

## Brothers

James was slowly getting dressed for school. He didn't like school that much, a typical 10 year old, and was going as slow as possible in the hope that he would miss the bus. It was already 8 o'clock and he had only managed his underwear, shirt and one sock. His twin brother, Tom, was much keener on school. A good sportsman and a lover of writing stories, all the things that James really hated! Tom was already dressed, clean and smart (as usual) and packing his bag for another day at school.

"That is my book!" shouted James at his brother Tom, who was putting a rather large book into his school bag.

"No it isn't James, it is my copy of The Lord of the Rings, the one I got for Christmas!" replied Tom.

"Rubbish!" screeched James, "I got that book for Christmas not you, so give it to me now!" he continued, leaping over to Tom and grapping the book in both hands.

"Get off me you lunatic!" yelled Tom as he fell backwards, hitting his head against the bookcase. "It's mine!" he bawled.

"No it isn't!" screamed James, grabbing Tom's hair and pulling it as hard as he could, "It's mine and I want to take it to school!" he continued.

Tom screamed in pain and lashed out with his right fist, catching James on the bridge of the nose.

“Awwwh!” bellowed James, “That really hurt: you’re gonna get it now!” he hollered, and dived on his brother with fists blazing! Tom retaliated and the two boys were embroiled in a noisy, viscous fight on the bedroom floor!

The bedroom door crashed open and a silhouetted figure stood towering above the struggling boys “What on earth is going on in here?” It was their Mum, and she didn’t look very happy! The two boys froze and looked up at the fuming figure.

“He started it!” whimpered Tom.

“Why are you two fighting? Why does this room look like a bomb has hit it? And Why are you still in your underpants?” (she pointed at James) “When the bus is going in five minutes!” she asked in a manner that was serious (very serious.) “I am fed up with you James, you are always causing trouble, you’re lazy and rude and I’m fed up with it!” she ranted at James. “Why can’t you be more like Tom!” she cried. “That is it! I am sick of you James!” Tonight when you get home from school: no more TV, no more computer games and no more friends around for a month!” she bellowed.

“Now you!” (again she pointed at James) “Get dressed, before I do it for you! And you,” (this time pointing at Tom) come with me downstairs!” she said softly, gently grasping Tom by the hand and leading him out of the door with her.

- 1) How old is James?
- 2) How old is Tom?
- 3) What does Tom think about school? Why?
- 4) What does James think about School? Why?
- 5) What is the relationship like between Tom and James?
- 6) What is Tom like?
- 7) What is James like?
- 8) What are the two boys wearing?
- 9) What is the cause of the argument?
- 10) Why do the boys argue?
- 11) Who started the argument? Give a reason for your answer:
- 12) How does the author describe the fight?
- 13) What injuries did the boys incur during the fight?
- 14) Who appeared at the door way?
- 15) How did the figure know there was a fight going on?
- 16) How does the author describe this figure?

- 17) How do the boys feel about this figure?
- 18) What questions are asked by the figure at the door?
- 19) What punishments are imposed?
- 20) Do you think these punishments are fair?
- 21) What punishments would you have given?
- 22) What is the relationship between James and the figure?
- 23) What is the relationship between Tom and the figure?
- 24) How do you feel about the way in which the figure deals  
with the two boys?
- 25) Is it a happy household? Explain your answer: