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# I Don't Want To!

by Laura Bresko

## Characters

**CODY:** a young boy, age 10

**CARA:** his older sister, age 11

**MOM:** the children's mother

- 1 [An upstairs bedroom in the Noall family home.]
- 2 **CODY:** [Sitting on the floor playing catch with himself.] I don't want to make my bed. I want to go outside!
- 3 **CARA:** [Sitting on Cody's messy bed, reading a book.] So do I, but Mom and Dad said we can't go anywhere until you've done it. So hurry up or we'll never get to have a game of catch today.
- 4 **CODY:** [Whining.] I don't want to. In order to make my bed, I have to unearth it first! All of my action figures have to be put away. And my clothes have to go into the hamper or be hung up in the closet. And I have to...Hey, do you see that? [Looking under his bed.]
- 5 **CARA:** See what? [Bending down.] I don't see anything but shadows under here.
- 6 **CODY:** There're my missing army men! [Slides under the bed.] Tat-a-tat-tat- tat. Oh no, I think I've been shot. Ba-ba-ba-ba-ba. Pop! Run for cover, men!
- 7 **CARA:** [Stands up.] Cody, stop delaying and get out from under there.
- 8 **CODY:** [Grabs Cara's leg.] We have a prisoner, sir! What should we do with her? [In a fake voice.] Take her to a holding cell. [Normal voice.] Yes, sir! [Grabs both of Cara's legs and makes her fall down with a big thud, then drags her under the bed, where she drops her book.]
- 9 **CARA:** [Giggling while struggling to get away.] You won't take me alive!
- 10 **MOM:** [From downstairs.] Cody, what's that noise I hear? Are you finished making your bed yet?
- 11 **CODY:** [Yelling.] I'm working on it!
- 12 **CARA:** [Standing up and brushing herself off.] You are not. I'm going downstairs to tell Mom that you're just fooling around up here, as usual. [Heads for door.]
- 13 **CODY:** Oh no you're not! [In a fake voice.] Detain the prisoner now, soldier! [Crawls out from under the bed and grabs Cara, pushing her into his closet.]

- 14 **CARA:** [*Beating on the closet door.*] Let me out, you ding-a-ling! You're going to get into so much trouble.
- 15 **MOM:** [*Opens door to bedroom; in a fake voice.*] That's right, soldier! We have you cornered now. Back away from the door and put your hands where I can see them!
- 16 **CODY:** [*Backing away from closet.*] Aw, Mom!
- 17 **CARA:** [*Emerges from closet, upset.*] He doesn't want to make his bed, so he started playing with his army men, and then he put me in the closet!
- 18 **MOM:** At ease, soldier. We will force our prisoner to make his bed or he will get no lunch. [*In a normal voice.*] Now go downstairs and eat your pizza, Cara. And you, young man, will be released from prison as soon as your bed is made!
- 19 **CODY:** Pizza for lunch? You didn't tell me that!
- 20 **MOM:** There won't be any pizza for lunch unless that bed is made! I will be back to inspect in five minutes. [*Exits.*]
- 21 **CODY:** [*Starting to put things away.*] I don't want to do any of this. But I better hurry up or Cara will eat all of my pizza. Pizza is my favorite food in the whole, wide world! [*Pauses.*] Hmm. Putting everything away will take too long. Let's see — I'll just shove the clothes under here and put all the action figures into this box and — voila! No one will ever know! [*Makes his bed.*]
- 22 **MOM:** [*Calling from downstairs.*] Soldier, are you ready for an inspection?
- 23 **CODY:** Yes, Ma'am!
- 24 **MOM:** [*Entering room.*] What a transformation! Where once there was clutter and dirty laundry, there is now cleanliness and a made bed, and all in record time. You've done a fine job, soldier. You are free to go.
- 25 **CARA:** [*Entering room.*] Did you see my book? I know I had it in my hands before you imprisoned me. It must have — [*Bends down to look under the bed.*]
- 26 **CODY:** Cara, no! Your book is not — [*Looks guilty; Mom notices his expression.*].
- 27 **CARA:** I think I dropped it under here. [*Looks under bed and sees Cody's mess.*] Oh, well. Not here. I must have taken it downstairs.
- 28 **MOM:** Hurry up, you two. The pizza is going to be cold! [*Exits.*]
- 29 **CODY:** Cara, that was very cool of you to not rat me out to Mom.

- 30 **CARA:** Yes, it was. I don't know why I'm being so nice to someone who threw me into a closet!
- 31 **CODY:** Aw, c'mon, Cara. I was just playing with you.
- 32 **CARA:** Yeah, well, Mom is NOT going to be playing with us if she sees this mess. Now I'm in it, too. So let's get started.
- 33 **CODY:** But...I thought we were going to eat pizza and then go outside. I don't want to hang up my clothes!
- 34 **CARA:** And I don't want to be exposed as a co-conspirator when Mom finds out what you've done. So let's get to work!
- 35 **CODY:** How will she ever know?
- 36 **CARA:** Moms know everything.
- 37 **MOM:** [*From outside the bedroom door.*] That's right, Cody. Moms do!
- 38 [*Both Cody's and Cara's eyes fly wide open! Then they start to work feverishly.*]

**The End**

After reading the text, answer the following questions using the text to support your answers.

1. Who are the characters in the play?
2. Where does the story take place?
3. Read line 4. According to the stage directions, how is the character Cody supposed to deliver his line?
4. What is the main conflict of the play?
5. What is the resolution to the conflict of the play?
6. How would you describe Cody? What text evidence do you have for your response?
7. What adjective would you use to describe Cara in line 32? Explain your answer.

8. Why is it important that Mom is outside the door to Cody's room when she delivers her last line? (line 37)
  
9. How would you describe the character of Mom? What text evidence supports your answer?
  
10. The stage directions in for Cody in line 26 is important to the play because -