

# ACT TWO

Read what each person says. Also, read the text beneath the dialogue to find out what each person meant to say.

**PARENT:** (*upset, angry*) Where have you been?  
(*You're over an hour late, and I've been really worried.*)

**SAM:** (*defensively*) At a friend's house.  
(*I was at Zeke's house and we were having fun so I didn't check the time.*)

**PARENT:** (*confused*) But I told you to be home! What have you been doing?  
(*Did you forget that you had a dentist appointment?*)

**SAM:** (*insulted*) I told you! I was at Zeke's house!  
(*Don't you believe me?*)

**PARENT:** (*frustrated*) Why?  
(*Please just explain why you are so late.*)

**SAM:** (*anxiously*) Because Zeke got the new game that you wouldn't buy for me  
(*Well, I should save for it myself but I don't want to do my chores to get money.*)

**PARENT:** (*wary*) That is not right, you should have had enough sense  
to call.  
(*And you have spent all your money.*)

**SAM:** (*resentfully*) Well, Zeke's mother was going to drive me home!  
(*I forgot to call. That's what I should have done.*)

**PARENT:** (*angry*) That's it! I'm going to call Zeke's mother about this! I had to  
cancel your dental appointment!

# I-MESSAGES

I-messages are a great way to explain yourself when you are upset. When you use them, people are more likely to listen to you and to respond without becoming angry and defensive. Read the example, and then try to write your own I-messages.

## EXAMPLE

Someone in your household often forgets to give you your messages.

I feel upset

when you don't give me my messages

because they are important to me.

1. A classmate has started calling you by a nickname that you dislike.

I feel \_\_\_\_\_

when you \_\_\_\_\_

because \_\_\_\_\_

2. Your teacher hasn't called on you all week, even though you've raised your hand.

I feel \_\_\_\_\_

when you \_\_\_\_\_

because \_\_\_\_\_

3. One of your friends often borrows your things and doesn't return them.

I feel \_\_\_\_\_

when you \_\_\_\_\_

because \_\_\_\_\_