

**HANDOUT**

## 1. Thomas and the New Skate Park

Thomas loves to skateboard. He spends a lot of time on the Internet researching different skate parks around the country and thinks about traveling to some of them. Recently, a new skate park was built about two hours from where Thomas lives. Thomas and his friends were enthusiastic about making a trip to the new skate park. Thomas' friend J.J. asked his big brother to drive them in the family van. J.J.'s brother said okay and the four friends set a date to go.

Finally, the day arrived to go to the new skate park. Suddenly, it seemed to Thomas, his mom wasn't so sure it was a good idea. She told Thomas that he hadn't been spending much time with the family lately. She missed him around the house and felt like all he cared about was skateboarding and his friends. It was his cousin's birthday and she wanted the whole family to go to the party, including Thomas. Thomas's mom said there would be other opportunities to go to the skate park.

- What did Thomas need?

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- What did his mom need?

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## 2. Best Friends?

Emma and Lucy have been best friends since the third grade. Even their families hang out together. However, this school year (eighth grade), they don't have a single class together. Lucy has started to become friends with a couple of girls in her English class. She likes these girls, they like to have fun and try new things. Lucy has tried to explain this to Emma, but Emma's feelings get hurt.

Almost every Friday night for the past five years, Lucy and Emma have had a sleepover. They watch a movie Friday night and then Emma's dad makes them pancakes in the morning. This Friday, Emma walks over to Lucy's locker after school. Lucy is surrounded by the girls from English class and a couple of boys. When Emma walks up to the group, they all stop talking. Emma asks Lucy if she is ready to walk home and pick up her sleepover stuff. Lucy apologizes and tells Emma she has made other plans. Some of the other kids seem to be laughing. Emma fights back tears and walks away.

- What did Emma need?

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- What did Lucy need?

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**3. The Babysitter**

Alexis comes home every day after school to watch her brother Matthew, who is in second grade. She often misses time with her friends, even if they usually just do homework or talk to people online. While her mother is at work, Alexis isn't allowed to be online with her friends and she needs to keep the phone free so her mom can call and check in. This leaves Alexis feeling cut off from her friends and annoyed with her little brother.

Today when she picks up Matthew and goes home to find a list of chores that her mother left, she is so angry she wants to scream! Matthew tells Alexis she has to make him a macaroni and cheese snack right away. She yells at him and calls him a pain. Then she tells him that he has to vacuum the whole house (one of the chores on the list) before she will do anything for him. Matthew starts to cry and threatens to tell their mom. Alexis takes the cordless phone into her room and slams the door.

- What does Alexis need?
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- What does Matthew need?
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**4. Little Brother**

Peter is the youngest of three boys. His next older brother, Sean, is two years ahead of him in school. Sean is now in high school and has been driving for two months. His friends like to party and Sean was never very serious about school. Peter really likes school. He is on the student council and participates on a couple of the sports teams. Peter wishes that some of his teachers would realize that he is not the same person as Sean. He has spent almost every school year proving to different teachers that he is serious about school and likes learning new things. Peter is annoyed by this, but used to it.

However, he didn't think he would have to face it at home. Last night, he got into an argument with his parents about being a counselor at a school camping event next year. Apparently, Sean was chosen to be a counselor when he was in ninth grade and his parents ended up driving three hours to pick Sean up from the camp because he and his friends were caught with alcohol. Peter's parents refused to sign his permission slip. They said the kids they pick to be counselors are wild and they blame them for Sean's partying. Peter knows it's the other way around and he is furious with his parents! He can't believe that they give Sean the car keys and won't even let Peter be a counselor. It's all so unfair!

- What does Peter need?
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- What do Peter's parents need?
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