



SSSSB Story 052b: Think Before You Join (for ages 10 and up)

There were two boys, both in Grade 7, but from different schools. They were talking about whether or not to join in with the plans of other students.

Boy A asked Boy B: *"Some students from my class are going to sneak into the city tomorrow because we are let out early. They don't have permission from their parents. They also asked me to join them. What would you do if you were in my place?"*

Boy B replied: *"No, no, no... don't do it! You know, that happened just last week with my class, and I went along. But my parents found out."*

Boy A asked: *"Really? And did you get punished by your parents?"*

Boy B said: *"Yes, they found out, and then I lied to them. I told them that our teacher had given us an assignment to count how many shops were in the city and how many customers were in each shop."*

Curious, Boy A asked: *"And did your parents believe that lie?"*

Boy B replied: *"My mother believed me, but my father strongly suspected that I was lying. He said he would check with the teacher at the upcoming parent-teacher meeting. My little sister just listened and said nothing."*

He continued: *"Now I feel really ashamed. My teacher, who always teaches so well, is always there for all the students, and has so much trust in me, will be disappointed. My mother, who does everything for me to help me succeed, will be sad. My grandparents, who call me the prince of the family, will be disappointed too. Even my sweet little sister, only four years old, who sees me as her hero and should be given a good example, will be disappointed in me."*

*You know, we also have two pets — a parrot and a cat. I feel like they would 'talk' to each other in animal language, saying that I had the ability to make the right choice but didn't use it that day. And then there are the plants at home. Luckily, they can't see or hear; otherwise, even the plants would be sad about my behaviour."*

Then Boy B asked: *"What would you do if you were in my place?"*

Boy A said: *"I'm not really sure either. Let's ask the SSSSB students and listen carefully to whoever gives the best advice in this situation."*

Questions and heart-work for today:

- 1] What do you think about this story?
- 2] What advice would you give to Boy B?
- 3] Have you ever experienced something similar to what happened in this story?