

## Taking Responsibility

### Reading and Discussion

Billy has been playing with his ball, and he has accidentally broken a neighbor's window.



- What should he do?
- What would you do?

It is not always easy to take **responsibility** for something you have done. It is especially hard when you might get into trouble if you own up!

What does it mean to be a **responsible** person?

- If you are responsible, you are reliable. If you promise to do something you will do it, and if someone tells you a secret, you won't tell anyone else;
- If you are responsible and you have a job to do, you will do it. You won't expect others to do your duties and you won't wait to be reminded;
- If you are responsible, you will think about the consequences before doing something. You won't do anything that will hurt yourself or someone else;
- If you are responsible, you will be accountable for what you do, and you won't make excuses or blame others for your mistakes.

### Why be responsible?

- If you are reliable and think before you act, people will trust you.
- If you show that you are able to take care of yourself and your own business people will respect you.
- If you can answer for your own actions, people will take you seriously.
- Most of all, if you are responsible you will feel good about yourself.

Did you decide what you would do if you were Billy?  
Do you think it is the responsible thing to do?

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Activities

### Activity A: Responsible Choices

Here are 5 different situations that Billy found himself in last week. Do you think he made responsible choices?

In your groups discuss what Billy did and what you think he should have done.

1. Billy's mom asked him to do his homework. He said he would, but after he had started he left it to help his brother fix his toy truck.
2. Billy forgot to study and failed his test. He knew his teacher would be disappointed, so he told her that he had been sick the night before and couldn't learn.
3. Billy saw a big black dog waiting for its owner outside of a shop. He thought it looked sad so he went over and gave it a pat.
4. Mary, one of Billy's school friends, told him a secret. Billy didn't tell anyone except Tom. Tom and Billy were best friends and told each other everything.

### Activity B: Billy and the Window

Now look at the picture of Billy and the broken window again. Write a short story explaining what happened and what Billy did about it.



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## **Answer Sheet**

### **Activity A**

The discussion in each of these cases is probably more important than the conclusions reached. The issues covered in the different scenarios are:

1. reliability and trustworthiness (1 & 4);
2. being aware of the consequences of your actions (3);
3. being accountable for your own mistakes or misdeeds (2).

### **Activity B**

This individual writing exercise should reflect some of the issues which were covered in the discussions.