

Peaceful Playground Answer Key

1. He is sitting on the swings while other kids play kickball.
2. He feels calm and content, not upset or sad.
3. Jordan is *alone* because he chooses to be by himself and feels peaceful.
4. Clues: He "didn't mind," "liked the quiet," and "smiled" at the end, showing he enjoys solitude.

Teacher's Guide:

- **Skill Focus:** Builds comprehension and emotional inference skills while reinforcing how *alone* describes being by oneself and *lonely* expresses sadness.
- **Differentiation Tips:** Read the passage aloud and pause to discuss tone words like "quiet" and "smiled" to support comprehension for struggling readers.
- **Engagement Ideas:** Ask students to act out the scene twice-once as if Jordan feels *alone* and once as if he feels *lonely*-to highlight tone differences.
- **Extension Activities:** Have students write their own short "mystery" paragraph where a reader must guess if the main character feels *alone* or *lonely* based on context clues.