

Read the short story. Then answer each question.

Best Friend Blues

Alexa and Brittany were best friends. They'd known each other since Brittany moved next door in 2nd grade. They hung out almost every day after school... when they were getting along, that is.

They were very different people. Alexa did great with her school work, read a lot of books, and took ballet classes. Brittany, on the other hand, would rather play soccer, chat with other kids at school, and rarely sat still for long enough to finish reading a chapter of a book.



Often, Alexa and Brittany would play together at the park across the street. They'd play on the equipment, play tag with a group of neighborhood kids, or play soccer. If it was raining outside, they'd go in one of their houses to make crafts, play video games, or do their nails. Some days they could spend hours together without a single problem, but other days they just could not agree on what to do.

"Come on, let's play on the equipment. We've played soccer for the last three days!" Alexa said.

"They just cut the grass, I love playing soccer when the grass is nice and short. I don't want to play on the equipment," Brittany replied.

"We always do what you want to do Brittany, it's my turn to choose." Alexa was getting frustrated.

"Fine, go play on the equipment by yourself, I'm playing soccer," Brittany shouted.

Grade 5 Reading Comprehension Worksheet

Alexa left. She was **fuming**. When she got home, she realized she still had Brittany's notebook. Well, I'm not giving it back today. I'm too mad at her. Alexa thought.

The next day at school, their teacher asked for their notebooks. Brittany didn't have hers, and asked Mrs. Stone if she could bring it in tomorrow instead. Mrs. Stone let us have one late assignment a month, but Brittany had already used hers. Brittany looked upset, and walked quietly back to her desk. Alexa was having an internal conflict. She knew she should tell Mrs. Stone that she had the notebook, but she was still mad at Brittany for not compromising with her at the park yesterday.

When it was time for lunch, Alexa hung back to talk with Mrs. Stone.

"Mrs. Stone, I have Brittany's notebook. I should have said something earlier, but Alexa and I had a problem yesterday, and I'm still mad at her. Would you be able to help us solve our problem?" Alexa asked.

"Thank you for being honest, Alexa. I'm sure Brittany will appreciate that you gave me her notebook when you could have made her get another late mark instead. I'm glad you asked for help solving the problem. It's really hard to solve a problem by yourself when you're still feeling upset, so this is a good solution."

At recess, Mrs. Stone sat and talked with the girls. They each revealed that they get frustrated with the other person a lot because they don't always want to do the same things, but they realized that they never really solved their problem. One of them just always went home. Mrs. Stone helped them realize that maybe they didn't have to play together every day to be best friends. They decided to just play together a couple times a week, and take turns picking the activity. Alexa and Brittany were hopeful that this would solve a lot of the arguments they'd been having lately!



Questions:

1. How were Alexa's and Brittany's experiences different?

2. Retell the story in your own words.

3. What does "*fuming*" mean in this story? How do you know?

4. How would a different point of view have changed the story?

5. What other solutions could Alexa and Brittany have decided on?

Answers:

1. How were Alexa's and Brittany's experiences different?

Alexa did great with her school work, read a lot of books, and took ballet classes. Brittany would rather play soccer, chat with other kids at school, and rarely sat still for long enough to finish reading a chapter of a book.

2. Retell the story in your own words.

Answers will vary.

3. What does “*fuming*” mean in this story? How do you know?

Fuming means to feel great anger. Alexa was feeling great anger because she felt they always do what Brittany wants to do and never what Alexa wants to do.

4. How would a different point of view have changed the story?

Answers will vary.

5. What other solutions could Alexa and Brittany have decided on?

Answers will vary, but an acceptable answer could be they decide ahead of time what they are going to do the next time they play together.

6. Which solution would you choose if you were in their position?

Answers will vary.