

Teach

Vocabulary in Context

delirious: The layers Dave is wearing causes him to overheat and become *delirious* at the party.

ASK STUDENTS what details the author includes in paragraph 12 to illustrate that Dave begins to feel delirious at the party. (“*felt claustrophobic*,” “*lurched to the bathroom*,” “*stop midway and take a rest*,” “*gasping*”)

NOTICE & NOTE AHA MOMENT

- Ask students which clues in the text help them notice that Dave is realizing or understanding something important.
- Remind them that when they find clues such as this, they should slow down and make sure they can identify the character’s realization or understanding. Encourage students to use the clues to make inferences about Dave’s change in perspective.
- Explain that recognizing an **Aha Moment** can help students understand a character’s actions as the story progresses. Characters are likely to think, feel, or act differently after experiencing an Aha Moment. Ask students how Dave’s behavior might change.
- Remind students that thinking about an **Aha Moment** can help them analyze **character development, internal conflict, and plot**.

Possible response: *Dave suddenly understands how absurd it was for him to try to pretend to be someone he isn’t. He was making himself miserable because of how he thought people perceived him.*

For more about **Aha Moments**, see page R9 and the **Peer Coach Video: Aha Moment**.

delirious
(dī-ſīr-ĕ-əs) *adj.* Someone who is *delirious* is temporarily confused, often because of fever or shock.

NOTICE & NOTE AHA MOMENT

When you notice a sudden realization that shifts a character’s actions or understandings, you’ve found an **Aha Moment** signpost.

Notice & Note: Mark what Dave suddenly realizes in paragraph 12.

Inter: How might this realization change things for Dave?

I was sopping and **delirious** and felt claustrophobic. My chest was cold because I had four drenched T-shirts underneath my sweater. It looked like I was breaking out with Ebola⁴ or something. When I coughed people turned away from me in fear. *Abandon ship, abandon ship!* I had no choice but to take some layers off. I lurched to the bathroom. My arms were ponderously heavy as I pulled off the sweater. Just lifting my arms exhausted me, and I had to stop midway and take a rest by sitting on the edge of the tub, gasping. I slowly peeled off the layers, one at a time. I took off my pants and peeled off my sweatpants, too, down to my undies. I dried myself off with a wash cloth. My red T-shirt had bled onto the three white Ts because of the sweat, so they now were faded pink tie-dyes. I hoisted the bundle of clothes and was shocked at the weight. I jammed them into the closet. I’d retrieve them later, before I left. I put my sweater back on without anything underneath. After two weeks of constricting my air supply and range of motion by wearing upwards of six layers, I was amazed at how much freedom I had with my arms. I felt like dancing for the first time in my life. I suddenly realized what I really looked like at this party: a padded, miserable, and frustrated puttfball, burning up in all my layers. All this because I hated my nickname?

I got home and realized I’d left my bundle of wet clothes back at the party. I took this as a sign. My days of wearing extra layers was officially over. Had Sarah fallen for the padded me, she’d be falling for someone else. Besides, winter wasn’t going to last forever, and I couldn’t just revert back to wearing just one set of clothes like a normal human being come spring. The change in my outward appearance would be the equivalent of a sheared sheep. From now on, I was going to just be me.

That was last night. *I’m not disgustingly thin*, I constantly remind myself. I am wiry. I’m lean and mean.

Outside it’s snowing again. There’s a party tonight, and my friends are on their way to pick me up. I don’t know what to wear, so I lay out four different outfits on the floor as if they’re chalk outlines of people. A car horn honks ten minutes later and I still haven’t decided on an outfit. Maybe I’ll just wear all of them.

⁴ Ebola: a deadly virus that causes high fever and bleeding.

TURN AND TALK

What is your response to Dave response with a partner.

Assessment Pre

Answer these questions before Text section on the following page.

1. This question has two parts:

Part A

What do Dave’s actions in t

- A** He wants quick result
- B** He is disciplined and
- C** He is strong and heal
- D** He cares about his he

Part B

Select two sentences that s

- A** “For the rest of fall, I’d until I couldn’t bend n
- B** “. . . I’d find a bathroom mirror for a couple of
- C** “I couldn’t even feel he
- D** “My buttondowns wer shoulder or something
- E** “I’ve always been skin

