

Directions: As you read the following short story to the students, ask them to list each example of responsible behavior they recognize.

SAM

Sam is an energetic 15-year-old with a lot of friends. He has two younger sisters, and one older brother. Each family member is assigned to help with daily chores. Both parents work during the day, and arrive home after the children get home from school.

On Friday, Sam had plans to go with his friends to the school basketball game, and afterwards go out for pizzas. He had asked for permission to go and had asked his brother for a ride to the game. As soon as he got home from school on Friday, he did all his chores, and called his friend to make sure he knew what time to be at Sam's house so they wouldn't delay his brother. Then he helped start dinner for his family.

Discuss the examples of responsible behavior identified by the students. It may be helpful to list the examples on the board as they are discussed.

Then have the students compare the above experience with the following incident:

BRADY

Brady's mother asked him to clean up the kitchen while she ran an errand. She was gone for awhile and when she returned home, she was upset to find that the kitchen looked just exactly as it did when she left. Frustrated, she said to Brady, "I asked you to clean the kitchen while I was gone, and you haven't done a thing yet. Why not?" Brady replied curtly, "It's not my fault--you just weren't gone long enough!"

Discussion questions:

- What is the responsibility level of this teenager?
- Would you like to be a roommate of this person? Why? or Why not?
- What should the parent(s) do to help him/her become more responsible?
- What should the teenager have done?