

LIKES AND COMMENTS

Lydia was quiet and a little unusual. She said the strangest things, sometimes wore clothes that did not look quite her age and no one thought she was smart.

Jhazelle was talking to Isabel about Lydia. “She is seriously annoying in class. I swear she doesn’t understand a thing.”

Of course, Lydia had Instagram and posted pictures. She would get about ten to twenty likes and most of them were from family friends, her mom, and grandma. She was really pretty but because she wasn’t in the in-group, everyone ignored her.

Summer passed and Lydia came back to school and she had grown a bit and somehow gone through a transformation. Her Instagram feed was also suddenly different and her pictures were stunning. She looked beautiful in every picture, but still she didn’t get any likes. Jhazelle noticed how great Lydia’s pictures were and secretly admired them but still never liked a single picture or commented. Jhazelle was known for spending hours commenting on all of the popular’s Instagram posts.

prettyyy 😍

❤️😍❤️😍

GIRRRLLL YOU’RE GORGEOUS

Wowww 😍

DAYUUUUMM ❤️❤️😍😍

Jhazelle watched Lydia at school. Somehow she knew Lydia had turned into probably the most interesting girl in the school even though she wasn’t popular. No one admitted or saw that she was pretty and Jhazelle couldn’t get herself to

LIKES AND COMMENTS

like her pictures. Isabel saw her staring at a really cool city shot Lydia had posted of herself leaning up against a wall, head turned sideways staring into the distance.

“Why are you looking at Lydia’s feed, Jhazelle? That girl is so dumb.”
“I thought this was a cool shot.”
“Nothing about her is cool.”

That afternoon Isabel posted a very boring picture of herself standing in front of her mirror. She even looked a bit pudgy but the comments and likes started rolling in and before you knew it she had 120 likes and 30 comments. Jhazelle went and looked at Lydia’s picture from the night before. Someone who was probably family had posted. “You look amazing.”

That was it. She had 18 likes and only one comment. The picture was so amazing it could have been in a magazine and so could Lydia. Jhazelle still didn’t like it or comment.

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Guiding Questions:

- How does Jhazelle choose which pictures to like and comment on?
- What is keeping her from liking and commenting Lydia's posts? Do you agree with this behavior?
- Do many teens find themselves in the situation that they comment on pictures they do not like just because it is their friend? How does this affect online communication?
- What does it say about a person when they engage in routine liking and commenting? Do adults engage in behavior like this?
- What is your definition of a great post?

Topic: Relationships and Communication and Online Identity

Age: Middle and High School