

Loud and Rude

Story By: Andrew Frinkle

Joe laughed at the back of the classroom. What he was doing wasn't really that funny, but it was fun to laugh really loud. It really made Mr. Steinman angry, too. The class was right in the middle of a math problem, and he'd just burst out laughing. Everyone stopped and looked at him. All progress stopped.

"What silliness are you laughing at this time?" Mr. Steinman demanded.

"Nothing."

Mr. Steinman grunted. "He's probably laughing about not being able to do his homework tonight because he isn't listening." His teacher liked to make comments like this to the class to explain his behavior.

"I ain't laughing at that." Joe replied. He knew that this would make his teacher correct his grammar.

"'Ain't' isn't proper to use. You should say, 'I am not laughing at that.'"

"You just said ain't." Joe pointed out, smiling helpfully.

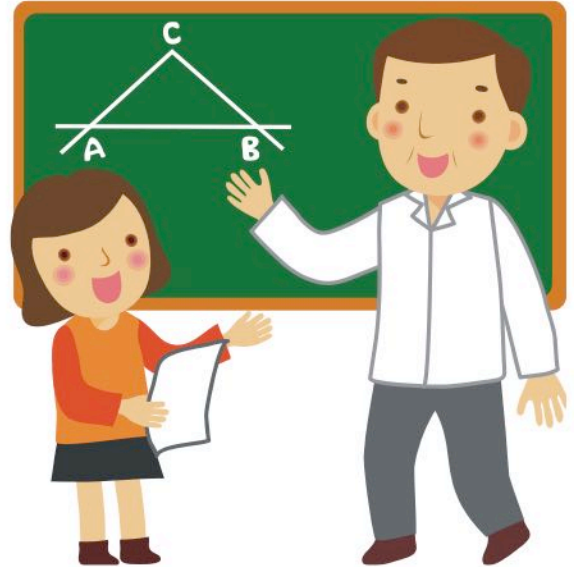
"Anyway, back to the math problem. Joe, be quiet and work or you will leave the room."

Now it was time for Joe to play clueless. "And go where?"

"Joe." Mr. Steinman said firmly. He thought saying a student's name ended arguments.

"Yes, Mr. Stainman?" Joe liked to pronounce his teacher's name wrong. His teacher cleared his throat. "Steinman."

"Yes, Mr. Steinman?"



At this point, his teacher gave up and tried to start teaching the lesson again. They were learning about geometry. Triangles were hard, especially when you had to figure out angles and sides. It wasn't fun or easy.

Joe laughed again. It was easier to get out of class than sit here and feel dumb.

"Joe. Office. Now." Each word was said like a sentence. That seemed like bad grammar, too.

Joe shrugged. "Fine, I'd rather be there anyway."

"I'll be calling home after school, too." Mr. Steinman said ominously.

"Ask my mom to buy pizza for dinner when you call." Joe suggested.

His teacher opened his mouth to reply, but thought better of it. Instead, he continued the math lesson. Joe took his time getting to the door. He paused to sharpen his pencil.

"Joe! Get out now. You don't need your pencil in the office."

"I want to be prepared." He tried to look confused, even though he knew what he was doing was wrong.

"Just get out."

"I'm going!"

"Joseph Ruiz!" Mr. Steinman yelled.

"Later!" Joe said, hurrying out the door now that his teacher was good and truly angry.

Sadly, he still didn't know how to do his homework, which made him sigh. Then he arrived in the office and settled into his familiar chair, waiting to get yelled at again. Once he got home, he'd get it from his parents, and tomorrow he'd repeat the whole process.

"Another day, another detention." He sighed, wondering why math was so hard.

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

1. What subject is Joe trying to avoid learning?
 - A. Science
 - B. Math
 - C. Reading
 - D. Gym Class

2. Which of the following does Joe NOT do to irritate his teacher?
 - A. Say his name wrong
 - B. Use improper grammar
 - C. Take his time leaving the room
 - D. Hit another child

3. What does Joe ask his teacher to tell his mom?
 - A. Pick him up from school.
 - B. Bring his book bag.
 - C. Order pizza for dinner.
 - D. Help him on his homework.

4. What finally gets Mr. Steinman angry enough to kick Joe out of the room?
 - A. Eating chips in class
 - B. Laughing a second time
 - C. Burping loudly in class
 - D. Sleeping in class

5. Why is Joe really acting up?
 - A. He doesn't understand math well, and he's frustrated.
 - B. He does that stuff because it's hilarious.
 - C. He just likes Mr. Steinman to call home.
 - D. None of the above

Loud and Rude – Answer Key

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