



Being assertive helps people avoid conflicts and solve existing problems. However, people often behave differently.

Read the stories below about Luke and Emma.

How did these children behave?

Would they have achieved their goals if they had behaved differently?

Choose one of the stories below and write a new ending in which the hero behaves more assertively.

Luke

Luke loved to spend time with his friends. "It's my birthday on Saturday," Eiden, one of his best friends, told him one day at school. "There'll be Zayan and Leo and some others, like my cousin and Samir, who lives next door." Dad promised me he'd put up a basket in the garden and we'll be able to play without having to leaving the yard. Will you come?" "Sure!" Sounds like fun!" said Luke happily. Besides hanging out with his friends, basketball was the one thing Luke liked doing most of all. It was a long day at school. And after school Luke had training. And when he got back home he was very tired. He forgot to tell his parents about the invitation from Eiden. The days passed and Luke couldn't wait for his friend's birthday, although his parents still didn't know about it. Friday came along. That evening Luke realized that his parents had no idea about Eiden's birthday. "Mom, I forgot to tell you. Eiden has invited me to his birthday. Can you drop me off at his place tomorrow at one?" "Luke, you didn't mention anything about this," said Luke's mom, who looked very surprised. "Besides, you promised to help me clean up the garden after winter." You promised to do it when you asked me for that new game. Do you remember?" Luke felt the ground open up under him. He had completely forgotten about it. In actual fact, he had promised his mom to do it a month earlier. Still, he really wanted to go to the birthday party. "But I..." - He didn't know how to get out of the situation. "You're always asking me to do something! Everyone else can go and see their friends. It's only me who always has to do chores!" he cried in despair. "Luke, I don't like it when you speak to me like this," his mother replied. "I wanted to go to the party and I can't!" You're horrible! I'm not gonna clean up any garden. I've had enough!!" „ Luke had gotten completely carried away by his emotions. He runs out of the room, slamming the door behind him.



Emma

Emma had always wanted to be popular. She was a good student and had a gift for painting. There was only one problem – she was quite shy. She was always afraid that she would say or do something stupid and that her friends would laugh at her and stop liking her. To celebrate Earth Day, the children were to make paintings and models of wild animals. These would be professionally exhibited in the school hall. The exhibition would take place in a week's time. "An exhibition, just like in a real gallery," Emma thought to herself. The week passed quickly. For a long time, she could not decide what to paint. The day before she was supposed to hand in her project she had an idea. "I will paint a cheetah," she decided on the way to school. At school, Brooklyn, one of the most popular girls in school, came up to her. "Hi, what's up?" she said. Emma had often tried to talk to Brooklyn, but usually she didn't know what to say. "Everything's OK," she replied. "I at last know what I'm going to do for the exhibition. It will be a cheetah. The main problem is getting the right proportions. Luckily I have a free afternoon and I can really work on it." "Well, that's just it!" Brook began. "Because like...I just came up with this idea of painting a herd of zebra. But it hasn't come out good. I also want to have my picture in the exhibition. Would you paint it for me?" Emma couldn't hide her astonishment: "But then it won't be your work!" she said. "It will stay between me and you, OK?" said Brook, interrupting her. "I haven't even begun my own picture yet..." said Emma hesitantly. "I don't like this idea at all." She didn't want somebody else to put their signature under her picture. She was also afraid she wouldn't manage to do it well. "Oh dear. So what kind of friend are you if you don't want to help me!" said Brook, trying to put pressure on her. And then she tempted Emma: "You know, the girls are meeting at my place on Saturday. We're just gonna hang out and watch a fashion show. If you paint those zebras for me, you can come and join us," Emma wasn't sure what to do. "OK, I will try." She was happy that she could be part of one of these gatherings she had heard so much about. But she felt bad about having to do some work for someone else. Both paintings stood out at the exhibition. At the Saturday meeting at Brook's house Emma baked a cake. On Monday Brooklyn came up to Emma at school: "Surprise! I'm inviting you to hang out with us at Kaitlyn's place next weekend. "Only you know, this essay. I have absolutely no idea what to write for it." "OK, I'll do it," said Emma reluctantly.