

Sister Problems

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Maria's little sisters were fighting. She could hear them from her room. Maria was supposed to be babysitting. She knew that she should go in and check on them. She put her book on the bed, and went down the hall to Anna and Olivia's room.

"What is going on here?" Maria asked.

Her sisters stared angrily at each other. There were clothes all over the floor.

"Tell Anna she is wrong," shouted Olivia.

"Tell Olivia she is wrong," shouted Anna.

Maria shook her head. "Let's slow down," she said. "First, I need to have all the information and understand the problem. Then, when I know what is going on, I can tell you what I think. Why are you fighting?"

Olivia took a deep breath. "Well, Anna borrowed my shirt," she said. "My green shirt. It is my favorite one. She took it without asking, and then she got it stained."

Olivia held out a green T-shirt with a brown stain on it.

“It isn’t my fault,” said Anna. “My friend Greg dropped his chocolate pudding on me. And then Olivia started yelling at me and she threw all of my clothes out of my closet.”

“Okay,” said Maria. “Now I know what you are fighting about. I can tell you how we solve this problem.”

She sat the girls down on the bed. “Anna,” said Maria, “you took Olivia’s shirt without asking, right?”

“I guess so,” said Anna.

“You did. And then you got it stained at school,” said Maria. “You didn’t stain the shirt, but it is your responsibility because you took it.”

Anna nodded.

“And Olivia,” said Maria, “yelling at your sister and throwing her clothes won’t help. The best way for you to speak to your sister is to be calm and talk about what is wrong.”

Olivia nodded.

“So go ahead and talk to each other calmly,” Maria said.

Olivia turned to Anna. “I am sorry I threw your clothes around,” she said. “I was mad because of the shirt. I don’t like it when you take my things without asking. I’ll help you put it all away.”

“And I am sorry that I took the shirt,” said Anna. “I like it, but I should have asked you.”

“See?” said Maria. “Isn’t it better that you spoke about it?”

The girls nodded.

Maria smiled. “Okay, so I’ll put this shirt into the washing machine. Let’s see if we can get this stain out. The three of us can eat some ice cream while we wait.”

“Thank you, Maria,” said Olivia. “We love it when you babysit!”

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. Which sisters are fighting?

- A) Anna and Olivia
- B) Olivia and Maria
- C) Maria and Anna

2. The fight that Anna and Olivia have is a problem. How does Maria help solve this problem?

- A) Maria tells Olivia that she should be mad at Greg, not Anna.
- B) Maria tells Anna that she should buy Olivia a new shirt.
- C) Maria has Anna and Olivia talk calmly to each other.

3. Speaking calmly is a better way for Anna and Olivia to solve their problem than fighting with each other.

What information from the story supports this statement?

- A) Maria is babysitting her little sisters, Anna and Olivia. While reading in her room, she can hear them fighting with each other.
- B) Anna and Olivia's problem is not solved when they fight. Their problem is solved when they speak calmly to each other.
- C) Olivia is mad that Anna took her shirt without asking and got it stained. Anna is mad that Olivia yelled at her and threw her clothes on the floor.

4. Which sister has not done anything wrong?

- A) Anna
- B) Olivia
- C) Maria

5. What is the main idea of this story?

- A) Sisters should never let each other borrow their clothing.
- B) Sisters should always let each other borrow their clothing.
- C) People should solve their problems by talking, not fighting.

6. Read this sentence from the story: "Olivia held out a green T-shirt with a brown **stain** on it."

What does the word "**stain**" mean?

- A) piece of clothing
- B) dirty spot or mark
- C) big hole or opening

7. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence below.

Olivia is mad at Anna, _____ she throws Anna's clothes on the floor.

- A) so
- B) because
- C) but

8. Who takes her sister's shirt without asking?

9. Read these sentences from the story: "'See?' said Maria. 'Isn't it better that you spoke about it?'" What do Anna and Olivia do right after Maria asks that question?

10. How does speaking about their problem make Anna and Olivia's problem better? Support your answer with information from the story.
