations. This behavior shows \_\_\_\_\_ .

1. Why was Jerome nervous about talking to girls?
2. What person did Jerome ask for help and why?
3. What might have happened if Jerome had worn his camouflage shorts, tee shirt and sandals to Shana's party?
4. How can a choice of clothing show respect for the host and guests?