#3

#1

Dad, I'm sick of this. The mosquitoes are eating me alive. Can't we go inside now? I don't really have to learn to play baseball. It's OK. I think I get it now. Eyes on the ball. Right. (Short Pause) Maybe I'm just not any good at this. Maybe I never will be. But a kid can only be hit in the head with a baseball so many times. I'm kinda sick of this game. I don't think I want to play anymore. I'll just quit the team. Can't I just quit, Dad?

Hey, where did everybody go? I give up! I counted to a hundred, like you said. It took a really long time. Where is everybody? I said I give up! I can't find you! I've been looking for ages. Can anybody hear me? This isn't funny anymore, you guys. Come out, come out, wherever you are! Come on, guys. Let's play a different game! We could play tag outside. Or maybe we could have a snack and play video games. I'll let you guys play first! I promise! Just come out. I can't find you, OK? I give up. What more do you want from me? Guys? Hey,

#4

guys!

#2

No, I'm sorry, Mrs. Jones, I don't eat that. I only eat hot dogs. You don't have hot dogs? Oh. Well, maybe I should go home then. That's all I eat. Hot dogs for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Sometimes I eat to or three instead of just one. My mom says I'll grow out of it someday. I doubt it. I love hot dogs. My little sister is worse. She only eats chicken soup. She sticks her pigtails in the soup and sucks it out of her hair. It's disgusting. Well, tell Jack I'll see him later. I've got to go home and have a few hot dogs. I think it's a three-hot-dog day. See you later, Mrs. Jones!

Mom, it's not my fault my room's a mess! Me and Anthony were playing with his new racecars, and we heard a weird noise outside, so we opened the window. This huge spaceship landed and a slimy, green alien with three heads came out and jumped in the window. Anthony tried to shoot him with my zapper gun, but it didn't even hurt him — he just got real mad. So he knocked all the books off my shelf and picked up my toy box with his long, purple antennas and dumped it all over my room. So I threw a Frisbee at him and it bonked him on his third head and he slimed out the window and the spaceship disappeared into the sky. Geez, Mom, you should be happy I'm still alive!

#5

Why do you watch the news every night, Dad? It's booooooring. It's always the same. The news is just a bunch of people talking. It's JUST SO BORING! Can't we watch the cartoon channel? Don't you like to laugh? I feel like my head is going to explode all over this room I'm so bored—Pow! Splat! Smush! Here, I'll be the news guy: "Tonight everyone is very boring in the whole world. The whole world is boring and bunch of other guys said boring things and the weather is boring. Have a boring night. I'm boring. Good night." That's it! I just did the news for you. Now you don't have to watch it! Let's watch cartoons!

#6

Jessica, what did you do?! Look at this mess you made! You better clean it up now. There's going to be paint stuck on the carpet! Why can't you think before you do stupid things?! (Short Pause) Jess, I'm sorry. Please don't cry. I didn't mean to vell at you. It's just that with Mom in the hospital, I'm supposed to take care of things and it's hard. I'm not a grown-up, but I have to try to be because Dad has to work extra hard to pay for Mom's hospital bills. But everything's going to be okay. Mom will get better and come home and it'll be just like it used to. I know it. (Beat.) How about I help you clean this up — we'll do it together. I love you, Jess. Will you give me a hug?