



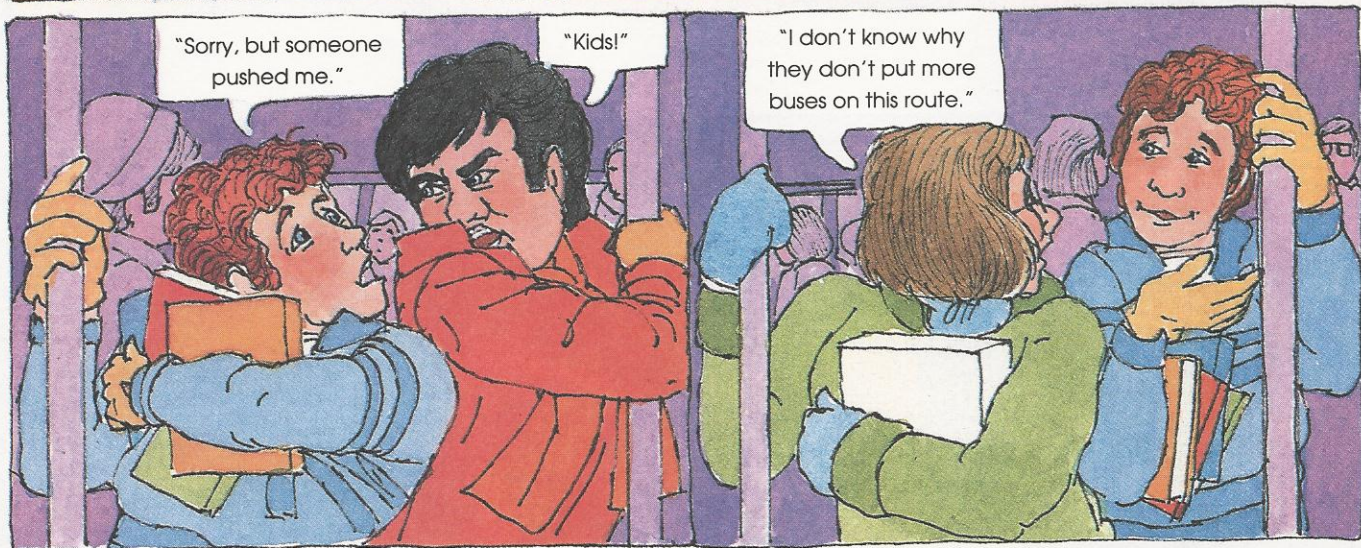
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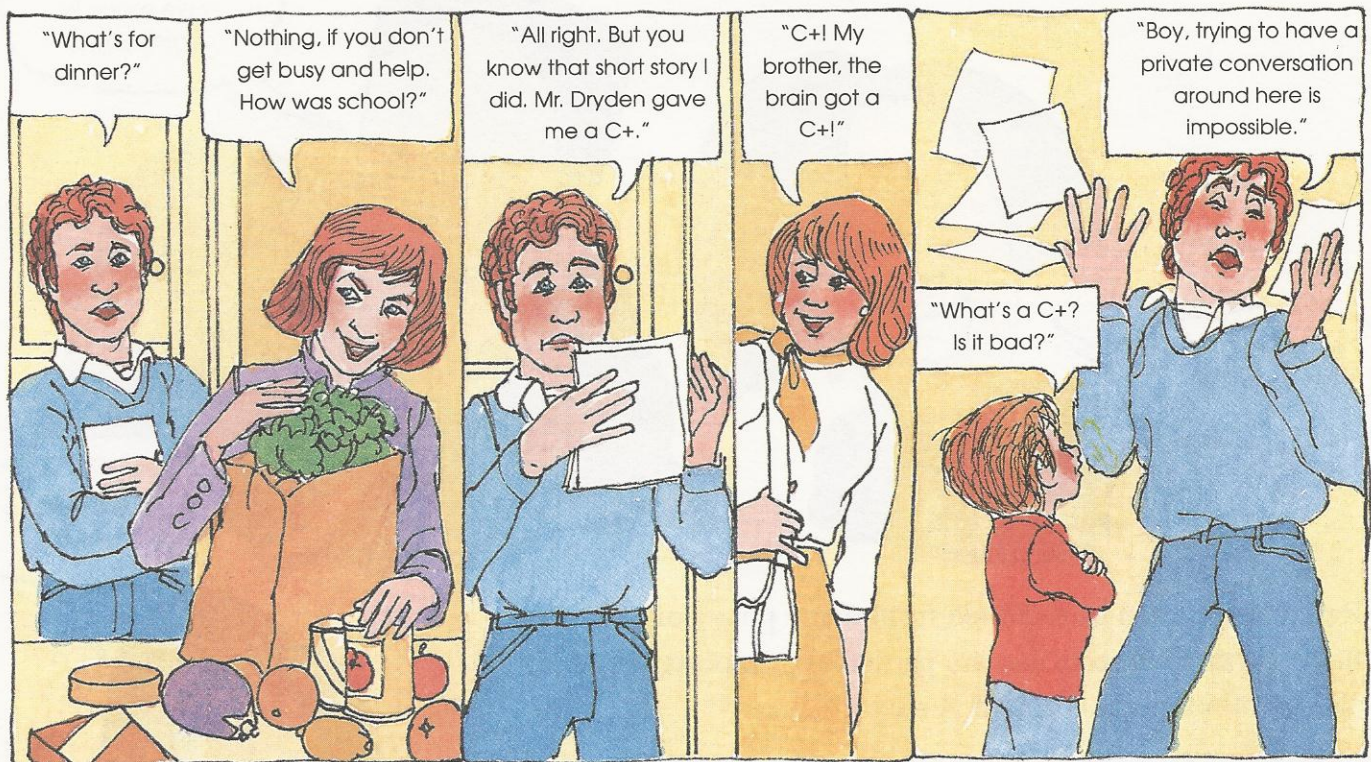
Living in Relationship

**Love one another as I have loved you.
JOHN 15:12**

In Theme 2 you will continue to explore what it means to be a person by examining your relationships with others. As you move from childhood to adolescence, the way you relate to family members, teachers, and friends is affected by the changes you are experiencing. There are new skills to be learned, new joys to be discovered, and new stresses to be understood and accepted. Life in the family, communication, moods, privacy, friendship, and peer pressure are some of the topics you will discuss in this theme.

All Kinds of Relationships

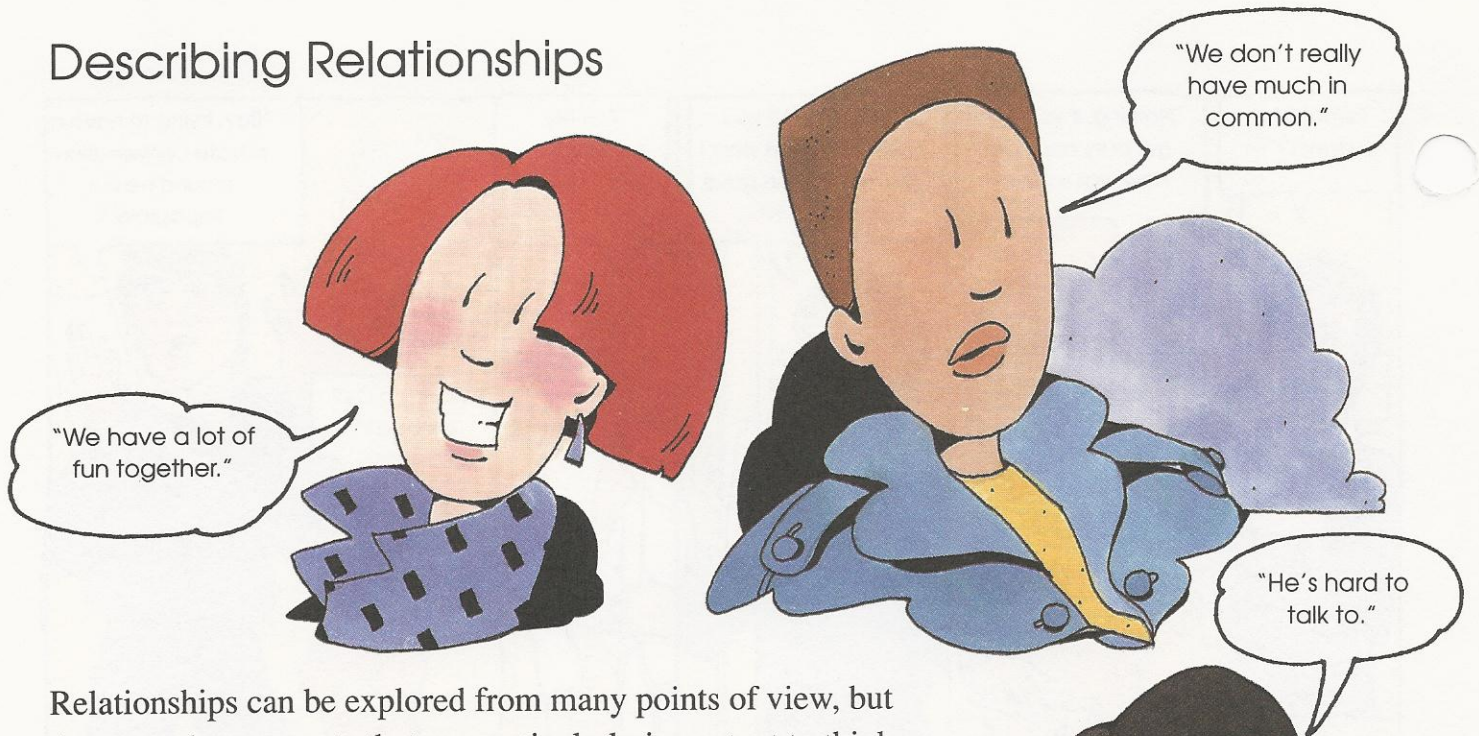




These scenes don't give you a lot of information about Tom, but they do provide a glimpse of a very important aspect of his life. Tom, like every other person, lives his life in relationship with

other people. It is part of his human nature to be social, to seek contact with others, to be influenced by his relationships, and to have an influence on the people with whom he relates.

Describing Relationships



Relationships can be explored from many points of view, but there are three aspects that are particularly important to think about: intimacy, choice, and quality.

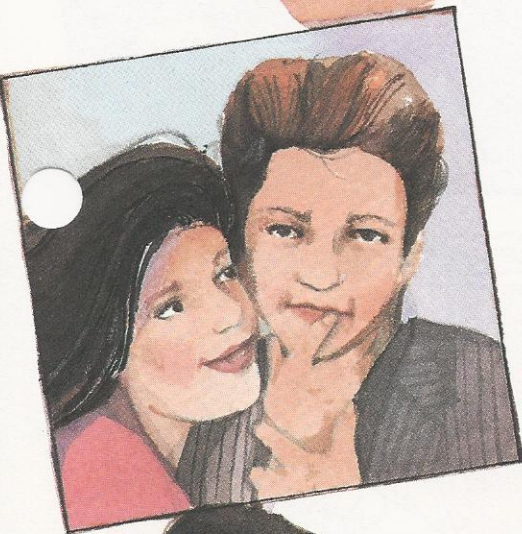
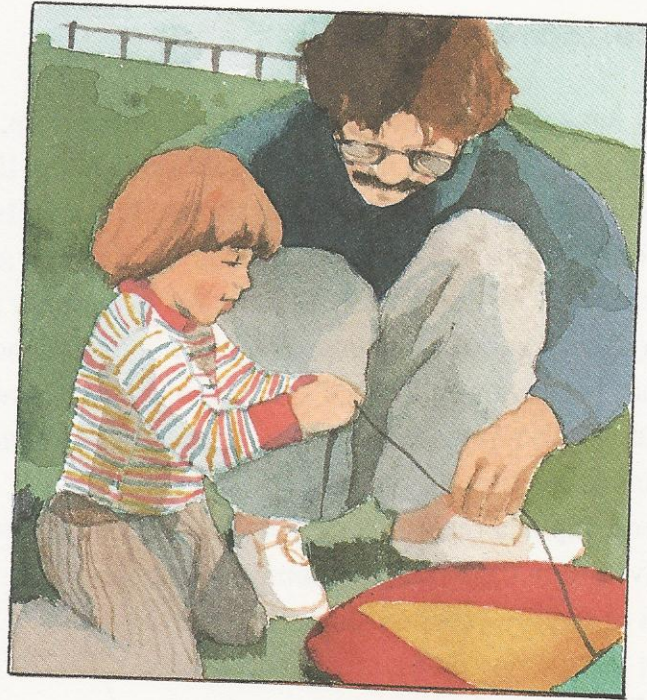
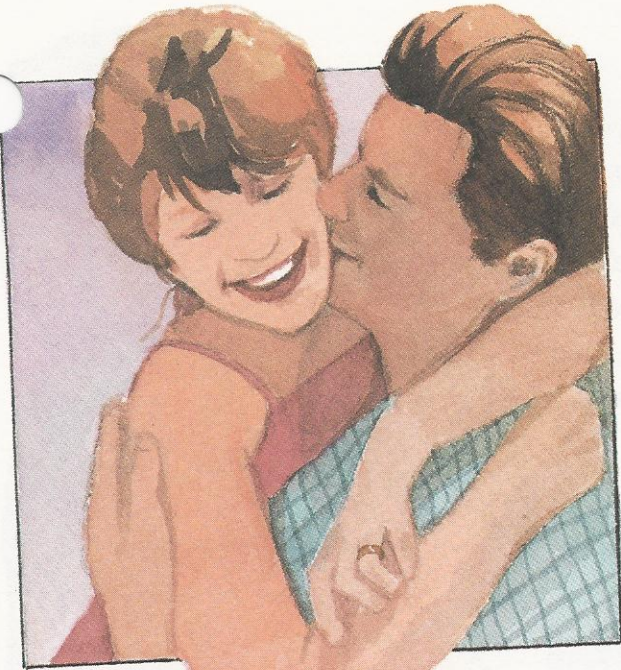
Intimacy: From Surface to Depth

- When Tom was in the market picking up groceries for his mother, he spoke briefly with the owner. He has pleasant memories of her, because when he was a little boy she used to give him candy or fruit when he came to the market with his mom or dad. Nowadays, he rarely sees her.

- Imagine that you run into someone who used to be in your class. This person's family moved several years ago, and even though you were fairly good friends, you haven't met since then. After chatting for a while, you exchange telephone numbers and make plans to get together.

- Bill and his father had a big argument before he left for school. It bothered Bill all day. He felt his dad was unfair, but he also knew that he said things that were hurtful. When Bill arrived home, he was relieved and disappointed that his dad wasn't home yet. He turned on the television, but the program didn't hold his interest. There was homework to be done, but he couldn't concentrate. Finally he decided to walk to the store. Maybe when he got back his dad would be home.





Three very different relationships — the first superficial, the last very deep, and the second somewhere in between. *Superficial* means “on the surface.” Superficial relationships have very little effect on who we are as persons. They stay on the surface of our lives and do not touch us deeply. Sometimes a superficial relationship develops into a closer one. You meet someone, and you want to get to know that person better. You spend time together talking and sharing experiences. You learn more about each other, and the relationship grows. You develop loyalty and trust toward each other.

Our relationships with family members and close friends touch us deeply. They involve our feelings, thoughts, attitudes, and self-concept. These relationships are deeply personal because they have an effect on who we are as persons. That is why arguments with people we care about are so upsetting. The word *intimate* is another way of describing very close relationships. When you are intimate with another, you freely share yourself with that person. You are not afraid to talk about things that worry you or make you sad, or about how dissatisfied you are with yourself at times. You want to be understood, and to understand the other person.