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***Prejudice and Body Image* 􀆔 Student Handout**

**Story Starter**

Names: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

This is a story about a strange vacation you took to another planet in a distant solar system. It tells of the day you were discovered by a spacecraft of aliens and taken away to a strange world. These aliens were *really huge*, they weighed about 400 pounds and were seven feet tall. At first you thought they were ugly. Yet when you arrived at their planet you found that all the aliens were huge, and the largest were considered the most beautiful by this society. When you opened a magazine or turned on a television all you saw were enormous aliens. You also saw advertisements and commercials promising to help the aliens become even bigger!!!!

Please write an account of this vacation.

**(Story Title)** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Describe exactly where and how the aliens found you. Did you apply for an ad in the newspaper to go to a strange world? Were you at an amusement park and picked up by aliens who thought you were their friends in disguise?

2. What did they look like? What was your reaction to them? What was their reaction to you?

3. What was the inside of their spaceship like? Were you afraid? How long did the trip take you? How far away was their planet from the earth?

4. Did you meet any creatures your own age when you arrived? How big were they? What was your reaction to them? Did they view you as a strange creature? Did they ask you questions?

5. Imagine that the aliens had television, magazines and films like we do, and in their commercials and advertisements, the male and female aliens were all huge. Write about a commercial that you saw featuring a product that promises to make its customers larger. What is the product that they are selling? A green slime

bath that will make their bodies expand? A reverse exercise machine that will add on pounds instead of taking them off?

And what does the commercial promise will happen when they become bigger? Will they be more popular and get invited to the Galaxy Space Dance? Will they be more successful and become presidents of their own spaceship companies? Will their lives suddenly become more exciting than the lives that they have now?

6. Why were the most famous and admired creatures also the largest? How did the smaller aliens who were short or thin feel about their bodies?

7. Describe the feelings you had after being on this planet for a few months. Did you start liking the way the aliens looked? Did it make you feel worse or better about your own body size?

8. When and how did you leave? What did your experience tell you about social pressures to be a certain size or shape? If you could give one important message to the people on earth about body size and shape, what would it be?

**9. Final Instructions**

When you have finished, reread your paragraphs. Add details where you think they are missing. Rewrite the paragraphs with connecting sentences so that they make a continuous story. Read what you have written.

Change anything that needs changing. Read and change until you are pleased with your story.

**Now put your story into book form in Book Creater, Key Note, Pic Collage, or any other suitable app. Include several pictures in your story.**

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