



I am Jane. I have a son. We call him Laurie. He studies in class six.

One day Laurie returned from school. He opened the door with a kick, threw his cap on the floor and shouted in harsh voice, "Is there anybody around?"

At lunch he spoke rudely with his father, and spilled milk.

"How was school today?" I asked.

"All right," he said.

"Did you learn anything?" his father asked.

"Nothing. The teacher scolded a boy and made him stand in a corner."

The Next day Laurie remarked at lunch, "Well, Charles was bad again today." With a strange smile he added, "Today he hit the teacher."

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Why is Laurie talking about Charles ? Who is Charles ?

"Why ?" I asked.

"Because she asked Charles to colour in the red crayons, but Charles wanted to colour with green. So he hit the teacher and the teacher **spanked** (punished) him and told everybody not to play with Charles, but everybody did."

The third day, Charles had hit a seesaw on the head of the little girl and the teacher made him stay inside the class for the whole recess. Next day Charles was asked to stand in a corner during storytime because he kept **pounding** (thumping) his feet on the floor. On Friday Charles threw a chalkstick at the teacher.

My husband and I were worried about the effect of bad boys like Charles on our Laurie.

What will the parents do ?

On Monday Laurie came back and shouted. "Charles...Charles was bad again today. He **yelled** (gave a sharp cry) so loudly that a teacher from the nearby class came and scolded him. Charles had to stay after school and all the children stayed to watch him."

Then suddenly he stood up on his chair and spoke in a strange tone, "Hi, Pop, you old dust mop !"

"What does this Charles look like ?" asked my husband, "He is bigger than me, he does not have an eraser and he never wears a jacket." Came the answer, "What are they going to do about Charles ?" Laurie's father asked, "Laurie said, "Throw him out (drive a way) of the school, I guess."

"You mean that bad boy ?

During the third and fourth weeks Charles seemed to be changing. Laurie reported at lunch. "Charles was so good today that the teacher gave him an apple."

"What ?" I could not believe, and my husband added.

"You mean that bad boy ?"

"Yes, Charles!" Laurie said, He gave the crayons around and he

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picked up the books afterwards and the teacher said he was her helper."

I asked my husband, "Can this be true?" Can something like this happen? In the next PTA meeting I'm going to talk to Charle's mother.'

The news on Monday next week was : Charles said dirty words three or four times and therefore he was asked to wash his mouth with soap each time. He also threw chalk.

"Invite Charle's mother over a cup of tea after the meeting," my husband told me.

"If only she's there," I said hesitatingly.

At the PTA meeting I sat **restlessly** (uncomfortably), watching each worrying face. None of the ladies looked so stressed. No one stood up and apologized for her son's bad behaviour. No one mentioned Charles.

Will Laurie's mother be able to find out Charle's mother ?

After the meeting I walked to Laurie's teacher.

"I've been so anxious to meet you," I said. "I'm Laurie's mother".

"We are all interested in Laurie." She said.

"Well, certainly he likes the school, he talks about it all the time."

"We had a little bit trouble, for two-three weeks or so, but he's a fine little helper. With some excuses, of course!" She said praisingly.

"Laurie usually adjusts very quickly, I know, he is my son!...But...we are worried about Charles' **influence** (impact) on other students." I directly put the point.

"Charles?"

"Yes, Charles...you must be having a lot of trouble with that boy?" I said laughingly.

"Charles?" She was a little bit confused. "But I don't have any Charles in my class!"

Who is Charles? What will laurie's mother do?

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Do it Yourself

Q.1 (A) Find out from the lesson words similar in meaning for the underlined ones :

There was a strike in the factory. The workers carried banners and placards. They shouted loudly. They also thumped the streets with their feet, soon they became extremely excited. The police arrived. And tried to drive away the workers. But the workers opposed them. Angry police hit them. They were worried about the impact of the strike in other parts of the town.

(B) Fill in the blanks with appropriate forms of the words given in the box.

true, invite, hesitate, apology, behaviour

I received an _____ card from one of my _____ old friends. He had _____ for the delay in sending the card. As I did not have good clothes to wear, I was full of _____. I could not decide, whether I should go or not. I was puzzled. I did not know how to _____. At last I decided to go.

Q.2 (A) Say whether the following statements are true or false.

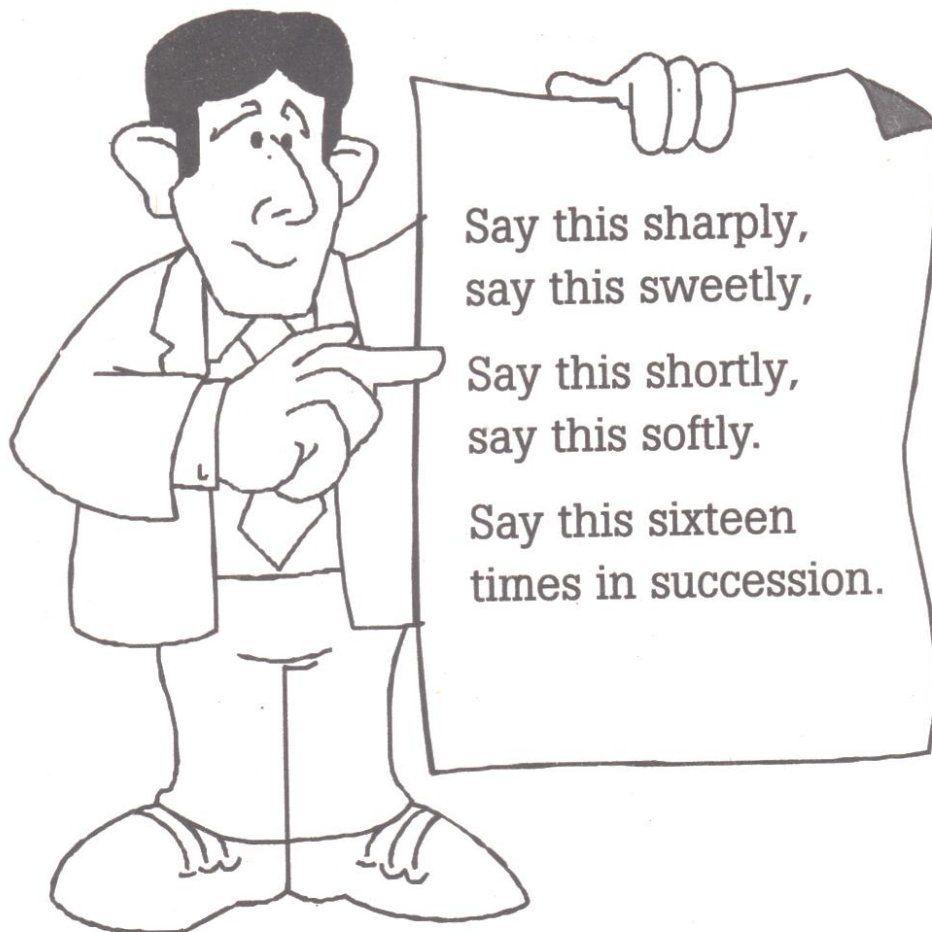
1. The teacher always punished Charles.
2. Laurie was an extremely good pupil.
3. Jane and her husband attended the PTA meeting.
4. Charles hit the teacher with a duster.
5. The boy named Charles did not exist.
6. Laurie's parents were worried about the bad influence of Charles's behaviour on their son.
7. Laurie himself was a problem boy.
8. Laurie was to be thrown out of his school

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(B) Answer the following questions.

1. How did Laurie behave with his parents after he returned from school ?
2. What did Laurie say about Charles to his parents ?
3. What kind of a student was Charles ?
4. What did Jane tell Laurie's teacher about Charles ?
5. What was the teacher's reply ?
6. Who according to you is Charles ?
7. What is your opinion about Laurie's teacher ?



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