

Read this selection about some friends and their problem. Then answer the questions that follow.

The Secret Shopper

Act 1, Scene 1: Melissa, Sara, and Max taking off skates at the rink
(ENTER Ashley)

ASHLEY Okay, you guys, we've gotta talk.

SARA What's wrong?

MAX (EATING FRUIT BAR) Yeah, why are you so stressed out?

ASHLEY I'm not . . . but do you know what day it is?

MELISSA Yeah, it's Thursday!

MAX Like the day after Wednesday!

ASHLEY (IRRITATED) Okay . . . I get it! What I mean is, do you know how close we're getting to the holidays?

SARA Sure, Mom's already making out greeting cards.

MAX And my dad's trying to get Mom to agree that we'll go away. . . like to Florida or something!

MELISSA No way . . . miss the holidays here? Why would . . .

ASHLEY Stop! This is serious!

MELISSA That he's going away for the holidays?

ASHLEY No! That we don't have a gift for our skating coach!

MAX (DROPS FRUIT BAR WRAPPER ON FLOOR) Can't you go get something?

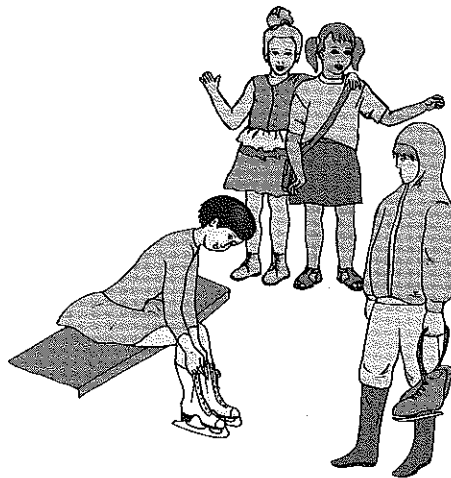
ASHLEY (PICKS UP WRAPPER AND PUTS IN TRASH BIN) Why me? Why not you?

MAX Well, I'm not into shopping . . . that's a girl thing.

MELISSA A girl thing? A girl thing?

ASHLEY Like you think cleaning up is always a girl thing, too . . .

MAX Hey, don't gang up on me! Guys just don't do a lot of shopping . . . see?



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- SARA** Why not?
- MAX** It's . . . it's . . . well, girls have more style.
- MELISSA** You got that right!
- MAX** So . . . girls pick out better presents than guys.
- SARA** My little brother picked out a great present for my mom's birthday!
- MAX** Hey, good for him . . . that's okay for little kids. Me, I'm different!
- SARA** How? What makes you different?
- MAX** Let's just forget this whole conversation. What'll we do about the gift? How much have we got to spend?
- SARA** How much do we need? I have a little money saved up.
- MELISSA** Let's each bring what we have to practice tomorrow.
- MAX** Good idea. Then we'll know how much you . . . I mean . . . we can spend. See ya.
(EXIT Max)
- MELISSA** What makes some boys think the way they do?
- SARA** Who knows! But we've got to change how THAT one thinks!
- MELISSA** How can we do that? We'd need a good plan . . .
- ASHLEY** . . . and I've got one. Gather round, girls!
(END scene)

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