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To the Teacher

Brain Benders presents students with four kinds of problems—emergencies, sticky situations, design possibilities, and hypothetical (What if?) situations—and challenges them to devise, design, and describe plausible solutions. The book is divided into four sections that correspond to the four types of problems posed.

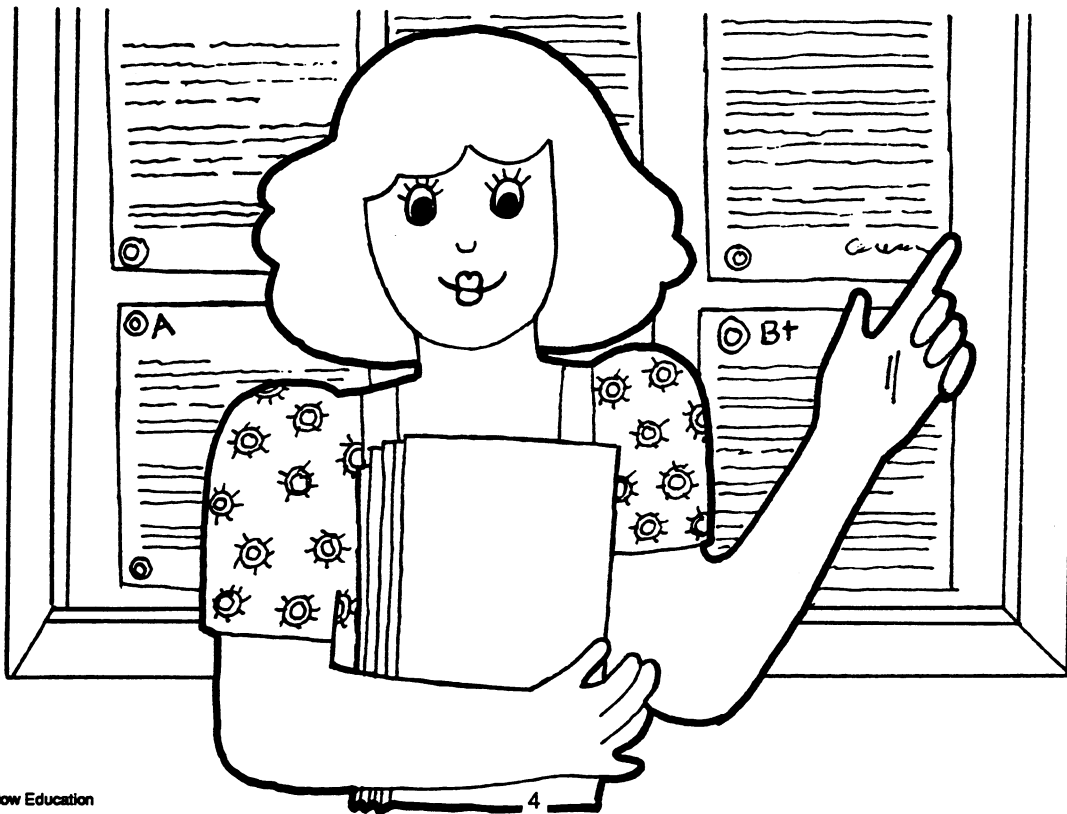
In **Emergency, Emergency**, students confront everyday emergencies—a grandmother who has taken a fall, a baby who is running a fever, being locked out of the house, or going to school without turning off the stove. In each instance, they are asked to write a paragraph explaining what they would do.

In **Sticky Situations**, the problems are, perhaps, less serious, but no less real. For example, students are asked to write paragraphs explaining how they would ask parents to raise their allowance, ask a teacher to raise a mark, counteract a lie being spread about them, or respond to a friend who asks for "help" during a maths test.

In **Design Time**, students have an opportunity to create a billboard, a cereal carton, a dog-washing machine, a greeting card, an invitation, a game, a sandwich, a school flag, or a tree house. They are asked to both draw and describe their creations.

In the **What If?** section, students are presented with a variety of hypothetical situations. What if there were no colors? no darkness? no schools? What if money grew on trees? What if you could be principal for a day? What if the Prime Minister of Australia came to your house for dinner? Students imagine the situations, then write paragraphs in which they answer specific questions about them. How do colors make our lives more interesting? What effect might all this light have on plants and animals? What are some of the problems you would have if you didn't attend school? What things would you buy with money from a money tree? What would you ask the Prime Minister about his life and job?

There are no single right answers to the questions and no specifications for the designs. The possibilities are as limitless as the creative imaginations these pages are intended to stimulate.

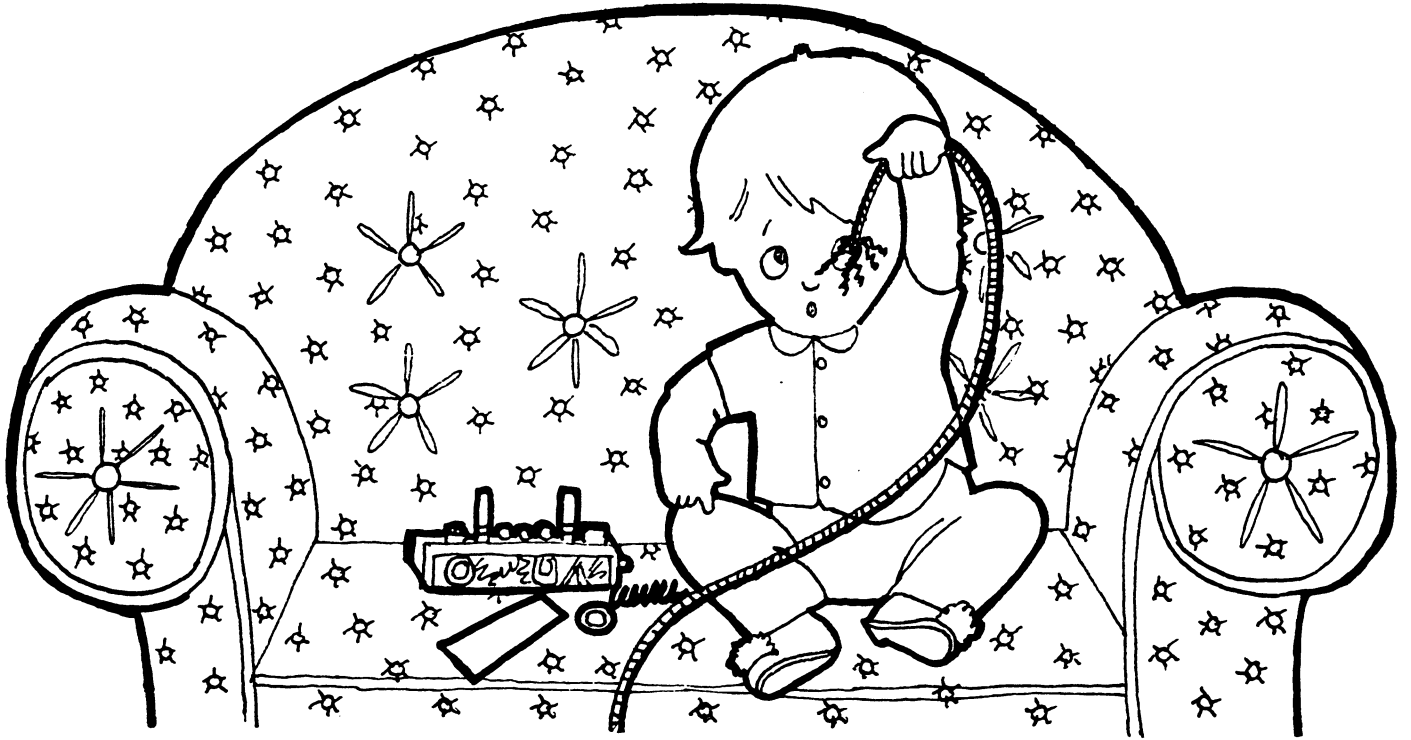


Grandmother's Accident



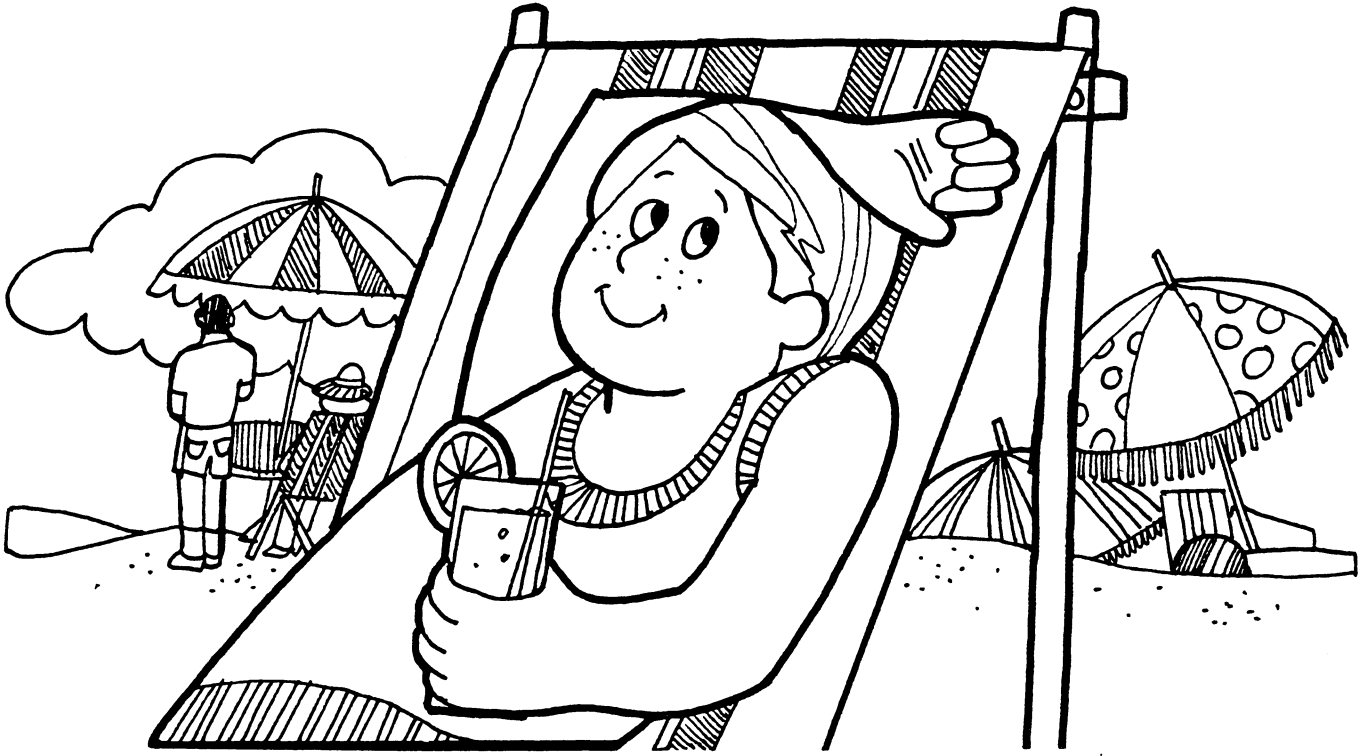
Your grandmother has come for a visit. She trips and falls down the stairs. You are the only person at home with her. Write a paragraph describing what you will do to help your grandmother.

Little Brother Did It



Your friend has a new computer game that you really like to play. You ask your friend if you can borrow it just overnight. After playing with the game, you leave it on the couch, and your little brother breaks it. Write a paragraph explaining what you will tell your friend and how you will handle this situation.

No Schools



What if there were no schools? What are some of the problems you would have if you didn't attend school? How would you spend your day? Write a paragraph explaining how school makes a difference in your life. Be sure to include answers to the questions.
