
Lesson 5

A. Pre-Reading Preparation

Cultural Context

“Power Rangers” refers to an American TV program in which young people magically become “fighters for truth and goodness”. Model cars (ships, airplanes, etc.), ray guns, Lego, Barbie dolls and stuffed animals are all popular toys among North American children.

1. Do you find the above mentioned toys popular in your country too? What is your favorite childhood toy? Why?
2. Many young boys make model cars for a hobby. Did you have a hobby when you were a child? Have you ever made a model of anything?

About the Text

This is a story about the interaction of family members. The story explains how the privacy of one family member is affected by others. As in many families, younger members do not respect the property of others. The story is entirely from the point of view of the narrator, who is the youngest child in the family.

1. Do you have a brother or sister? How does (do) your sibling(s) treat you? Give an example of something terrible that your sibling(s) has (have) done to you.
2. Parents sometimes “favor” their youngest child. They give the child more attention. Have you ever experienced this? How did you feel?

B. Reading

Read this text twice. If you do not understand certain words, try to deduce their meanings from the context in which they appear. Check the vocabulary list for quick reference, then look up the words that are new to you in a dictionary for a more comprehensive understanding.

Trapped

By Alison Therriault

1 *Oh* great!

Oh this is just great! My brother the **jerk** has decided to use his big fat muscles and lock me in the hall closet. Oh no! I'll miss the Power **Rangers**!

Okay, calm down. Breathe. Think. Yes.

Jeez! Am I gonna get him for this! Who does he think he is anyway? Locking me in this closet! Just because he is my older brother doesn't mean he can push me around! He thinks he can do anything! Anything! Ha! Yeah! Right.

2 Just wait until mom gets home! Then he'll be sorry! Oh boy!

But then, he'll probably let me out just as mom comes in the door and deny all knowledge of me ever being in here! In this dark, scary, damp, sorry excuse for a closet. What a jerk! I'll probably develop a **complex** and grow up to be **claustrophobic** or something. It'll be all his fault.

3 Hey, who am I kidding? He never takes the blame for anything. Even though I'm supposed to be the protected one, the one who always has the parents on his side! Yeah right! My brother gets all the attention around this joint. I'm hardly noticed. All my friends say it's s-o-o-o hard to be the oldest one. Ha! What do they know?

I mean, he picks on me all the time! Like throwing me in this **dungeon** for NO reason at all! Well, okay, maybe he had a reason. Okay, okay, he did. I sort of **wrecked** his model car. But who really cares? I mean, it's not like it was real and he could drive it all over town to **impress** his little girlfriend!

(END OF SAMPLER)