

LOOK INTO MY EYES
A Way to Achieve Peace
Adapted by Carole L. Cooney

Setting: Inside and outside the home of Richard and Sara

Characters:

Narrator
Sara
Richard
Mother

Narrator: It was a warm summer day. Richard was working in his bedroom when Sara discovered there were dog droppings in the backyard.

Sara: Oh, no! I just stepped in dog poop! (calling) Richard! You – haven't – done – your – chores – in the backyard!

Richard: What?

Sara: You heard me! Mom is going to be mad at you - *again!* Just look at my shoe!

Richard: (loudly) Oh, come on, Sara. I'm busy. I'll do it later.

Sara: Come here and clean off my shoe! NOW!

Mother: Sara, what's all the yelling about?

Sara: Mother, look at my shoe. It's all Richard's fault.

Mother: Oh, I see. Richard! Come down to the backyard, please.

Richard: Yes, Mom.

Mother: Richard, do you know why Sara's upset? Look at her shoe. Why is it dirty?

Richard: I know, I know. But Sara never looks where she's going. It's not *my* fault.

Mother: I think it's best if you clean up the dog droppings and your sister's shoe.

Richard: Do I *have* to clean her shoe, too?

Mother: Yes.

Richard: This is all your fault. You're always whining and never paying attention to where you're going. I'm not cleaning your stupid shoe!

Sara: (yelling) Yes, you are! Mom said so!

Richard (yelling) I am not! And stop your yelling.

Sara: I'm telling. Mother! Mother! (starts to cry)

Mother: All right, you two. Is there a problem? Come into the kitchen.

Richard: (whispering) Now look at what you've done!

Sara: (whispering) I - didn't - do - anything. (whining) Mother!

Mother: Richard, Sara, pick up a chair and sit facing each other. I want you to sit and look at each other for *five minutes*.

Narrator: Richard and Sara sit facing each other with their heads hanging down.

Mother: Richard, look at your sister's face. Look Sara in the eyes. No laughing. Sara, no giggling! Look into Richard's eyes for five minutes. Ready? Begin.

Narrator: Mother stood there with her watch raised, timing the children. Both tried to look mean and angry. As the minutes passed, they began to twist their mouths into strange shapes and flutter their noses. Soon they could hardly keep looking angry and burst out laughing.

Mother: (trying not to laugh) Do we still have a problem?

Richard and Sara: (smiling) No, Mom.

Mother: Are you still angry?

Richard and Sara: No, Mom.

Mother: All right. Richard, do your chores and Sara, you may help him.

What lesson did Richard and Sara learn?