

# A Rule Is A Rule

by Katie Clark

Jessie sat at her desk in Mrs. Williamson's class. They were learning about reptile skeletons, which Jessie normally enjoyed. Today, though, a bird had perched outside the classroom window. Jessie's desk was right next to the window. It was so distracting.

"Jessie, are you listening?" Mrs. Williamson's question interrupted Jessie's thoughts. Jessie blinked and looked at the teacher.

The teacher frowned. "You're going to need to pay attention. You weren't listening." Jessie's cheeks grew red. She looked down at her desk. She shouldn't have said that to her. Jessie couldn't help it. She was so distracted.

When the bell rang, Mrs. Williamson said, "I hope you will think about what I said," she said. "You should follow the rules."

Jessie nodded to show she understood, but she didn't really want to talk about it. She still thought Mrs. Williamson was being mean.

She raced outside to play kickball with the other kids. They picked teams and made the rules. When a team got two outs they had to go to the outfield. Whichever team scored the most runs won.



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Jessie's team was in the outfield first. She was guarding second base. The first kicker got one out. The next kicker kicked a home run and scored a point. The girl smiled at Jessie as she jogged past second base. The next kicker got another out. That made two outs. Now it was Jessie's turn to kick the ball.

However, instead of switching places and giving Jessie's team a chance to score, the other team quit.

Jessie frowned. "That's not fair!" she complained.

One of the other players explained, "That's the rule, Jessie. You can't go into the outfield," the boy explained.

"But you have to follow the rule!" the boy said. "A rule is a rule!"

As soon as she saw the boy, Jessie remembered the rule. Mrs. Williamson had explained the rule in class. Her teacher had been so strict. Rules were important.

When the bell rang, Jessie ran straight to her teacher.

"Mrs. Williamson, I'm sorry. I was going to do better from now on," Jessie said.

Her teacher smiled. "I'm glad to hear that. It was very brave of you to apologize."

Jessie smiled, too. She felt much better, and she understood now. She needed to follow the class guidelines. After all, a rule is a rule!

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- 1) Why was Jessie reluctant to talk when the teacher stopped her at recess to remind about the rule?

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- 2) What according to Jessie was not fair?

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- 3) Change the verb

play -

teach -

- 4) Write a short no

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- 5) Imagine a day at school without rules. Write two pros and cons of rules.

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