Student Name:_____ Date:_____

Tommy's Bad Mood

"It's time to get up Tommy! Now! And I mean it this time!"

Tommy stirred in his bed, his eyes still squeezed tightly shut. He moved around a bit and slowly started to open his eyes. He looked across the room and could see from the rumpled sheets and pajamas piled on the floor that his brother was already awake and dressed. "And probably eating my favorite cereal too," he thought grumpily. Tommy sat up. He put his feet on the floor, flexing his toes as he stretched his arms above his head. He then yawned, scratched his head, and rubbed his eyes, completing his morning wake-up routine. Now fully awake, Tommy walked over to the closet. He planned to put on his favorite blue jeans and orange and blue striped shirt. He searched through the closet for several minutes. Finally, Tommy resigned himself to the fact that his brother James was probably downstairs, eating his favorite cereal and wearing his favorite clothes.

"I'll show him," Tommy said to the empty room. "What right does he have to wear my favorite shirt?"

"Tommy!" his mother called. "Are you up yet? You need to be down here in five minutes for breakfast. It's almost time to leave for school."

"I'm up!" Tommy shouted angrily. Why was she always picking on him?

"Don't forget to comb your hair and brush your teeth before you come down," his mother reminded him.

Still angry, Tommy looked around the room. He put on a pair of overalls, the only clean pants to be found in the bedroom the seven-year old boys shared. He pulled a red t- shirt over his head, put on a pair of mismatched socks, and ran down the hall to the bathroom. As Tommy brushed his teeth, he looked at his brown-haired, blue-eyed reflection in the mirror. He wished for the tenth time that day that he was an only child and didn't have a twin brother with whom he had to share everything. Once his teeth were clean and his hair was combed, Tommy went downstairs. He saw just what he had expected. His brother James was dressed in Tommy's favorite orange and blue striped shirt. He was wearing Tommy's blue jeans and eating his favorite cereal. Tommy walked over to his chair at the table, grabbed the box of cereal and planned to pour himself a big bowl. But when he went to pour the cereal into his bowl, nothing came out. The box was empty.

"You big jerk!" he yelled at his brother. "Why do you have to be such a selfish pig? You ate the whole box of my favorite cereal, and I only got one bowl. You said you didn't even like this kind!"

"Tommy, please..." His mother's voice trailed off.

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"I do too like this cereal!" James exclaimed. "It's my favorite, and it has been for the longest time. Besides, it's your own fault because you took too long getting downstairs for breakfast. If you had gotten up on time, maybe you could have had some."

"Yeah right," Tommy retorted. "You wouldn't have shared it with me. You never do. Look at how you're even wearing my favorite clothes. You said you never liked to wear that shirt. You just wanted to make me look like a little kid wearing these overalls so you could look bigger."

"I was up first so I got to choose what I wanted to wear. I don't have to ask your permission. Anyway, since I'm older than you and bigger than you I can do whatever I want."

"You're not bigger than me!" Tommy shouted. "And you're only older by three measly minutes. Big deal."

"I don't know what your problem is anyway," James said. "If you would just think about things a little more, you would see that it doesn't take much to make your life easier. I mean, even a few more minutes in the room might help you get things organized."

"All right boys," their mom said. "Enough arguing. Put on your shoes and grab your backpacks so we can get to school." James gathered his things calmly, placing his papers in his binder first, then putting the binder in his backpack. His brother just grabbed his papers off the counter where he had left them the night before and shoved them in his backpack.

James started to say something, but stopped when he saw his mom staring right at him. He decided telling his brother to be more organized might not be such a good idea after all.

As Tommy got to school he found his day was not going to get any better. When he got to class and turned in last night's homework, his teacher Ms. Watson was upset because his papers were all wrinkled, his handwriting was impossible to read, and there were holes where he had erased wrong answers too many times. She scolded him for his messy work habits and sent him back to his desk. Tommy sulked in his desk and watched as James giggled and whispered with Emily, the pretty new girl.

Tommy thought Emily looked nice. He decided to ask her to eat lunch with him that afternoon. Like normal, though, he was too late. When lunch finally arrived, Tommy saw his brother James sitting close to the pretty new girl. As if that were not bad enough, when he opened his Spiderman lunchbox he found a peanut butter and strawberry jam sandwich with the crusts still on, carrots, and chocolate pudding.

"Aw man!" he whispered, "This is James' favorite lunch! Where is my peanut butter and grape jelly sandwich with no crusts and banana pudding? Mom knows I hate chocolate pudding!" Tommy glared across the room at James who was enjoying his chocolate pudding. "What a pig!" he thought angrily. "Of course he's enjoying his lunch. He always gets what he wants." As Tommy was having this jealous thought, the lunch bell rang. Tommy sighed loudly because he was not ready to go back to class and watch James talk with all of his friends

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and answer all Ms. Watson's questions correctly.

The day just kept getting worse. When Tommy got home after school, he was still in a foul mood. The first person Tommy saw when he went into the kitchen was his mom, who greeted him with a smile and asked, "How was your day, Tommy?"

"Terrible!" he exclaimed as he stomped away.

Tommy's mom was surprised, but she was not sure what to do. She didn't want to make Tommy feel worse by pointing out how foolish he was acting. Finally, she decided not to make a big deal of it. Instead, she thought she would try to make some of Tommy's favorite things for dinner that night.

Once Tommy left his mom in the kitchen, he rushed to the room he shared with his brother. There, he slammed the door, threw himself on his bed, and cried stormily. After a couple of minutes, Tommy began to calm down. Just as the tears stopped, he heard the door opening, footsteps, and then the sound of someone sitting next to him on the bed.

"I heard you didn't have the greatest day, Tommy," his dad said. "Mom said you came home very upset. Is that true?"

"Yes," Tommy said in a small voice.

"Do you want to talk about it?" Tommy's dad asked.

"Oh, Dad, it's just that everything is so messed up. Sometimes I feel like I really hate James. And then I feel even worse because I know I shouldn't. I mean, not only is he my brother, he's my twin!"

Tommy's dad sat there for a moment in silence. Then he turned to his son and said, "I wonder if part of the problem might be that you think you have to compete with your brother. You know, don't you, that even though you are twins you are each your own person. You don't have to try to beat your brother. Your mother and I love you both."

Tommy was quiet for a long time. Finally, he turned to his dad and said, "Maybe. It does seem like James always does everything better than me. Plus, he always gets exactly what he wants."

"Can you think of anything you might do to try to make things better? Is there anything you can do differently tomorrow?"

Tommy thought about what had made him so upset. He realized that getting up a little earlier might help. He also thought that maybe he should ask his mom if he could help her make the lunches for school the next day. Finally, he turned to his dad and smiled. "Let's go downstairs and see if Mom and James need any help with dinner," Tommy said to his dad, "and then maybe for dessert we can have what everyone likes--root beer floats!"

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1. **What did Tommy think when he couldn't find his favorite clothes in the closet?**
   - **A.** They must be in the wash.
   - **B.** His brother must be wearing them.
   - **C.** He probably just couldn't find them.

2. **What bothered Tommy's teacher the most about his schoolwork?**
   - **A.** His messy work habits.
   - **B.** Not paying attention.
   - **C.** Not doing his homework.

3. **What was a big problem in the story?**
   - **A.** Tommy and James didn't like wearing the same clothes.
   - **B.** Tommy and his brother James didn't get along very well.
   - **C.** James was always trying to get his brother Tommy into trouble.

4. **What is this story mostly about?**
   - **A.** A boy who wanted to be just like his twin brother but didn't know how to do it.
   - **B.** Twin boys who thought and acted alike but didn't like each other very much.
   - **C.** Problems a boy had who thought and acted differently from his twin brother.

5. **Why did Tommy get angry when his mother called him to come downstairs?**
   - **A.** He thought she was picking on him.
   - **B.** He was already up and getting ready.
   - **C.** He didn't like to be rushed by anyone.

6. **How did the story end?**
   - **A.** Tommy decided he needed to help his mom make his lunch every day.
   - **B.** Tommy learned some good lessons, and everyone was happy about it.
   - **C.** Tommy decided that he wanted to do something with his family.

7. **What was Tommy like?**
   - **A.** He didn't like the way his brother did things but never got mad about it.
   - **B.** He was messy, got angry at his brother a lot, and often got into trouble.
   - **C.** He kept his room in good order, but he was always angry at his brother.

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8. **Why was Tommy grumpy right after he woke up?**
   - **A.** He saw his brother was gone and was probably eating the cereal Tommy wanted.
   - **B.** He thought about the homework he didn't do and knew he would be in trouble today.
   - **C.** He thought this was going to be just another bad day for him like always.

9. **How did Tommy's day go at school?**
   - **A.** First he didn't get to eat with Emily, next he didn't like his lunch, and then he got in trouble with his teacher.
   - **B.** First he got in trouble with his teacher, next he didn't get to eat with Emily, and then he didn't like his lunch.
   - **C.** First he got in trouble with his teacher, next he didn't like his lunch, and then he didn't get to eat with Emily.

10. **What was Tommy probably thinking after he opened his lunch?**
   - **A.** That his lunch was just a mistake, and it would be different tomorrow.
   - **B.** That James had made sure that he got what he wanted for lunch.
   - **C.** That his mother cared more about James than about Tommy.

11. **What did James think Tommy should do to have an easier life?**
   - **A.** Stop thinking only about himself and help others.
   - **B.** Watch how James did things and try to copy him.
   - **C.** Just think a little more about what he was doing.

12. **What was James planning to do after he saw Tommy shove his schoolwork into his backpack?**
   - **A.** Tell their mother that Tommy was being sloppy again.
   - **B.** Tell him to straighten his papers out and put them in neatly.
   - **C.** Not say anything because he wanted Tommy to get into trouble.

13. **What was Tommy's dad like?**
   - **A.** He cared about how Tommy's life was going and wanted to help.
   - **B.** He wanted to be a good father but helped James more than Tommy.
   - **C.** He cared about Tommy but didn't understand what his problem might be.

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14. **What did Tommy wish?**
    - **A.** That James could have his own room and his own clothes.
    - **B.** That he didn't have to go to school and his mom would be nicer.
    - **C.** That he was an only child and wouldn't have to share everything.

15. **What important thing did Tommy's dad want him to understand?**
    - **A.** He didn't have to be like his brother for his mother and dad to love him.
    - **B.** It was okay for him to act the way he did because that was just the way he was.
    - **C.** He didn't need to change, but he had to love his brother because they were twins.

16. **What was James like?**
    - **A.** He liked to do things to bug Tommy, but he was never really mean to him.
    - **B.** He always did things well, and he was always trying to correct Tommy.
    - **C.** He was neat, did well in school, and usually didn't care what Tommy thought.

17. **What did James say when Tommy complained about his clothes and breakfast cereal?**
    - **A.** He didn't care what Tommy thought because Tommy was a big jerk.
    - **B.** It was Tommy's own fault for not getting ready for school sooner.
    - **C.** Tommy shouldn't complain because he never liked the clothes and cereal.

18. **What was Tommy's main problem?**
    - **A.** He wasn't doing anything to help make his life any better.
    - **B.** He didn't do what his parents and teachers told him to do.
    - **C.** He liked being angry and grumpy and didn't intend to change.

19. **Why did Tommy's mother let him go to his room without talking to her about the terrible day he had?**
    - **A.** She wanted to finish making supper before she talked with him.
    - **B.** She was too upset with Tommy to want to talk with him just then.
    - **C.** She thought it would help him if she didn't make a big deal about it.

20. **How did Tommy deal with his dad's advice?**
    - **A.** He understood that it was okay to be different, and he didn't intend to change.
    - **B.** He understood that he was the problem and decided to make some changes.
    - **C.** He didn't agree with his dad but would try to make some changes anyway.

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