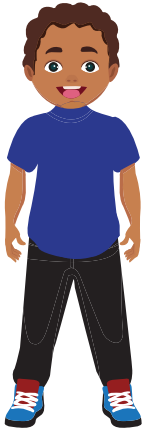


Dressed to Impress



Jamal dug through his dresser drawers for the royal blue shirt. He knew it had to be here. Mom had washed it last week, and he hadn't worn it since then. Finally, he spotted it. He pulled it out, shook out the wrinkles, and then slipped it over his head.

Next, he sprayed himself with body spray and made sure his shoes weren't dirty. He wanted to look great for today's school field trip. They were visiting a local Pueblo community to know more about the Native American people who lived in the Northern New Mexico area many years ago and continue to live there today.

His family had only been here for six months. His dad worked at a laboratory for the government. Jamal didn't mind the move. New Mexico was a treasure trove of cool things.

Today, though, he wasn't very interested in their field trip destination. He was mostly concerned with impressing Natalie, the new girl. They'd never spoken, but he was audacious enough to hope to change that.

With one last glance in the mirror, he headed to the bus stop outside. In no time, he was at school. The rest of his class gathered to board a different bus that would take them to the Taos Pueblo community.

Jamal smiled at Natalie when he caught her eye, but she turned away to talk to the other girls. Jamal settled into his bus seat for the drive.

He made small talk with the other kids until they arrived.

Dressed to Impress

The students got off the bus, and Jamal made sure he positioned himself near Natalie just in case she talked to him.

A tour guide greeted them, and they began their educational field trip. The guide explained the chronological timeline for the pueblos, the buildings in which people of the Pueblo community resided. Jamal learned how the pueblo was made up of adobe structures that were over 1,000 years old. The structures were made of something called micaceous minerals, which resembled gold flecks. When the Spanish came to the New Mexico area in the 1500s, they thought they'd found the fabled "City of Gold." In the 1970s, President Richard Nixon signed a bill to return the Taos lands to the Taos Pueblo people.

As they stepped toward the next part of the tour, Natalie turned toward him. "Isn't this thing so interesting?" she asked.

Jamal froze. She was talking to him! He gulped and forced himself to reply. "It is definitely cool. Have you been to Bandelier National Monument yet? There, you'll find all these things neatly preserved."

Natalie shook her head. "I'd like to go sometime."

The tour guide started talking again, so their conversation stopped. Jamal couldn't stop smiling, though. This was his favorite field trip, for sure.

Dressed to Impress

1) Which detail about the Pueblo community is not true?

- A) It is a Native American community.
- B) The community lived in New Mexico many years ago.
- C) The community doesn't live in New Mexico anymore.

2) What is a pueblo?

3) Why does Jamal talk about Bandelier National Monument?

4) New Mexico is a treasure trove of cool things. What does this sentence mean?

Dressed to Impress

5) Why is the trip Jamal's favorite field trip?
