



Bunch of Characters

Stories about a tough bunch of kids!



SUMMARY:

Each of these stories features a difficult child or a child behaving difficultly. Lessons need to be learned, especially about how we are around others. Social skills and manners are at the core of each of these counter-example and cause-effect stories. Each of them presents a teachable moment for character education.

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Terrible Tony

Story By: Andrew Frinkle

Angelee's little brother, Tony, was so bad!
His behavior was horribly sad.

He did the neighbor's roses harm.
He bit the mailman on the arm!

He threw the cat in the fish tank.
He even broke his sister's piggy bank!

He tossed all the cereal on the floor.
He smashed a hammer through the door!

He ate mom's chocolate birthday cake.
Then he threw it up for Pete's sake!

He drove the lawnmower into the car.
He put his pet turtle in a tiny, tiny jar.

He painted the school bus bright red.
He even cut a big hole in his bed!

Tony did a lot of crazy things.
He seemed like quite the ding-a-ling.

Still, he was part of the family.
But they all wished he'd not be so silly – especially Angelee.



Terrible Tony

Story By: Andrew Frinkle

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

1. What did Tony do to the mailman?
 - A. He chased him.
 - B. He bit him.
 - C. He took all the mail.
 - D. He teased him.

2. What did Tony do to the cat?
 - A. He threw it in the fish tank.
 - B. He fed it chocolate.
 - C. He pinched its tail.
 - D. He scared it.

3. What did Tony do to his bed?
 - A. He ripped it up.
 - B. He cut a hole in it.
 - C. He sold it.
 - D. He jumped on it.

4. What color did Tony paint the school bus?
 - A. green
 - B. yellow
 - C. orange
 - D. red

5. What did Tony do to the birthday cake?
 - A. He ate it all and got sick.
 - B. He threw it on his mom's face.
 - C. He tossed it in the garbage.
 - D. He gave it to the dog.

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Tantrum-Throwing Tyler

Story By: Andrew Frinkle

Tyler wanted a cookie.
Mom would not give him a cookie.
Why not? He wanted one more.

He already had four cookies.
He wanted five cookies.
How could he get one more cookie?

He cried and screamed.
He stomped his feet.
He pulled his hair.
He tried to bite mommy.

He kicked and screamed more.
He wanted a cookie!
He was so angry.
But, he was getting tired.

He kicked and cried more.
He fell down.
Now he was really tired.
He did not want a cookie now.

Mom hugged him.
A hug was better than a cookie.
Now he was happy.
There were always cookies tomorrow.



Tantrum-Throwing Tyler

Story By: Andrew Frinkle

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

1. What does Tyler want?
 - A. a cookie
 - B. cake
 - C. candy
 - D. chocolate

2. How many has Tyler had?
 - A. 1
 - B. 2
 - C. 3
 - D. 4

3. How many does Tyler want?
 - A. 3
 - B. 4
 - C. 5
 - D. 6

4. What does Tyler NOT do?
 - A. cry
 - B. scream
 - C. stomp
 - D. sing

5. Who makes Tyler feel better?
 - A. dad
 - B. mom
 - C. sister
 - D. brother

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Bullying Bobby

Story By: Andrew Frinkle

Bobby was a Bully, plain and simple.
He was not a nice boy.
He took what he wanted.
He did not apologize, either! Not ever.

Bobby pushed a boy down the stairs.
He did not even look back or care.

Bobby stole Cindy's chair.
Then he gave her a nasty glare.

Bobby took a kid's popcorn at the fair.
He ran off to eat it over there...

He teased a girl named Blair.
The silly kid had red hair!

Bobby punched a boy and took his bus fare!
Man, what a nightmare!

Did anyone stand up to him here or there?
Did anyone even dare?

Bobby was a Bully, plain and simple.
He was not a nice boy.
He did not have any friends.
No one wanted to sit near him, either. Not ever.



Bullying Bobby

Story By: Andrew Frinkle

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

1. What kind of person is Bobby?
 - A. nice
 - B. happy
 - C. sad
 - D. mean

2. What did Bobby do to Cindy?
 - A. He punched her.
 - B. He teased her.
 - C. He took her money.
 - D. He stole her chair.

3. What does Bobby do to Blair?
 - A. He punched her.
 - B. He teased her.
 - C. He took her money.
 - D. He stole her chair.

4. Which of these does Bobby NOT do?
 - A. Push a boy down the stairs.
 - B. Take a girl's chair.
 - C. Pull a girl's hair.
 - D. Take a kid's bus fair.

5. YES OR NO: Does Bobby have any friends?
 - A. Yes
 - B. No

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 - A. Push a boy down the stairs.
 - B. Take a girl's chair.
 - C. Pull a girl's hair.**
 - D. Take a kid's bus fair.

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 - A. Yes
 - B. No**

Revolting Roger

Story By: Andrew Frinkle

Roger had no sense and poor timing.
He never knew when it was a good time to say things.
This got him into a lot of trouble!

At breakfast, he talked about worms.
Mom looked sick.
Dad was not pleased!

During school, Roger talked about a bad movie his brother showed him.
The kids were upset.
The teacher was angry!

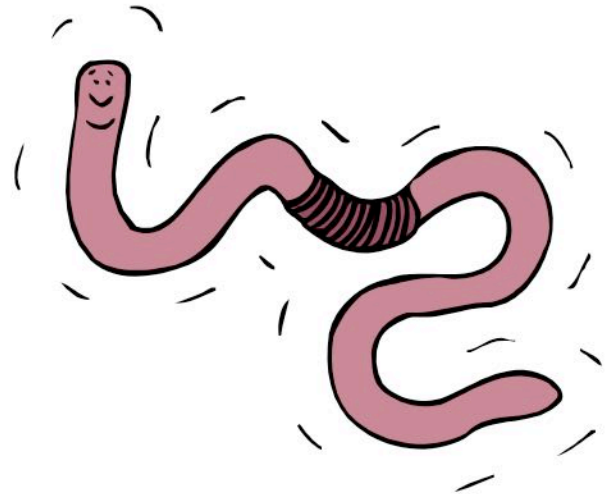
At lunch, Roger talked about worms again.
He really, really liked worms.
The poor girls at the table could not even eat!

On the bus, Roger talked about a car accident.
The little kids sitting in front of him cried.
The bus driver was very irritated!

During dinner, Roger wanted to talk about worms again.
Instead, he talked about farts.
His sister gagged on her salad!

Dad had had enough!
Mom had had enough!
Everyone had had enough!
Roger was not allowed to talk about anything during the meals anymore!

Roger really had to learn when it was a good time to say something, didn't he?



Revolting Roger

Story By: Andrew Frinkle

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

1. What kind of person is Roger?
 - A. polite
 - B. nice
 - C. gross
 - D. mean

2. What did Roger talk about during breakfast?
 - A. worms
 - B. farts
 - C. car accidents
 - D. bad movies

3. What did Roger talk about during school?
 - A. worms
 - B. farts
 - C. car accidents
 - D. bad movies

4. What did Roger talk about during dinner?
 - A. worms
 - B. farts
 - C. car accidents
 - D. bad movies

5. YES OR NO: Is Roger allowed to talk during meals at the end of the story?
 - A. Yes
 - B. No

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Tardy Tina

Story By: Andrew Frinkle

Tina was always tardy.
That is another way of saying late.
She could read a clock.
She just could not get places on time!

Tina had to be to school by 7:00.
She was 15 minutes late.
The teacher was not very pleased.
She missed her morning work.

Tina had to be to the lunch room by 11:30.
She talked to a friend in the hallway.
She was 20 minutes late.
She only had 5 minutes to eat her food!

Tina had to get to P.E. class by 2:00 P.M.
She took a long time getting changed for class.
She was 10 minutes late.
Coach made her run two extra laps!

Tina had to get to the bus ramp by 3:10 P.M.
She dawdled packing up her bag.
She was 5 minutes late.
Mom had to come pick her up.

Tina was late to everything, and she never learned.
It made people upset with her.
It was not very considerate.
They stopped inviting her to things!



Tardy Tina

Story By: Andrew Frinkle

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

1. What kind of person is Tina?
 - A. careful
 - B. on time
 - C. kind
 - D. late

2. How late was Tina for lunch?
 - A. 5 minutes
 - B. 10 minutes
 - C. 15 minutes
 - D. 20 minutes

3. How late was Tina for P.E. Class?
 - A. 5 minutes
 - B. 10 minutes
 - C. 15 minutes
 - D. 20 minutes

4. How late was Tina for the bus ramp?
 - A. 5 minutes
 - B. 10 minutes
 - C. 15 minutes
 - D. 20 minutes

5. YES OR NO: Do people like to invite Tina to things?
 - A. Yes
 - B. No

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Dirty Danny

Story By: Andrew Frinkle

Dirty Danny was a very difficult boy.
He pretended to be allergic to soap.
He screamed if he saw a bubble or two.

He smelled like old cheese and sour milk.
His hair was matted with oil and dirt.
Bugs found his clothes very comfy.

His room was more crumbs than carpet.
His closet SCARED the monsters away.
His dresser was full of frogs and rocks.

His favorite shirt crunched when he walked.
His pants were more patches than jeans!
His shoes had two holes in the front and another in the back.

He only ate with his hands.
Spoons and forks were used as catapults.
He used his pants as napkins and his shirt as a bib.

Dirty Danny was a very difficult boy.
His parents started hosing him down in the yard.
Eventually, he started to smell a little bit better.

Staying clean isn't always easy...



Dirty Danny

Story By: Andrew Frinkle

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

1. What kind of person is Danny?
 - A. clean
 - B. careful
 - C. nice
 - D. messy

2. What does Danny smell like?
 - A. roses
 - B. old cheese
 - C. meat
 - D. hamburgers

3. What do monsters think of Danny's room?
 - A. They love it.
 - B. They are scared of it.
 - C. They come to see him often.
 - D. They are happy there.

4. How are Danny's table manners?
 - A. He is a messy eater.
 - B. He is very polite.
 - C. He is clean.
 - D. He is quiet.

5. YES OR NO: Does Danny start to get better at the end?
 - A. Yes
 - B. No

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Wicked Wilma

Story By: Andrew Frinkle

Wilma was absolutely wicked!
She was not a nice little girl at all.
She delighted in seeing others hurt or humiliated.

Wilma stuck her tongue out at the bus driver.
He was already having a bad day.
Now he felt worse!

Wilma stepped on Johnny's lunch box.
His sandwich smashed and his milk carton blew up!
Now he had nothing to eat!

Wilma stuck her foot out and tripped Jenny on the stairs.
Wilma thought it was the funniest thing!
The girl fell and bruised her knee.

Wilma liked to pinch her cat's ears.
It tried to scratch her, but she was too fast.
The cat hated her!

Wilma scribbled all over her brother's homework.
It took him hours to do it, but she did not care.
He got an F!

Everyone was getting very sick of Wilma.
She had no care for anyone but herself.
She was so mean that everyone ran away from her!

Would she ever learn and finally become a good girl?
Only time would tell...



Wicked Wilma

Story By: Andrew Frinkle

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

1. What kind of person is Wilma?
 - A. kind
 - B. sweet
 - C. mean
 - D. nice

2. What did Wilma do to the cat?
 - A. stuck her tongue out
 - B. stepped on his lunch box
 - C. tripped her on the stairs
 - D. pinched her ears

3. What did Wilma do to Jenny?
 - A. stuck her tongue out
 - B. stepped on his lunch box
 - C. tripped her on the stairs
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4. What did Wilma do to Johnny?
 - A. stuck her tongue out
 - B. stepped on his lunch box
 - C. tripped her on the stairs
 - D. pinched her ears

5. YES OR NO: Is Wilma really popular?
 - A. Yes
 - B. No

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Icky Ivan

Story By: Andrew Frinkle

Ivan liked to do weird things. He really liked nothing to make girls cringe and scream or to have boys point and laugh. He gave his teachers fits and his parents headaches. He was a very strange young man.



Ivan liked to eat dirt. The more worms it had the better! It made girls want to throw up. It made boys snicker.

Ivan liked to pick his nose in public. The girls would all say, “Ewww,” but the boys would laugh.

Ivan liked to eat out of the trash can. The girls would all run away screaming, but the boys would encourage him to do more.

Ivan also liked rubbing his lunchroom pizza on his face. It made him smell like pepperoni. The girls shuddered, but the boys gave him high-five’s.



Sometimes Ivan even liked to pretend he was a monster. He would make strange faces and gross noises. The girls would flee, but the boys would play along.

In class, Ivan always liked to burp instead of answering the teachers’ questions. It made the teachers angry, the girls grossed out, and the boys happy. Then he went to the office, and that made his parents upset.

Ivan liked to do a lot of things, but what he really liked was making friends. He did all these things, and it got him lots of attention. It got him lots of trips to the office. Everyone in the school knew who Icky Ivan was, but still he didn’t have many friends. He wondered why...

Do you know why?

Icky Ivan

Story By: Andrew Frinkle

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

1. What is Ivan's nickname?
 - A. Evil Ivan
 - B. Irritating Ivan
 - C. Icky Ivan
 - D. Interesting Ivan

2. What does Ivan like to eat?
 - A. pizza
 - B. dirt
 - C. paper
 - D. glue

3. What does Ivan do with his nose in public?
 - A. pick it
 - B. blow it
 - C. sneeze
 - D. put milk in it

4. Who seems to like his behavior the most?
 - A. the girls
 - B. the boys
 - C. his parents
 - D. the teachers

5. Which sentence best describes Ivan's friendships?
 - A. Ivan does weird things to get attention, but he doesn't have many friends.
 - B. Ivan has tons of friends, because he's funny.
 - C. Ivan does weird things, so he has lots of friends.
 - D. Ivan is mean, so he has no friends.

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Daredevil Davey

Story By: Andrew Frinkle

Davey was a wild boy.
He was fearless, but not very careful.
He loved to do tricks!
Some of them were very dangerous!

He rode his bike down the town's steepest hill.
He didn't touch his brakes once!
He nearly got hit by a car!

He jumped over the ditch at the end of the street.
He did it while hopping on a pogo stick!
He almost broke his leg doing it!

He slid down the rail in the school stairwell.
He rode it down three flights of stairs!
He fell off and almost snapped his wrist!

He rode down the waterslide head first.
The lady told him not to do that!
He hit the water hard and really hurt his neck!

Davey did a lot of funny tricks.
People thought he was cool.
No one visited him in the hospital, though.
Now he wants to be a bit more careful...



Daredevil Davey

Story By: Andrew Frinkle

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

1. What kind of person is Davey?
 - A. careful
 - B. safe
 - C. happy
 - D. dangerous

2. What did Davey do at the town's steepest hill?
 - A. Roll down in a tire.
 - B. Ride his bike down without using the brakes.
 - C. Ride a hang glider.
 - D. Take a nap.

3. What does Davey do at school?
 - A. Do a back flip off the lunch table.
 - B. Jump off the roof.
 - C. Climb up the basketball hoop.
 - D. Ride the rail down the stairs.

4. Which of these does Davey NOT do?
 - A. Ride his bike down the tallest hill.
 - B. Jump over the ditch on a pogo stick.
 - C. Dive off a cliff.
 - D. Rid the waterslide head first.

5. YES OR NO: Does anyone visit Davey in the hospital?
 - A. Yes
 - B. No

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Whiney Winnie

Story By: Andrew Frinkle

Winnie was a whiney girl.
She didn't know why.
Words just came out like whines.
It was not very nice to hear.

When Dad asked her to clean her room, she whined.
"Do I haavvveee to?"
Of course she had to!



When Mom told her to do her homework before watching TV, she whined.
"Mooooooooommm. I'll do it laaaaterrr."
Mom turned off the TV and gave her a grumpy look.

When her teacher told her to do a better job on her class work, she whined.
"I don't want tooooo. It's borrrrring!"
The teacher gave her extra homework for whining; she needed practice, too.

When her grandmother asked her to help clear the dinner dishes, she whined.
"I don't want to touch the dirty plaaaaatesss."
Grandmother sent her off without any dessert, even though it was her favorite!

Later at home, Winnie whined in her room by herself.
Then, she realized something: no one liked her whining!
Besides that, it always got her in trouble.
Winnie would stop whining.

Whiney Winnie

Story By: Andrew Frinkle

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

1. What kind of person is Winnie?
 - A. hard-working
 - B. whiney
 - C. happy
 - D. respectful

2. What did Winnie do at the grandmother's house?
 - A. Whine about doing a better job on class work.
 - B. Whine about cleaning her room.
 - C. Whine about cleaning up dishes.
 - D. Whine about doing her homework before TV.

3. What does Winnie do at school?
 - A. Whine about doing a better job on class work.
 - B. Whine about cleaning her room.
 - C. Whine about cleaning up dishes.
 - D. Whine about doing her homework before TV.

4. Which of these does Winnie NOT do?
 - A. Whine about cleaning up dishes.
 - B. Whine about cleaning her room.
 - C. Whine about cutting the grass.
 - D. Whine about doing her homework before TV.

5. YES OR NO: Is Winnie going to keep whining?
 - A. Yes
 - B. No

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Opposite Ollie

Story By: Andrew Frinkle

Opposite Ollie did the opposite of everything his teacher said. He was a difficult child. He was hard to get along with, and no one really understood him, not even his parents.

“Do your homework,” the teacher said. Ollie didn’t do his homework. He sat and stared instead.

“Hang up your coat and tie your shoes,” the teacher instructed. He threw his coat on the floor and untied his laces.

“Eat lunch quietly,” the teacher requested. He sang to his hot dog and screamed at his milk.

“Put away your things and clear your desk,” the teacher ordered. He emptied his backpack on his desk and made a big mess.

“Line up for gym,” the teacher demanded. He went and sat down finally instead.

“Please be quiet,” the teacher begged. Ollie told him his life story, in extreme detail.

“Sit in your chair,” the teacher pleaded with him. He sat next to his chair. Then he sat under his chair. After that he stood on his chair. He couldn’t quite tell what the opposite was.

The teacher looked like they might finally give up, but then he had an idea and said, “Be loud, be rude, be lazy, and most of all, don’t follow rules.”

Ollie did the opposite of all that, and the teacher was happy.

The teacher had tricked him!



Opposite Ollie

Story By: Andrew Frinkle

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

1. What is Ollie's problem?
 - A. He smells funny.
 - B. He cries a lot.
 - C. He picks his nose.
 - D. He does the opposite of what he's asked.
2. Which of the following is NOT something Ollie does during the story?
 - A. Scream at his milk
 - B. Talk to his hot dog
 - C. Throw up his lunch
 - D. Throw his coat on the floor
3. Which of the following IS something Ollie did?
 - A. Fight a zebra
 - B. Told his life story
 - C. Baked a cake
 - D. Eat the class pet
4. Which direction does Ollie have trouble figuring out the opposite of?
 - A. Sitting in his chair
 - B. Lining up for lunch
 - C. Doing his homework
 - D. Tying his shoes
5. How does the teacher finally trick Ollie?
 - A. He does something mean and cruel.
 - B. He threatens to call Ollie's parents.
 - C. He bribes Ollie to do the right thing.
 - D. He tells Ollie to do bad things, and Ollie does the opposite, which is good.

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Mannerless Marty

Story By: Andrew Frinkle

Marty had no manners. He acted like a pig. He was rude, loud, and gross. Marty was trouble, and he thought it was funny.

At the table, he burped after each bite. He wiped his mouth on his sleeve. He sneezed on the tablecloth. He chewed with his mouth open. He slurped his soup.



In school, he interrupted constantly. He took people's stuff without asking, ruined it, and then returned it. He tore pages in books and picked his teeth with them. He made rude comments without apologizing.



On the bus he wiped his nose on the seats. He rubbed dirty hands on his neighbors. He snored loudly, even if he wasn't really asleep. He took his shoes off and put them up on the next seat.

At home, he hogged the bathroom, but wouldn't flush. He drank out of the milk jug. He didn't wipe his feet before he came in, so he left mud everywhere. He tore out all the good parts of the newspaper.



Marty didn't get invited to birthday parties. He had to clean up his room on weekends instead of playing. No one wanted to sit near him on the bus. He made people uncomfortable. He missed out on a lot of chances. Even his grandmother didn't want him to visit!

Mannerless Marty got tired of being alone. He decided to clean up his act. Eventually, he made a few friends and a few good habits.

Always remember your manners!

Mannerless Marty

Story By: Andrew Frinkle

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

1. What's Marty's problem?
 - A. He's mean.
 - B. He doesn't have good manners.
 - C. He cheats on his tests.
 - D. He doesn't do his homework.

2. Which of these DOES Marty do at the table?
 - A. He eats everything with a knife.
 - B. He eats all of his broccoli.
 - C. He sneezes on the tablecloth.
 - D. He puts his elbows on the table.

3. Which of these DOESN'T Marty do at school?
 - A. He is rude and doesn't apologize.
 - B. He interrupts all the time.
 - C. He ruins people's things.
 - D. He runs in the hallway.

4. Which of these DOES Marty do at home?
 - A. He colored on the walls.
 - B. He ate the last piece of pizza.
 - C. He hogged the bathroom.
 - D. He talked back to his parents.

5. How does Marty finally get friends?
 - A. He starts behaving better.
 - B. He pays them.
 - C. He invites them all to a party.
 - D. He gives them candy.

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Tattling Tara

Story By: Andrew Frinkle

Tara was a little bit naughty.
She liked to get people in trouble.
Whenever she saw someone doing something wrong, she tattled.

When her brother snuck a cookie before dinner, she tattled.
“Mom, Dylan is getting a cookie!”
Dylan got punished.



When Dad was watching sports instead of cutting the grass, she tattled.
“Mom, Dad is watching more baseball!”
Dad got a dirty look and a scolding from Mom.

When her classmate was playing a game instead of studying, she tattled.
“Teacher, Casey is playing a game!”
Casey lost her computer time for a week.

When her friend Joan took an extra snack at lunch, she tattled.
“Ma’am, that girl over there took an extra snack.”
Joan lost all of her snacks for the day.

When the boy on the bus wouldn’t sit down, she tattled.
“Driver, Jacob is jumping around again!”
Jacob had to sit up front for a week.



Tara liked to tattle.
It was fun for her.
Her friends and family hated it.
She still had not learned when it was a good time to tell an adult.

Tattling Tara

Story By: Andrew Frinkle

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

1. What kind of person is Tara?
 - A. nice
 - B. kind
 - C. sweet
 - D. naughty

2. What was Dylan doing that made Tara tattle?
 - A. He was watching baseball.
 - B. He was jumping on the bus.
 - C. He was taking a cookie before dinner.
 - D. She was playing a game.

3. What was Dad doing that made Tara tattle?
 - A. He was watching baseball.
 - B. He was jumping on the bus.
 - C. He was taking a cookie before dinner.
 - D. She was playing a game.

4. What was Jacob doing that made Tara tattle?
 - A. He was watching baseball.
 - B. He was jumping on the bus.
 - C. He was taking a cookie before dinner.
 - D. She was playing a game.

5. YES OR NO: Does Tara know when you are supposed to tell an adult?
 - A. Yes
 - B. No

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5. YES OR NO: Does Tara know when you are supposed to tell an adult?
 - A. Yes
 - B. No**