

# I'm So Frustrated and Angry!

Story By: Andrew Frinkle

Mary was upset. She was beyond upset. She was livid. She was wretchedly, terribly angry. What made it worse was that she could do nothing about it. It was out of her hands, and that was frustrating.

You see, her best friend had invited her to go on a trip with her family. They were going to go on a beach trip down to Florida, and she had been looking forward to it for several months. Then, suddenly, someone got sick, and the trip was being changed to a different date. That different date just happened to be when Mary's own family had their trip to a boring old campground they visited every year.



So, now she was going to be stuck sitting around swatting mosquitoes next to her brother, and the highlight would likely be eating marshmallows on a stick. Not to mention that her brother's idea of a good time happened to be eating a whole can of baked beans and tooting the night away in his tent. That was a far cry from a beachside resort in sunny Florida with her BFF.

This being said, Mary was horribly angry at the world. She stormed around her house for days, making everyone miserable. She snapped at everyone until they avoided conversation with her entirely, and the general cloud of discontent that followed her around was enough to dampen the mood of whatever room she happened to be in. It was getting mighty U-G-L-Y.

It became such an issue that her mother called a family meeting. Dad pretended he hadn't noticed her moods, and her brother, the fart machine, made armpit noises while they tried to call the meeting to order. From there the family meeting descended into chaos, which her mood brought about.

"Why don't we just let her go where she wants to?" Her brother asked. "She's not even pleasant to be around."

Mary's eyes and mood suddenly brightened. "Yeah! Why don't we?"

"It's not a family trip without everyone." Mother protested, determined to be the lone holdout.

Dad, for once, agreed with his kids. "I don't want sourpuss in the car with me for hours, and I'm tired of camping. Let's do something different and fun, just the three of us."

Everyone looked to mom, who finally caved. "Fine, but only if we do some other trip together as a family this year..."

There were a few groans and moans, but everyone accepted. After that, Mary was back to her old self. Sure, she felt a little bratty, but once-in-a-lifetime trips didn't come along often, did they?

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Use the information in the story to answer the questions below.

1. Why is Mary so upset?
  - A. Her friend said something mean.
  - B. Her brother punched her.
  - C. She lost her cell phone.
  - D. She can't go on a trip.
  
2. Why can't Mary go on the trip with her friend?
  - A. Her brother is sick.
  - B. Her parents changed their minds.
  - C. It interferes with her family trip.
  - D. She got really bad grades.
  
3. How does Mary react to the news?
  - A. She gets really grumpy and terrible to be around.
  - B. She can't stop weeping.
  - C. She takes the news in stride.
  - D. She threatens to run away.
  
4. What does Mom finally do when she notices Mary's mood?
  - A. She lets Mary have her way.
  - B. She calls a family meeting.
  - C. She has a talk with her daughter one-on-one.
  - D. She grounds Mary.
  
5. In the end, who seems LEAST pleased with the decision to take separate trips?
  - A. Mom
  - B. Dad
  - C. Mary
  - D. Brother

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