

Name _____ Date _____



John and Mark are not good friends. They live in the same neighborhood and are in the same class at school. However, they don't do a lot of things together. They don't walk to school together. They don't eat lunch together. John and Mark have different friends in the neighborhood and at school.

One day, the students in John and Mark's class are asked to work on an important project. All of the students will have to work in pairs. John and Mark are assigned to work together on their project.

John is not very happy about this. He doesn't want to work with Mark. It would be more fun to work on the project with one of his own friends. John doesn't think that Mark is a very good student. Mark is nice, but he isn't very smart. John will not have fun with Mark and he will probably have to do more of the work. John keeps thinking about all the projects he could do with his friends. If he were working with James, they could write a great paper, because James and John are both good at writing. If he were working with Rick, they could do something funny, because he and Rick have the same great sense of humor. Instead, he's stuck with Mark.

"It isn't fair!" John thinks. "We shouldn't have to work with people that we didn't pick!"

That evening, John tells his family about his feelings. John's father tells him that the situation is "a lot like life" and that sometimes we are all asked to work with people we might not like. He tells John that how we work with people that we don't like is just as important as how we work with our friends. John doesn't know what to think about that.

That night, John tried to think about what Mark was good at. He knew Mark liked to draw pictures. Suddenly, John had a great idea! He could write a paper, and Mark could illustrate it with some of his great pictures.

The next morning on the way to school, John walked with Mark and told him about the idea. Mark loved it!

Over the next two weeks, the two boys worked hard together to make something great. Their project was good because both of them did something that they liked and were good at. They each understood their strengths, and they worked on the project using those strengths.

Values

Name _____ Date _____

What value is reflected in this story?

Choose three values from the list below. Tell how **two** of them are **not** demonstrated in this story, and tell how **one** of them **is** demonstrated.

cheerfulness	cooperation	honesty
sportsmanship	school pride	humor

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Why do you think the value reflected in this story is an important one?

Draw a picture to illustrate this value:



Values

Name _____ Date _____

Answers to COOPERATION:

Answers will vary and should reflect student understanding and ability. Answers should be discussed for clarity.

Answers to the first question may include some of the following ideas:

Cheerfulness This value is not much reflected in the story. Mark is excited about John's idea, but nobody in the story is shown as particularly cheerful.

Cooperation This is the value shown in the story: the boys work together, using their strengths, in order to successfully complete the project. John must overcome his negative feelings in order to use the value of cooperation.

Honesty It could be argued that John's father is honest, or that John was honest with his family about his feelings; however, this value is probably not the point of the story.

Sportsmanship This value is not reflected in the story. There are no sports, no mention of fair play, etc.

School pride John's desire to do well is not expressed as an issue of school pride.

Humor Although John's wish for his friend Rick refers to a sense of humor, this is not part of the story.

Answers to the second question may include that cooperation makes it possible to work with people we do not particularly like; that cooperation makes it possible to finish projects we cannot do alone; that cooperation makes working more pleasant, etc.