

Smarts Under Pressure Answer Key

Sample Responses

1. Liam decided to tell his friends no and walked away. He explained that stealing could get them all in serious trouble. Later, he felt proud for doing what was right.
2. Kayla texted back that making fun of others wasn't cool. She suggested they stop and talk about something else. Her friends realized she was right and stopped the teasing.
3. Derek told his friends he would meet them after practice. He showed up to practice and gave his best effort. His coach praised his responsibility, and his friends respected his choice.

Teacher's Guide

Skill Focus: Builds problem-solving, empathy, and reflection skills for resisting peer pressure and making positive choices.

Differentiation Tips:

- Read each scenario aloud and brainstorm possible endings as a group before students write individually.
- Provide sentence starters such as "He decided to..." or "She realized that..." for students who need writing support.

Engagement Ideas:

- Have students perform short skits of their completed stories to practice assertive communication.
- Use group discussions after each scenario to explore how each choice affects friendships and trust.

Extension Activities:

- Invite students to write their own peer pressure scenario and exchange it with a classmate to finish.
- Connect this activity with journaling by asking, "When have I stood up for what was right?"