

Grade 5 Narrative

Not Enough Phones

My sister Danielle and I are twins. We get along with each other, but we often find it a problem to share the one phone line we have in the house. We are both freshmen at Franklin Ridge High School, where we have tons of friends between us, and we usually want to talk with them all at the same time. If our parents hadn't made rules for use of the family phone, they would never have a chance to talk with *their* friends. When I'm on the phone I ignore call waiting, and when Danielle receives a call for me she tells my friends to call again later. Every call we miss we think is the most important one of our day.

We had to find a solution to our dilemma, so on Friday we agreed to ask our parents to install an additional phone line. We could hardly wait for Saturday so we could spring our request on Mom and Dad. Every Saturday morning Dad and I go to the gym, while Danielle and Mom go jogging in the park. This Saturday we planned to raise the idea of a new phone line while we were out with them. Danielle and I gave each other high-fives as she and Mom were getting ready to go. For my part, I could hardly wait to get to the gym to talk with Dad. The whole time Dad and I were driving to the gym, I was thinking of the new phone. He wanted to talk about our workout, but he could tell I wasn't thinking about weights.

"Hey, Dan, is something on your mind? What are you thinking about?" Dad asked, as we drove to the gym. "You aren't too tired to keep up with your old man, are you?"

"Dad, I have a very important question to ask you," I replied.

"Ask up, we're almost there."

"OK, here it is: I think we need an additional phone line. Danielle has so many friends, and they tie up the phone so I can't ever make a call."

"Hold it, Dan. You spend your fair share of time on the phone yourself. Every time I use it, I get a call for you." Dad parked the car, turned off the ignition, and looked at me. "But I do agree that we might need more than one phone in the house, especially with you two teenagers. I'll talk with your mother, and we'll see."

That was all I needed to hear. I thought that if Danielle was doing her job and talking with Mom, we should have the phone issue solved by nightfall. After a good workout, Dad and I drove home. As Dad pulled the car into the driveway, I saw Danielle and Mom sitting on the steps. And before I could get out of the car, Danielle ran to the passenger side and started talking so fast that I couldn't get a word in edgewise.

"Dan, Mom said she would talk with Dad about a putting a new phone line in my room."

“What do you mean in *your* room? What about me? When will I get to use it?” I could hardly believe my ears.

“Dan, I didn’t think you would care about where it was. I was so busy talking about how you and I use the phone all the time when Mom just spoke up and said, ‘Danielle, you’re in high school, and your grades are good. I think it’s time for that additional line. Dad and I have been talking about this for some time.’”

I was happy about getting the new line but not about the location. It looked as if I was going to be stuck with asking Danielle every time I wanted to use the phone. That is, until Dad spoke up with his idea of a compromise.

“Guys, why not think of our family as a team? People on the same team share and compromise with each other. Dan, I’ll have the installer put in two outlets, one in your room and one in your sister’s room. You can each have a phone in your room. However, you’ll still have to respect each other’s time and privacy when using the phones because you will be sharing the same line.”

I saw a satisfied smile spread across Danielle’s face and felt myself starting to grin, too.

“Thanks Dad, I think Danielle and I can make it work, like you said, ‘as a team.’ Maybe we can even tell our friends the best days to call and when not to call.”

I was happy that our problem had been solved, and with Dad's suggestion, my sister and I worked out a great compromise on how to share our new phone line.

Grade 5 Informational

Red Cloud and Sitting Bull

The Great Plains include parts of what are now North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Montana, and Wyoming. During the 1800s, herds of buffalo roamed the Great Plains. Buffalo were important to Native Americans. The Sioux followed the herds across the plains. They moved from place to place while they hunted. Buffalo provided them with food, shelter, clothing, and tools.

A Changing Way of Life

People from the eastern United States began to move west. Their way of life was different from that of the Native Americans. Railroads were built across the plains. Settlers began to farm the land. The United States government set aside lands called reservations for the Sioux. These changes threatened the Sioux way of life. Conflicts arose between the Native Americans and settlers. They fought for control of the land. The U.S. Army was sent to protect the settlers. During this time, two Sioux chiefs tried to protect their people's way of life.

Red Cloud

Red Cloud was born in 1822 near what is now North Platte, Nebraska. He was raised in the household of his uncle, Chief Smoke. Early in life, Red Cloud became known for his leadership. He defended his people. He fought in wars to protect their lands from other Native American groups.

In 1868, Chief Red Cloud made an agreement with the United States government. The agreement protected Sioux rights to land in the West, including the Black Hills. When gold was discovered in the Black Hills, many miners came to the region. The U.S. government attempted to purchase the land from the Sioux, but they would not sell. The Sioux were ordered to move to reservations. Red Cloud moved peacefully. He refused to join other chiefs in a war against the U.S. Army.

Sitting Bull

Sitting Bull was born around 1831 near the Grand River in what is now South Dakota. As a young man, he became concerned with the welfare of his people. He took part in battles against U.S. troops. He became respected for his bravery, and he was made a chief in 1868. When the government ordered the Sioux to move to reservations, Sitting Bull refused. He gathered other groups to fight against the U.S. Army. In 1876, U.S. troops were defeated in the Battle of Little Bighorn. Many more soldiers were sent to the area. The Sioux were forced to surrender.

For four more years, Sitting Bull and his people refused to move to a reservation. They

escaped into Canada. They could not survive in a place where the buffalo herds had been destroyed. Sitting Bull returned to the United States in 1881. He moved to a reservation. He said, "I wish it to be remembered that I was the last man of my tribe to surrender . . ."

Remembering Two Chiefs

Red Cloud lived quietly on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. He continued to work for his people. In 1870, he traveled to Washington, D.C. He and President Ulysses S. Grant talked about ways to help the Sioux. They discussed ways to provide better food, schools, and houses for the Sioux. Red Cloud is remembered as a great leader. He worked tirelessly in a variety of ways to help his people.

Sitting Bull lived on Standing Rock Reservation in North Dakota and South Dakota. He continued to resist change until the end of his life. Sitting Bull is remembered as a strong leader and a fearless warrior.