

Sassy Sandra

Story By: Andrew Frinkle

Sandra was a sassy girl, and she liked to talk back. She thought it made her sound cool and funny. Every time she talked back, people laughed. That was fun for her, because she liked it when she got attention.

When mother asked her to go get the morning newspaper, she said, "Why? I don't read that junk. I just use it for my rabbit cage." Her little brother laughed his head off. Dad didn't laugh at all. He got a mean look in his eye and said a few words about respect, and then he spanked her. Afterward, her butt was kind of sore.

When her teacher asked her to put away her papers and clear her desk for a test, she said, "I can't clear my desk, or I won't have a pencil to work with. Then I can't do my test, and I'll get yelled at for wasting time." The teacher obviously meant for her to keep her pencil out, but she thought it was funny to give the teacher a hard time. Her classmates all snickered. The teacher wrote a note in her agenda. Dad wouldn't like that.

When the P.E. coach asked her to do some jumping jacks, she said, "I don't know who this jack guy is, and I don't think I should be jumping with or on him, because my mom always says don't talk to strangers." Her gym classmates all thought it was hilarious. Coach made her run ten laps. She was really tired when it was time to go home on the bus.

When the big, older girl on the bus asked her to move over so she could sit down, she said, "I can't. My invisible friend Susan is sitting there, and she thinks you smell funny." The other girl didn't think it was very funny. The big girl shoved Sandra over and threatened to punch both her *and* invisible Susan in the eyes. That wasn't so funny, even if the kids in front of her giggled.

Sandra got to thinking. She was making all these jokes, right? Everyone else got to laugh, but she got punished over and over. It really wasn't worth it. After that, she started to try harder to be serious. Jokes were fun and all, but it wasn't worth the bother a lot of the time. That gave her more time to do things she liked, like playing guitar.



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

1. How does Sandra like to have fun?
 - A. playing games
 - B. making jokes
 - C. reading books
 - D. studying

2. Why does dad not like it when Sandra talks back to mom?
 - A. He wants her to respect mom.
 - B. He doesn't have a sense of humor.
 - C. He is the only one that can tell jokes.
 - D. He wants breakfast to be silent.

3. Who is the second person Sandra sasses this day?
 - A. her father
 - B. her teacher
 - C. her coach
 - D. a girl on the bus

4. YES OR NO: Did making jokes get Sandra anything good other than laughs?
 - A. Yes
 - B. No

5. Why does Sandra finally stop joking so much?
 - A. She realizes she is wasting time.
 - B. She is too busy with her guitar.
 - C. She decides she is only getting punished and not getting anything for it.
 - D. She reads a story about a girl like her and changes her ways.

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