

# brian's ramblings /5/ they only give me their **funny papers**

As soon as we \_\_\_\_\_ it to her room, Callie shut the door. "You think you can fix it before my **father** \_\_\_\_\_ home?" she asked.

"I don't know," I said. "If it's what I think it is, it shouldn't \_\_\_\_\_ long."

"He's \_\_\_\_\_ 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 \_\_\_\_\_ soon."

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

"My father \_\_\_\_\_. Whenever he buys anything expensive, he looks for \_\_\_\_\_. 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, \_\_\_\_\_ we?" I'm a trouble-maker sometimes. I \_\_\_\_\_ like playing with Squirrel.

**My father** doesn't like cats, \_\_\_\_\_. 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 \_\_\_\_\_ 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 must 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 \_\_\_\_\_ be able to understand long sentences from the first minute they arrive at your house.

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