

Reading Inference Practice

The School Playgorund

Tom paused at the edge of the playground, watching the other children race towards the climbing frame. His hands tightened around the straps of his backpack as laughter echoed across the yard. He told himself he didn't mind waiting — after all, it was only the first day — but his feet remained firmly planted on the spot.

A whistle blew, sharp and sudden. The teacher's voice cut through the noise, calling everyone to line up. Tom took a deep breath and stepped forward, hoping tomorrow might feel easier.

Questions

1. How do you think Tom is feeling at the start of the text?

Explain your answer using evidence from the text.

2. Which word or phrase suggests that Tom is nervous?

3. Why do you think Tom is standing at the edge of the playground instead of joining in?

