

Crooked Letter, Crooked Letter: Larry's date (chapter 7)



Solutions

Read chapter 7. How do the people listed below react to the news of Larry's date? Fill in the boxes and use quotes.

Ina Ott

- happy, relieved
- anxious for Larry to do things properly ("be a gentleman")

→ relief (Have her prayers been heard?), teaches manners

Carl Ott

- pleased with his son, offers Larry "the good car", gives him \$20
- sexual innuendos ("it's got a bigger backseat")

→ relief and even a little pride that his son is finally "turning into a man"

Larry's classmates

- offer advice
- give Larry a condom
- accept him into their group

→ respect, even a little admiration, prepared to accept Larry as a peer

Larry

- feels elated, happy ("...too happy to eat, a date the next day and friends to tell about it")
- dares to talk back to his classmates, sees he can earn their respect for his repartees

→ a feeling of belonging

How do Larry's parents and his classmates see him now?

To his parents, Larry seems to be turning into a normal teenager with social contacts.

Larry suddenly seems to have won his classmates' respect and even admiration.

How is Larry feeling in the days before the date?

Larry himself just feels happy. At long last he seems to belong - his parents are proud of him and support him; at school he seems to have become "one of the lads"

Topics for discussion:

- How does the prospect of the date with Cindy change Larry?
- How (or how much) might a successful date have shaped Larry's future life?