

## Why Did Mamma Change Her Mind?

## 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Fiction

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Mamma Miller told Fay and Lonnie that they might have a party, so they tried to get ready for it. Mrs. Miller said they could invite ten children. "You write to five girls, Fay," she said, "and Lonnie will write to five boys."

Lonnie and Fay sat on the couch and tried to think who they would like to come to their party. "Make out your list first," said Lonnie. Fay did, and her brother agreed to all the girls.

As soon as Lonnie started writing his names, Fay began to find fault. "I don't like boys, anyway," said Fay, "only you, Lonnie. Let's have all girls at our party."

"But it won't be my party too," said Lonnie, "if you have all girls."

"I don't care, all of those boys are horrid," Fay said, pointing to his paper.

"You say that because you don't like boys," he said and then told his sister that every boy whose name he had written was just as good as gold. They were just as good as Lonnie Miller himself was, and everybody said he was one of the best boys that ever lived.

"I won't play with him if he comes," Fay kept saying to every name Lonnie wrote.

"You can have your party," said Lonnie, getting up out of the easy chair and sitting down in a smaller one, "you and your girls. I'm going to play my video game."

"I don't like boys," Fay kept saying, jumping down off the arm of the chair. "But I like video games. Can we have your games at our party?"

Lucia, their older sister, was passing the door just then, so she thought she would stop and see what all the noise was. "I'm calling Mamma."

Mamma came hurrying in. When they told her about the invitations, she said, "Your brother has been very good about this party. He was willing to let you have it with just girls. But I said it would be a party for both of you. So it will be a party for none of you. There will be no party."

"But you said we could have a party for ten people," Fay said.

"I said that you could have a party for ten children, five boys and five girls. You took all ten and that is not fair. So there will be no party. When you learn to share, then you will have a party."

So there was no party. Months later, Mamma asked again, "Shall we have a party?"

What do you think happened?

## Analyze and Infer Author's Point of View and Purpose - Fiction

Questions developed by Center for Urban Education for use by Chicago Public Schools 2008-2009.

*Choose the best answer for each question.*

1. What do you think the writer wants the lesson of this story to be?

- a. Boys and girls are both good.
- b. Being fair is important.
- c. Brothers and sisters argue.
- d. Mothers know best.

3. What do you think the writer feels about Fay?

- a. She needs to act better.
- b. She should like boys.
- c. She is a good daughter.
- d. She is a bad sister.

2. Why did the writer end the story with no party?

- a. To show what happens when someone does something wrong.
- b. To show that Lonnie was right.
- c. To show that Fay was selfish.
- d. To show that Lucia tattled.

4. How do you think the writer feels about Lonnie?

- a. He is mean.
- b. He is selfish.
- c. He is generous.
- d. He is a bad brother.

5. *Write your own answer to this question. The writer ends with a question—what do you think the writer hopes the answer will be?*

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### **TEACHER NOTES: Develop Students' Skills: Exercise Thinking**

These questions have not been validated, so decisions about student's achievement should not be made based on their responses. They are intended to exercise skills. Recommended activities include: students work in pairs to choose the best response; give students the questions without the responses so they generate their own answers; students make up additional questions; students make up questions like these for another passage.

**Answers:** *You can remove this answer key and then give it to students and ask them to figure out the basis for the correct response.*

Item	1	2	3	4
Answer	b	a	a	c

Question 5 is open-ended. Here is a suggested response.

The writer probably wants people to answer that they will have a party if Fay shares the list.