

MEET THE



Paige

Age: 12

Favorite Insect: morpho peleides (blue morpho butterfly)

Hobby: collects My Little Pony figures

Favorite Food: mochi ice cream

Best Quality: supportive

CHARACTERS



Orion

Age: 12 (maybe)

Hometown: “far away”

Hidden Talent: solving unsolvable math problems

Favorite Planet: Kepler 438b

Best Quality: kindness

NEW KID

“Coco!” Paige ran up to her friend at school. “I just saw a new kid. He’ll be in sixth grade too. He’s coming to our classroom.”

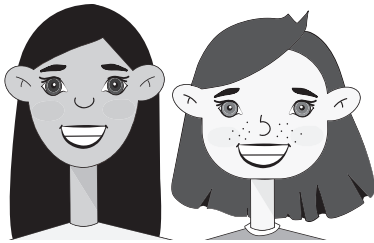
“Did he seem nice?” Coco asked.

“He was with his mom. I did say hi,” Paige said. “You know what? He has green eyes. The color is amazing. I’ve never seen anything like it. His name is Orion Wells. Funky, huh?”



“I hope he’s friendly,” Coco said. “That’s all I care about. Some kids are mean here.”

Paige Morgan just turned 12. Coco Lamar had been 12 for a few weeks. The girls had been friends since preschool. Coco was like a sister to Paige. Paige was an only child. Her parents were older than most. They were college professors.



♥ Best ♥
Friends
Forever

“Here he comes,” Paige whispered. She gripped Coco’s arm.

“Ouch!” Coco said. “You’re hurting me, girl.”

“I’m sorry,” Paige said. “I’m nervous.”

“He’s just a boy,” Coco said, laughing.



“But he’s strange,” Paige said.

“All boys are strange,” Coco said. “My baby brother is strange.”

The new boy drew near. “Hi,” Coco said. “Welcome to our school! I guess you’ll be in our class. I’m Coco. This is Paige.”



Orion didn’t smile, but he looked nice. His black hair was thick and curly. His skin was tan. “Hello,” he said.

“Our teacher is Ms. Nesbit,” Coco said. “You’ll like her. She’s tough but fair.” Coco was a much better talker than Paige. She could talk to anyone. Paige was a little shy with strangers.

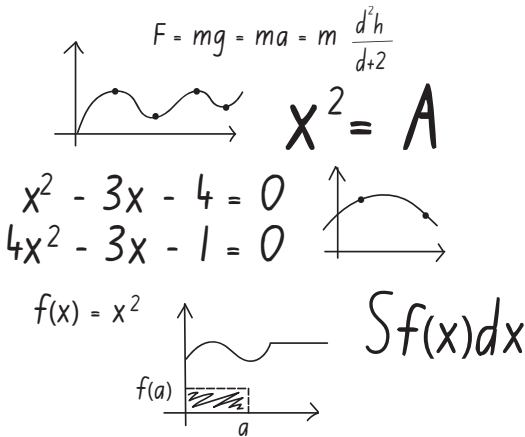
“Where are you from?” Coco asked. “I heard your name was Orion. Is that right?”

“Yes,” the boy said. “I’m from far away.”

Coco and Paige looked at each other.

The three kids walked together toward class. Ms. Nesbit hadn’t arrived yet. The students sat down.

Orion sat close to Paige. He was on his cell phone. It looked like he was doing math. Coco noticed it too. The girls exchanged another look.



Coco tapped Orion's shoulder. "What are you doing?" she asked.

"It's a math app. Calculus," he said. "Oh, it's so fun."

Coco texted Paige. "What? Is he from outer space? Get real!"