

# Mr. Roundabout's Book

"Come on, Sam," Walter said, "let me see the book."

"No," Sam said firmly, clutching it to his chest. "I want to read it myself."

To escape his pursuer, Sam marched out of the living room, through the dining room, and on into the kitchen. But Walter stayed right on Sam's heels. "Come on, Sam," Walter repeated. "You've had the book all week."



Cornered at the kitchen sink, Sam finally had to turn and face Walter. "What if I have kept the book all week?" Sam began. "I've been so busy with homework that I haven't even had a chance to look at it. If you want it, you'll have to wait until tomorrow. I haven't forgotten how you took my last book off the bus seat before I went into the movies."

"If I hadn't taken that book, it would probably still be on the bus," Walter argued. "You're so careless that you would have left it there forever. Anyway, we're talking about a different book now. And I know that if you start reading this book today, you won't give it up to anyone. It's not fair for you to keep it all to yourself. After all, Mr. Roundabout lent it to all of us. He meant for us to share it."

"I don't mind sharing it," Sam said generously. "I only want to read a few stories in it first. Then you can borrow it for a while, and so can Ann."

chest

read

repeated

week

homework

movies

bus

different

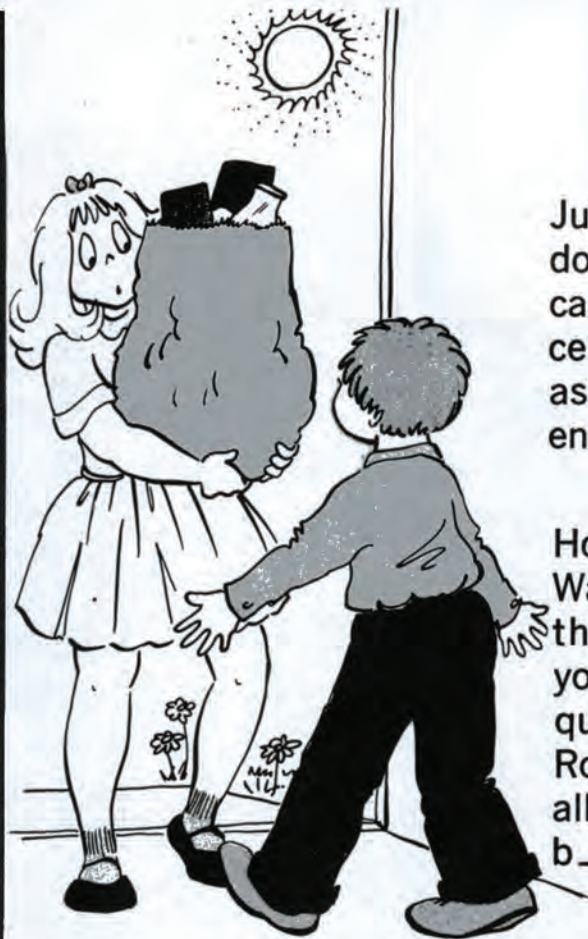
tomorrow

keep

lent

sharing

borrow



load

fierce

rushed

groceries

selfish

book

right

week

subject

lunchtime

decided

aloud

agreed

Just at that moment the kitchen door flew open. In came Ann, carrying a heavy l\_\_\_\_d of groceries. "What's going on?" she asked. "You two look f\_\_\_\_erce enough to chew up nails."

Hoping to win Ann over to his side, Walter r\_\_\_\_shed to help her with the gr\_\_\_\_\_. "It's your s\_\_\_\_fish brother," he said quickly. "He wants to keep Mr. Roundabout's book on mythology all to himself. You know that the b\_\_\_\_\_ was meant for all of us."

"It certainly was," Ann said, glaring at Sam. "What do you mean by bullying Walter? He has as much ri\_\_\_\_\_ to the book as you. After all, you've had it all week."

"That's right," Walter said indignantly. "He's had it all \_\_\_\_\_."

"Oh for heaven's sake," Sam snapped. "I'm tired of the whole s\_\_\_\_bjet. You can take the stupid book." He started to march angrily out of the kitchen, but it was nearly l\_\_\_\_chtime, and on second thought, the groceries on the table interested him more than putting on a show of wounded pride. So Sam decid\_\_\_\_ to stay in the kitchen where he would be able to fight for his share of the book and have something to eat as well. "Suppose we read al\_\_\_\_d from the book?" he suggested after a moment. "That way we can really share it."

"Fine," Walter agr\_\_\_\_d. "Since you've had the book all week, I'll read first."

words

page

sensible

practice

defend

criticize

pronounce

argument

sandwich

Mythology

hero

1.

"Now Walter," Sam said, "I don't mean to criticize your reading, but the w\_\_\_\_ds in this book are much too hard for you. It would take you forever to finish a single p\_\_ge. So be s\_\_nsible and let me do the reading. I've had much more pract\_\_\_\_ in reading long words than you have."

Walter opened his mouth to d\_\_fend himself, but it was Ann who spoke first. "I guess we'll just have to let Sam read," she said. "If he doesn't get his way, he'll ruin the stories for everyone else. He'll cr\_\_ticize the way you pro\_\_\_\_\_\_ce every word, Walter."

"All right, Miss Know-it-all," Sam said, "**you** read the book to us. Since you seem to be so sure of yourself, we'll see just how well you do."

"Very well," Ann agreed calmly. "That will settle the arg\_\_ment. I'll read if you make lunch, Sam!"

It wasn't until Sam was half-way through his second sand\_\_\_\_\_ that he realized he had fallen right into Ann's trap. She had wanted to do the reading all along!



Here is a picture of the book that Walter and Sam were quarreling over.

Its title is **Heroes of Greek**

\_\_\_\_\_.

Someone who has done great and brave things is called a **hero**.

George Washington was a great American her\_\_.

**Heroic** deeds are

- \_\_ 1. daring and noble acts.
- \_\_ 2. stupid mistakes.
- \_\_ 3. terrible failures.

pursued

pursuer

book

3.

mythology

selfish

yes

selfish

2.

3.

1.

A man who is trying to catch a runaway horse is **pursuing** the animal. When he \_\_\_\_\_sued Sam into the kitchen, Walter was Sam's purs\_\_\_er.

What did Walter want Sam to give him? a \_\_\_\_\_

Whom does the book belong to?

- 1. Sam and Ann
- 2. Walter
- 3. Mr. Roundabout

The subject of the book is drawing.  
science.  
mythology.

**Generous** is the opposite of **kind**.  
**selfish**.

Was it generous of Mr. Roundabout to lend the book? \_\_\_\_\_

Walter thought that it was generous  
selfish of Sam to keep  
the book to himself.

Mr. Roundabout wanted

- 1. Sam alone to have the book.
- 2. all the children to share the book.
- 3. nobody to read the book.

Ann came in

- 1. after Walter had given up and gone home.
- 2. when Sam had finished the book.
- 3. while Sam and Walter were arguing.

When you become angry about something that seems unfair, you feel **indignant**. Walter was indignant because

- 1. Sam wouldn't let him read the book.
- 2. Sam pursued him.
- 3. Sam got the biggest sandwich.