Beauty and the BEE

by

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For Educational Purposes Only

EXT. BASEBALL GAME

Catherine and Cosette sit side-by-side at a baseball game. Cosette is new in town and is a bit of an odd ball. She is an eager to learn brainy-ac that spends most of her time studying and reading - She is also a <u>Spelling</u> Bee Champion!. Catherine her new neighbor has agreed, for a small fee, to help Cosette learn about the fine art of fitting in a new school.

Catherine sitting back in her seat pretends to watch the baseball game.

COSETTE

I am ready. I have a pen. I have the focus of a laser beam ready to absorb your words of fitting wisdom. Fire away!

CATHERINE

You're not.

COSETTE

What?

CATHERINE

You're not ready.

COSETTE

(looking around)
We've hardly started and I'm
already sinking? How?

CATHERINE

(slowly)

You look eager to learn.

COSETTE

Oh. That's bad?

CATHERINE

Very.

COSETTE

But I like learning.

CATHERINE

No. You don't.

Cosette writes this down.

COSETTE

(scribbling)

Never admit I like learning. Got it.

CATHERINE Are you going to write everything down?

COSETTE

Of course. I have to figure out how to look like I hate learning, while learning at the same time. (Leaning forward) What's next?

CATHERINE

Stop that! Never lean forward. Never look eager. Never raise your hand in class.

COSETTE

But what if I know the answer? Can I raise my hand once a month?

CATHERINE

Cosette.

COSETTE

Every other Month?

CATHERINE

No!

COSETTE

OK, OK.

Cosette writes this down.

COSETTE (CONT'D)

No Answers.

COSETTE (CONT'D) Fitting in means you don't do anything to make you stand out. When you stand out people notice you and it gives them a chance to realize you're a space alien.

Catherine notices Cosette focusing on something to the front and right of them.

CATHERINE

What are you looking at?

COSETTE The wave's going around. Here it

Cosette stands up and throws her arms in the air. Catherine does not.

COSETTE (CONT'D)

Whooo!

She sits back down and looks sheepishly at Catherine who stare at her stonily.

Cosette clears her throat.

COSETTE (CONT'D)
The wave is wrong. Let me write that down.

CATHERINE

(standing)
If you don't want to take this seriously --

COSETTE
Wait! Don't give up. I'm ready to
learn. I'm not admitting I'm ready
to learn, and I will lean back and
scowl at you as I learn but I am
deadly serious about all this not
learning. Is that OK?

CATHERINE

(sitting)
I have no idea what you just said.
OK, next. Start hating your mom
and dad.

COSETTE

What? Why?

stick out.

CATHERINE People who like their parents

Cosette asks an innocent question.

COSETTE

How come you and your mom don't spend more time together?

Catherine is thrown by the question.

CATHERINE

What?

Cosette does not realize this bothers Catherine.

You both have such pulchritude. It makes so much sense that you and your mom would get along.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

COSETTE (CONT'D) (beat) Pulchritude. I love words that don't look the way they sound. How could something that has 'ritude' in it mean physical beauty?

Catherine stares at Cosette.

COSETTE (CONT'D) Sorry. Sorry, sometimes my brain just (she wiggles her fingers) goes places.

CATHERINE

Well stop it.

COSETTE (leaning right in) Would you go shopping with me?

> CATHERINE (leaning back)

What? Why?

COSETTE

Please? Tomorrow?

CATHERINE

No!

COSETTE

I was thinking I need a fitting in outfit. If I look like I fit in, then everyone will assume I fit in and before they find out I'm different it'll be too late and I'll have everyone totally in love with me.

Catherine, letting Cosette in on the most important part of her learning.

CATHERINE

Cosette, that's not how fitting in or being cool works.

COSETTE

One hour. Less than an hour. Once store. I'll take whatever you throw at me.

CATHERINE But I -(she exhales in frustration) Fine. One store. COSETTE

(sincere)

That's great. I feel great about this. This is going to all work out great.

CATHERINE

(thinkng back)
That word you said. That punch word?

COSETTE

Pulchritude.

You think I'm pretty?

COSETTE Of course. Your beautiful.

Catherine blushes, and is genuinely touched.

CATHERINE So...tomorrow around 1 PM.?

Cosette speaks as she writes this down.

COSETTE

Tomorrow around 1 PM.? (looking up) Oh? Yeah. (Stops writing, excited) Perfect!

Remembering the rules, Cosette tries to contain her excitement. Pretends to be mildly interested in the idea.

COSETTE (CONT'D)

Sure. Whatever.

CATHERINE

Great. Let's get out here. I hate baseball.

COSETTE

(pretending to agree)
Yuck. I agree. I hate baseball
too.

Catherine does not buy it for a second.

CATHERINE

Geez...do to we have work to do!

The girls exit laughing.