

gum. She was able to pull off several big hunks of gum, but the remainder refused to budge.

15 She frowned. “This isn’t working. Let’s try something else.”

16 She filled some plastic baggies with ice cubes, arranged them on Cameron’s head, and yanked his cap down over the baggies.

17 “Mom!” Cameron yelled. “Brain freeze!”

18 But he left the ice cubes on his head. After an agonizingly cold eternity, his mom removed the baggies from Cameron’s head. The ice cubes had just frozen the gum in his hair. Everyone cringed.

19 In desperation, Cameron’s mom rummaged through a kitchen drawer and unearthed a pair of scissors. She hesitated for a moment and then attacked Cameron’s hair. The rigid locks of hair fell onto the kitchen floor. When she was finished, only a small amount of bubble gum remained on Cameron’s head, and even less hair.

20 “Well,” she said with a sigh, “we couldn’t just let the gum win, Cameron.”

21 Cameron slung his backpack over his shoulder and checked the mirror. *Eh*, he thought, and hustled off to picture day, leaving his mom just shaking her head in amazement.



Advice from Alice

by Alice Smith

Picture Day Pointers

Ever taken a bad school photo? Of course! We all have. Here are some tips to follow to avoid the dreaded “bad picture day” photo.

1. Cut first; evaluate later. If you are going to get your hair cut for the photo, do it at least two weeks before picture day. That way you will have time to grow out or fix a haircut you don’t like.
2. Practice your smile. If you’ve ever thought your smile looked cheesy or artificial in a photo, practice at home. Perfect your winning smile before picture day.
3. Plan what you will wear. Try going for a solid color, not a pattern. This ensures the focus of your picture is your face and smile, not your clothes.
4. Get a good night’s sleep. Finish homework early, and get to bed on time! Getting enough rest is vital to prevent looking tired or bleary-eyed photo.
5. Sit up straight. Maintain good posture as you pose for your school photo. Slouching makes a person look shorter and less dignified.

Kids Forum August 2012

GO ON

8.RC.D (Inferences) M

1. Based on the story, the reader can conclude that the gum got into Cameron's hair—

- A as he was combing it
- B while he was sleeping
- C when he was at school
- D after he woke in the morning

Standard 6 (Plot Development) L

2. Why does having gum in his hair pose a serious problem for Cameron?

- A His hair is going to look bad for picture day at school.
- B His father has warned him about chewing gum in bed.
- C His sister is frightened by his appearance in the morning.
- D His mother is busy and does not know how to remove the gum.

Standard 6 (Character Qualities) M

3. Read paragraph 21 of the story.

Cameron slung his backpack over his shoulder and checked the mirror. Eh, he thought, and hustled off to picture day, leaving his mom just shaking her head in amazement.

Cameron's mom most likely shakes her head in amazement because—

- A she is embarrassed by Cameron's appearance
- B her attempts at removing the gum were unsuccessful
- C this is not the first time that Cameron has had gum in his hair
- D Cameron does not seem to be concerned about his appearance

8.RC.E (Summarize/Paraphrase/Synthesize) M

4. Which statement from the story best shows why Cameron's mom works so hard to get the gum out of his hair?

A *"This isn't working. Let's try something else."*
B *"Well...we couldn't just let the gum win, Cameron."*
C *"Cameron, don't touch it! You'll just make it worse..."*
D *"Cameron! How could you do this on school picture day?"*

8.RC.E (Summarize/Paraphrase/Synthesize) H

5. Which common saying provides the best summary of the ideas presented in "Picture Day Pointers"?

A Practice makes perfect.
B Foresight is better than hindsight.
C We all smile in the same language.
D One picture is worth a thousand words.

My Grandmother's Pickles

Standing in the grocery aisle, studying pickles,
Zesty dills and garlic dills,
Sour pickles, sweet bread & butter pickles,
So many pickles, I muse, scanning the shelves.

- 5 Where are the sharp pickles, you know, the fiery
Give-me-some-bread-my-mouth's-on-fire hot ones?

Most people think that you drink water to cool the burn:
Not so.

- 10 It's bread that you eat
To tame the heat.

My grandmother made pickles like *nobody's business*.
“Split the peppers,” she'd say, confiding her secrets.
Those pickle-making marathons,
That's what united women.

- 15 We'd go to the farmer's market and select just the tiny ones,
Uniform size.
“We're not making *cucumbers*, here,” she'd inform me.
I would nod and make a mental note, taking it all in.
We'd buy fragrant fresh dill, hot yellow peppers, mysterious spices,
20 A colorful late summer's bounty.

- Then, in her sweltering kitchen we'd sterilize the jars
And pack pickles and peppers, dill and spices and brine,
Filling the jars, just so.
When we were finished they were pretty,
25 Like terrariums without fish.

And then, we'd wait till the first hot-chili night of winter
And we'd pop a jar, bread at-the-ready.

- Some years were disappointing with soggy pickles,
Some years were disappointing with salty pickles,
30 But some years we beamed with perfect pickles.

In this place, my search will not yield what I seek.
I choose a jar of plain dills to go with the first chili of the season,
But not my grandmother's pickles.



GO ON 