



# *The Charlotte Ramsey* New Girl/New School Survival Guide

## *1. Everyone else is nervous too.*

It is hard to remember when you're the new girl, but even the kids who have been at the school for a long time get nervous on the first day. Don't forget, everyone just wants the same thing: friends-old and new.

## *2. Don't be afraid to ask new kid questions.*

"Where is the bathroom?" "What teachers are cool?" "Is the macaroni safe to eat?" etc. These are things you need to know ... and a great way to make conversation!

## *3. Trust your gut.*

If you see a group of girls who seem sweet and friendly, they probably are! Just because they don't invite you eat lunch with them doesn't mean they don't want to-people just forget that it's hard to be new. Sometimes you have to make the first move, even if it's difficult.

## *4. Snarkiness never helps, especially from a stranger!*

Sarcastic jokes and put-downs might seem like funny ice-breakers, but even if everybody else is making them, it doesn't mean you should. Your cutting comments could be perceived as mean and gossipy by people who don't know you that well.

## *5. Listen closely and respond.*

Seems simple enough ... and it is! Pay attention to the things people say and the stories they tell. Ask them questions about themselves. They will think that you're the interesting one! Sure bet anytime.

## *6. Call people out on their unique talents (sincerely).*

If a girl has the coolest purse you've ever seen, or a really pretty necklace, let her know! She'll not only think you're nice, but also confident in your opinions. But remember to use this one with caution-reserve compliments only for when you really mean them.

## *7. Sign up for extra-curricular activities.*

There is no better way to meet people than to find something that you both enjoy. Sports, theater, debate, art-whatever you're into, your school probably has a club or team. (Our paper, The Sentinel, worked for me!)

## *8. Don't forget your past-life experiences.*

You are had a school before this school. You have interesting old friends. You have seen exciting place. You have had fabulous adventures. Your past is what makes you unique. Besides, everyone is probably wondering, Who is this new girl? so don't be afraid to let the true-you shine!

## *9. It's OK if your first day isn't perfect.*

Anyone who's read Worst Enemies/Best Friends knows that I went through a rough patch. And the awkwardness of my first day ended up bringing me closer to the most wonderful best friends a girl could ask for.

Even if it seems like you'll never get over the new-girl-blues ... eventually you'll feel right at home. Believe me!

## *10. Smile :)*

It is the oldest trick in the book.