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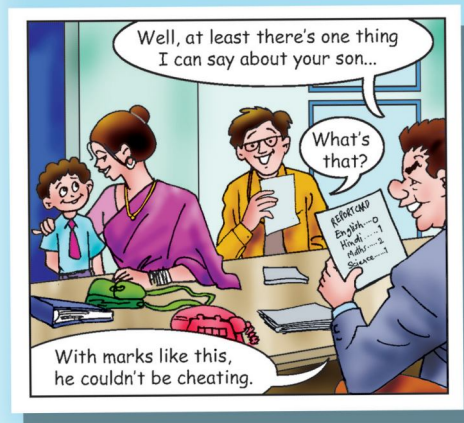
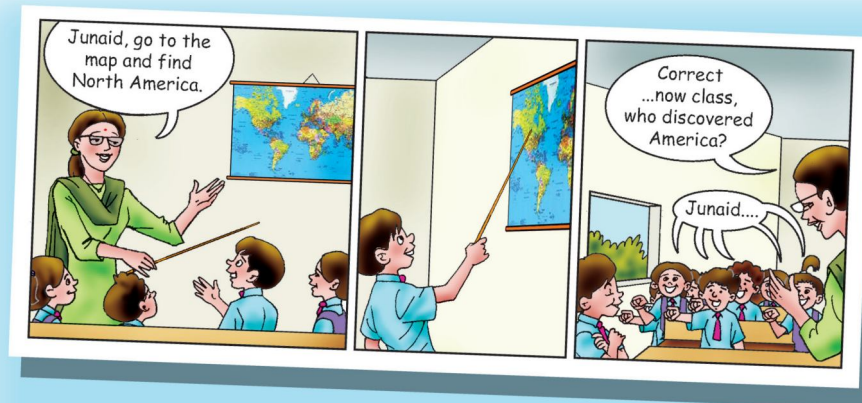
Growing Up



Introduction

Ever Wondered Why Teachers Get Headaches?

Read the following cartoons.



Now Guess:

- (a) Discuss why teachers get a headache while dealing with children?
- (b) Do you create any problem for your teacher?





A.1. Read what some of the children have to say about their school life.



I like going to school but I get angry with myself when I make mistakes in my school-work because I'm careless. Sometimes, when I know the answer, I still get it wrong.

Akanksha, age 10 yrs



I like my teachers but sometimes they get unnecessarily angry. That irritates me.

Bharat, age 11 yrs



School is like one big punishment. I have to get up early and get scolded by others all the time.

Rajan, age 12 yrs



My parents are always telling me I'm not getting enough marks at school. They want me to get better score. In the end, I always have to say, 'all right, stop talking about it and let me study.' It's only in school where I am real friends with my teachers.

Roopali, age 11 yrs



School is a wonderful place to be in. I participate in a lot of competitions. Our teachers are sweet. The life is cool. Ha, Ha!

Sachin, age 9½ yrs

Work with your partner. Write down what you like or dislike about your school life.

A.2. Now read the following story.

► **Monday Morning Blues**

Monday mornings always found Tom Sawyer miserable—because with it began another week's slow suffering in school. Tom lay in bed and thought, 'If I were sick, I could stay away from school and go fishing.' He thought further about it. But despite all his attempts to detect some symptoms, he could not find anything wrong with himself. His hopes began to fail. Suddenly he discovered something. One of his upper front teeth was loose. He decided to use it as an excuse for not going to school. He was about to start **moaning**. He remembered that if his aunt came to know, she would pull it out and that would hurt. So he decided to use the tooth as an excuse some other day. He went back to thinking of some other way to fake illness. He remembered hearing the doctor describe an illness that had caused a patient to lose a finger. The boy eagerly drew his sore toe from under the sheet and held it up for inspection. It seemed worthwhile to chance it, so he fell **groaning** on the bed.

But Sid, who lay in the next bed, slept on. Tom groaned louder, but no result from Sid. Finally he got up, shook Sid hard and then went back to his bed groaning. Sid yawned, stretched, then brought himself upon his elbow with a snort and began to stare at Tom. Tom went on groaning.



moaning/groaning: different kinds of sounds expressing pain/suffering

'Tom, what's going on?' asked Sid, frightened by the noise Tom was capable of producing.

No response.

'Hey, Tom, Tom, what is the matter, Tom?'

Tom moaned out, 'Oh, don't Sid, don't joggle me.'

'But I must. Don't groan like that, Tom, it's awful. How long have you been groaning this way?'

'Hours. Oh! don't Sid, I'm dying.'

'No, Tom, you ain't dying! It makes my flesh crawl to hear you. What is the matter? I must call aunty.'

'I forgive you everything, Sid,' said Tom in a fresh bout of groans. 'When I'm gone, you give my window sash and my cat with one eye to that new girl who's come to the town and tell her...' But Sid had flown downstairs and informed Aunt Polly, 'Come quick, aunty, Tom's dying!'

'What rubbish! I don't believe it!'

But the poor lady hurried upstairs with Sid and Mary at her heels. Her face grew white and her lips trembled.

'What's the matter with you, Tom?' she cried.

'Oh, aunty, my toe!'

'What is the matter with your toe?'

'Oh, aunty, my sore toe is going to fall off.'

The old lady sank down in a chair with relief. She laughed a little, then cried a little, then did both together. This made her feel better. She said, 'Tom you really did frighten me. Now you stop this non-sense and get out of your bed.'

