Location: Store Break Room

Characters: Narrator, Laura, Kenya, Justin, Carla, Jessica, Ms. Walters

**Narrator: Kenya arrived at her part-time job at the dry cleaners 20 minutes late. It wasn’t the first time. Laura had to cover for Kenya and missed her break.**

*Laura: “***Thanks** *very much,” barely concealing her anger when Kenya finally relieved her.*

Kenya: (to Justin) “What’s wrong with her?” “She should know by now that I don’t relate to clocks. That’s just the way I am.”

Justin: Well, she was at that window for five hours straight. She wasn’t too happy about working even longer.”

Kenya: That’s right, Justin, stick up for Laura. Why don’t you tell the manager while you’re at it? I know how jealous you’ve been of me ever since I got a better grade than you in English.

Justin: Kenya, I don’t know what you’re talking about. All I know is that you were 20 minutes late.

Kenya: I can’t believe how picky some people are! Anyway, I have a good excuse today. I had to talk with Ted. Last night I spent two hours telling him how to improve his personality, and now he says he doesn’t think he wants to go out with me anymore! I only told him for his own good! Some guys are just too weak to deal with an honest person like me.

**Narrator: Later Kenya joined some of the other employees on break in the back of the store.**

Carla: Jessica has been showing us the dress she bought to wear to the dance this weekend.

Kenya: You’re going to wear *that* to the dance?”

Jessica: (putting the dress back in its bag)

**Narrator: The other workers bit their lips and stared uncomfortably at their fingernails for some time.**

Carla Speaking of this weekend, Kenya, would you consider working for me on Saturday afternoon? Greg’s invited me to go to the beach.

Kenya: Greg Johnson? So he finally found a girl who’d go out with him, eh? What a loser!

**Narrator: Carla’s face turned red with anger and embarrassment. She turned away from Kenya and hurried back to work at the front of the store.**

Kenya: Another person who can’t stand to hear the truth! I don’t know *why* I bother to try to help some people! Do they appreciate it? No! You think I *enjoy* telling them these things? It’s for their own good! Why is everyone so sensitive? Do I have to be phony like the rest of you, tip-toeing around so I won’t step on anyone’s poor little toes?”

**Narrator: As Kenya was speaking, her audience gradually moved away and went back to work. Looking around and seeing that she was alone, Kenya shrugged and helped herself to a soft drink. Later in the day one of the employees became ill and had to go home before the end of her shift.**

Ms. Walters: Kenya, can you close her checkout and help out with bagging the garments.

Kenya: “I don’t know why I always get picked on?

(Kenya complained). It’s not my problem and it’s not my responsibility.

Ms. Walters: For now you’d best do as you’re asked Kenya, and stop by to see me before you leave tonight. We need to talk.

1. What do you suspect that Mrs. Johnson wishes to address with Kenya?

1. Have you ever known anyone that behaved like Kenya? How did you react to this person?
2. Why do you think Kenya behaved as she did?
3. How could Kenya’s co-workers help her improve her attitude?
4. Is it too late for Kenya to change her attitude? Why or why not?
5. Think about your own behavior. Have you ever been in a situation where you acted like Kenya? If so, describe the situation.
6. If you answered yes to question 5, what could you have done to change your attitude and behavior?

Adapted from: Kimbrell, Grady & Vineyard, Ben S. (2003). Succeeding in the World of Work - Student Activity Book

(7th Edition). New York, NY. Glencoe/McGraw Hill.