

brian on the playground

/1/ **thomas** the dumb

previous development: Brian and Timo are both in love with the idea of being able to fly their own autogyro even though they don't talk about it much

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. **As usual**, the kids in my **class** were playing keep-away on the playground during lunch hour. We all **acted** childish when you think about it. These two popular kids were always captains--James Ferraci and Thomas Zubov. James was a **pretty** smart kid, but Thomas was the **dumbest** kid in the class. The **teacher we had** that year was always calling Thomas up in front of the class **so she could** hit him **with** the handle of her little broom **a couple times**. Then she would **make Thomas sit** in the metal waste basket for fifteen minutes.

Once Thomas's mother **had to** come and get Thomas out of the class. He had to appear in court. I don't know why exactly. Right in front of the class, his mother said, "Thomas is **a pain**." It's pretty bad when your own mother **calls** you a pain.