

The Cigarette



Lee had never felt so homesick in his life as he completed his first week at university. Not only was he overwhelmed by the amount of homework that he had but he was also having difficulty making friends. It seemed like all of the students belonged to cliques and no one even gave him a second look. Even Lee's roommate mostly ignored him and was hardly ever in the dorm. Lee felt lonely and despondent. Then one day on the basketball court, Lee impressed a group of boys with his shooting skills. One of the boys stepped forward, shook Lee's hand, and offered him a cigarette. Lee hesitated. He had never smoked before but all the boys were watching him...

Source: Enjoy English

Vocabulary

homesick
overwhelmed
cliques
despondent
impressed

Comprehension Check

1. If you were Lee, would you take the cigarette?
2. What do you think will happen if Lee refuses to smoke the cigarette?
3. Is smoking 'cool' in your opinion? If it is, is it important for Lee to be 'cool' if he wants to fit in?
4. Do you smoke? Would marry someone who smokes? Why or why not?

"One thousand Americans stop smoking every day—by dying."~ Anonymous