

Lesson 1

A. Pre-Reading Preparation

Cultural Context

Childhood is a very important period in an individual's life. It is a time of discovery, first experiences, and fun. Many children enjoy playing tricks and laughing at people. Playing tricks enables them to practice their imaginative skills and to experience power.

1. Did you play tricks when you were a child? What is the best trick that you ever played?
2. Has anyone ever played a good trick on you? What happened?
3. Do you think that all children play tricks or only some of them? What qualities does a "trick player" have to have? Why?

About the Text

In this story, the narrator, having been the victim of one of his son's tricks, considers different forms of punishment. His consideration, however, leads him to reminisce about his own childhood and about the tricks that he played.

1. Do you think that parents should take their own childhood into account when dealing with their children? How? Why?
2. Do you think that sharing memories of what you did wrong when you were young with your children can help them make the right choices? Why?
3. Do you like hearing about your parents' childhood experiences? Why?

B. Reading

Like Father, Like Son

By *Corey Jon Ogilvie*

- 1 I noticed a peculiar grin on the face of my eleven-year-old boy as I kissed him goodbye. It was somewhat **mischievous**, but I thought nothing of it at the time.
- 2 All day long at the office, I experienced a subtle itch in my **undergarments**. At first, I dismissed it as being the new boxer briefs. But the irritation increased as the day progressed, and I began to realize something was up.
- 3 After racing upstairs to shower when I got home from work, I went down to the kitchen to make a snack. I couldn't find the **paprika** anywhere. While searching through the cupboards for it, things began to come together – that grin, that itch, the missing paprika. The little bastard had pulled a **prank** on me.
- 4 I began to consider forms of punishment. No TV for a week? No friends for a week? Any kind of discipline would do. Leaning against the counter, **pondering** the possibilities, I remembered something from my childhood that made me reconsider.
- 5 I once heard someone say, "For one to fully enjoy existing as a child, he or she must pull as many pranks as humanly possible." I guess I had a lot of **foresight** as a child because, oh, did I ever pull pranks!
- 6 My prank-loving classmates at elementary school bowed before me and **chanted**, "Great Ken, the One True Divine Prankster." At lunch, if I wasn't on the playground pulling pranks, then I was answering questions for **budding** pranksters.

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