

I **got along with** Timo **fine** until **Christmas Eve**. Then he **did** the worst thing that **anybody's ever done** to me. **Let me** tell you what exactly happened **so that you know** why I got so **mad at** him.

**At about** the same time, just before Christmas **vacation**, I **got to know** this new kid in school.

The **teacher we had** that year **was always calling** Thomas up in front of the class **so she could** hit him **with** her broom **a couple times**. Then she would **make Thomas sit** in the waste basket **for** fifteen minutes.

It's **pretty** bad when your own mother **calls** you a pain.

James and Thomas **took turns choosing** team members. A few girls **were going to** play, but **mostly** boys.

Both teams **had been chosen**, and Callie was **was left over**. She didn't look like **much of an** athlete.

**What about** the girl? -- You can **have** her. I don't want her. -- I don't want her, **either**. I already have **enough** girls **on** my team.

**If she doesn't** play, I don't play **either**. -- **Big deal. Just because** you're smart doesn't mean you can **boss everybody else around**.

I don't **consider** myself that smart. I mean, **up until then** I thought that **everybody else got straight A's** like me.

I **don't** think people should hate you **for being** smarter than they are. It's just **something you** inherit.

They were giving Callie a hard time because of **the way** she looked, and now they were **giving me a hard time because of** my **grades**.

**Besides**, I never **boss anybody around**.

So **neither one of us** played keep-away. **Instead** we went over to the wall.

Callie started talking about computers. She **expected her father to get** her an inexpensive **one**.

The reviews **said** that sometimes the connection that **was supposed to** ground the circuitry didn't **work properly**.