

ACTIVITY 18

NAME: _____



Talking It Out With Friends

Characters: Anthony and his older brother, Tim, Kevin

Anthony: *(Anthony is very frustrated and throws his tablet onto the couch)* AAAAGH! That's it! I am SO done! I am not playing with him anymore!

Tim: What's going on?

Anthony: I was playing Martian Invasion with Julius, right? He has no idea how to play – he's terrible, but I can't get anyone else to play. Whenever he gets eaten by aliens, he whines like a crybaby. It's SO annoying! Like every single time. So, finally, I just said, "You stink! I wish you'd get eaten by aliens in real life!"

Tim: *(giggling)* What did he say?

Anthony: Get this, he said that the game was stupid and that he only played because he felt sorry for me! Then he said that Kevin doesn't like hanging out with me because I'm boring.

Tim: Seriously? Woah. That's rude

Anthony: *(clearly upset)* I know, right?!?! Why would he say that? You know what, I don't even care – I don't need them.

Tim: *(Tim knows that Anthony doesn't mean that)* Wait, hold on, you have known them forever. I thought you guys were good friends.

Anthony: *(Sarcastically)* "I thought so, too, but apparently not.

Tim: C'mon, I know you have fun with them. You're always riding bikes, hanging out at the pool or the park, and playing random made-up games together. I remember when you were super sick, and they came to check on you – with cards and popsicles! That was so cool. They came to your birthday party and our summer picnic, too. Plus, whenever they sleepover, I hear you guys laughing all night about who-knows-what. That sounds like fun to me.

Anthony: *(Not convinced)* Not really. For one thing, we never want to do the same things. They always want to go bike riding to the park and then just sit there and do nothing. I go but it is so boring! When I ask them to play my game, they refuse because they only play sports games.



Tim: *(Trying to be convincing)* My friends and I like different activities, but we can still be friends. We talk on the phone, hang out during lunch, help each other with homework, and talk through arguments.

Anthony: *(Feeling angrier by the minute)* That's YOU. Those are YOUR friends. My friends aren't like that. At all! To be honest, I'm not sure they know how to have a normal conversation."

(Phone rings. It is Kevin. Anthony rolls his eyes and shakes his head when he sees the caller ID.)

Anthony: *(reluctantly)* Hello

Kevin: Hey man, wanna ride up to the park and hang out with me and Julius?

Anthony: *(Confused and speechless)* "Hold on."

(Anthony mutes the phone and quietly explains the situation to Tim)

Anthony: "I can't believe it. Kevin and Julius want me to ride to the park with them. I'm confused. First of all, I thought Julius was mad at me. Second, I thought Kevin didn't want to hang out with me because I'm boring. So, why are they asking me to go? It doesn't make sense..."

Tim: *(Interrupts Anthony's rambling)* "Maybe you misunderstood what Julius said when he was upset. Why don't you just go? It would give you a chance to talk to them about why you're upset and work things out. In my opinion, you should apologize to Julius, too.

Anthony: *(Misunderstands Tim's good intentions and shouts)* "Oh, great! Now my **OWN** brother is taking **THEIR** side! Thanks for nothing!"

Anthony: *(Unmuting the phone and hollers)* "I don't feel like going to the park today! Bye!"

(After hanging up on Kevin, Anthony stormed up to his bedroom and slammed the door.)



Class Discussion:

1. Why is Anthony so angry in the beginning of the story?
2. After Tim listens to Anthony explain what's wrong, what does he do to try to help?
3. How did Anthony react?
4. Do friends have to enjoy doing all of the same things together? How can having different interests make a friendship stronger?
5. Do you think Kevin realized that Anthony was mad when he called and asked him to ride up to the park?
6. Do you think that Tim was taking Kevin's side?
7. What could Anthony have done differently at the end of the story?
8. What is the life lesson on friendship that you learned from this story?