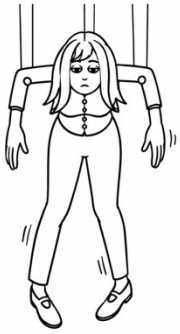
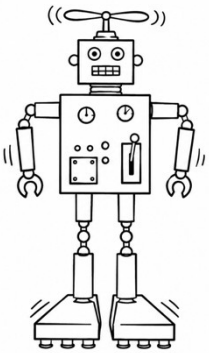
Lesson 13: I Who Controls Me?



Who controls the behaviour of the puppet?

At what age is a person responsible for his/her behaviour? It is easy to take credit for constructive behaviour, but more difficult to accept responsibility for destructive behaviour. Accepting responsibility for our behaviour is the first step in becoming a mature person.

Who controls the behaviour of the robot?



Read the story and answer the questions that follow.

THEY MADE ME DO IT!

Time was going by so very slowly. Leroy was sitting alone on the wall in front of his house with not a thing to do. The Saturday afternoon was hot and dull.

Leroy had already done his homework. His mother insisted, "Leroy you are going to do your homework today before you put your foot out of this house."

"Yes, M'am", he had answered sleepily, knowing that he had no choice when his mother spoke so firmly.

Leroy had even thumbed through his father's newspaper and read all the comics and also tried his hand at the crossword puzzle.

"Hey, Leroy!" Bobby's and Richie's greeting startled Leroy. He had not heard them coming up.

The other two boys, his best friends, were bored and looking around for something exciting to do.

Then Richie came up with a bright idea. "Mas John have an orange tree full a ripe orange, you know. Mek wi raid it, nuh."

"Boy, I don't like that idea," Leroy protested weakly. "Suppose Mas John ketch wi?" "Cho! Mas John usually go a town on Sat'day", Bobby pointed out reassuringly.

The boys were up in the orange tree picking the biggest and prettiest oranges when a rough male voice called out "Hey, you! Miss Betsy bwoy! What you and you fren dem doing up in a mi orange tree? Your mother going hear about this."

When Miss Betsy held Leroy and asked, "Bwoy, mi evah teach you fe tief?" Leroy hung his head.

PUTTING IT TOGETHER

1. Do you agree with Leroy? Can someone else make you do something you think is wrong?

2. How do you think Miss Betsy felt when she found out that her son was stealing?
3. How do you think the boys should "make right" the wrong they have done?
4. What does it mean to "take responsibility" for your behaviour?
5. Have you ever stood up against your friends for something you believed was right? Tell about it.

YOUR CHALLENGES!

1. There may be times when someone tries to control your behaviour by influencing you to do something you know is wrong. In small groups, discuss ways to deal with these situations and list the strategies that you would use.
2. Act out situations in which the main character stands up against peer pressure. (stealing, vandalism, cheating).

As a peacemaker I learned

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