

Name _____



Date _____

"It's Your Fault!"

By Brenda B. Covert

Tate and Max were friends. They liked to play games. On rainy days, they played board games and video games. Sometimes they played tag and hide-and-seek. Tate's mother did not like it when they played those games in the house. It was so hard to slow down and walk! Tate and Max were always in a hurry. Running was more fun!

"If you run in the house, something or someone will get hurt," Tate's mother always said.

One day as they hurried from Tate's bedroom to the back yard, someone bumped a table. It was a small, round table. It held a set of angels and a small lamp. One of the angels fell to the floor. The boys heard an awful sound. It was the breaking sound that no child likes to hear.

"Oh no!" Tate said, bending down. "Look what you did!" He held up the angel. One wing had broken off.

"I didn't do that!" Max said. He sounded upset. "You bumped the table. It's your fault!"

"You made me bump into the table," Tate said firmly. "You pushed me into it!"

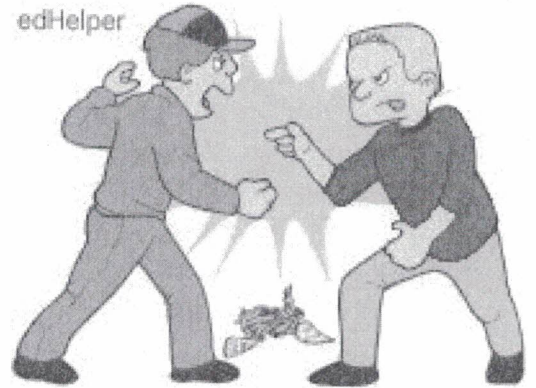
"I did not!" Max said, a little louder this time.

"You did too!" Tate yelled.

Tate's big sister, Layne, came out of her room. "Hey!" she called, "what is this?-Blame Someone Else Day? Tell me what happened."

Tate and Max loudly blamed each other for breaking the angel's wing. They did not sound like good friends any more.

Layne frowned. She shook her head. When the boys stopped talking, she asked, "Do you know that taking the blame for your mistakes is a sign of manhood? You'll never be truly grown up until you can face the music when you are wrong."



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"What?" Max did not know Layne very well. Sometimes she didn't make sense.

"One of you did this. Why not admit it and be done with it?" Layne asked.

The boys still blamed each other. No one took Layne's advice. Then Max got his coat and left. He did not want to play with a liar.

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Questions

1. How many people spoke in this story? Name them.

2. What part of the games 'tag' and 'hide-and-seek' did Tate's mother not like?

_____ 3. What was the setting for this story?

- A. a rainy day
- B. Max's house
- C. Tate's backyard
- D. Tate's house

_____ 4. Which of these words rhymes with the word "fault" in the story's title?

- A. salt
- B. failed
- C. start
- D. shout

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____ 5. What did Layne mean by "face the music"? Choose the best answer.

- A. not making things worse
- B. accept the bad results of something you did
- C. a song will make them feel better
- D. waste no time

6. Tate and Max played the _____ game. (fill in the blank with a word that rhymes with "game.")

____ 7. What caused the angel's wing to break?

- A. the boys running in the hall
- B. Max pushing Tate
- C. Tate disobeying his mother
- D. Tate bumping into the table

____ 8. Who do you think was at fault for breaking the angel?

- A. Max
- B. Tate
- C. Layne
- D. someone else