

brian's ramblings /5/ they never give me my **money**, they only give me their **funny papers**

As soon as we **made it** to her room, Callie shut the door. "You think you can **fix** it before my father **gets home**?" she asked. "I don't know," I said. "If it's **what** I think it is, it shouldn't **take** long."

"**He's sure to come** in here when he gets home. He **believes in spending** time with me **on** Saturday afternoons." -- "**So?**" -- "So if he **finds out** the computer's **broken**, he'll send it back to the company. It has a **warranty** that **runs out pretty** soon."

"**What makes you think** he'll send it back? My father never sends anything back."

"My father **does. Whenever** he buys anything expensive, he looks for **flaws**. And if he finds any, he **demands** his money back. He doesn't want repairs. He doesn't want **replacements**. He wants his money back."

Squirrel **began scratching at** Callie's window. "Squirrel," said Callie. "Go away. **Go catch** a mouse."

"Can't you let him in?" -- "**Are you kidding?**" -- "It's your room, **isn't it?** We have the door closed, **don't we?**" I'm a **trouble-maker** sometimes. I **felt like playing** with Squirrel.

My father doesn't like cats, **either**. He says **you can't** train them to do what you say. Meeko never does what he says, but that's **beside the point**. My father says Meeko is a **dumb** dog. It all **goes back to when** my father was a kid. His family had a cat that never did **anything but** sleep behind the **stove**. He **figured** a dog would be **much more** fun. Meeko has been a **big** disappointment **to** him so far. But **I don't think** it's Meeko's **fault**. My father thinks dogs **should be able** to understand long sentences from the first minute they arrive **at** your house.