

# resolving conflicts

A Character Education Lesson Plan for Educators and Parents  
based on the book *The Scritch Little Twitchell Sisters*

Recommended for 1st - 3rd grade students



# What to Teach

## Story Overview

**L**avinia and Emmeline Twitchell look like perfect little angels, but their behavior is anything but angelic! They squabble constantly, and their poor parents suffer in a noisy, divided household. When the girls are “discovered” by a creative vaudeville producer, their spectacular fights become entertainment, and they are launched on a glamorous career. Battles may be part of growing up with a sibling, but it helps to look at them with humor. The Twitchell Sisters demonstrate that some day the fights may yield to understanding and appreciation.



## Meaning of Rival, Conflict and Resolution

**A** **rival** is one of two or more people who are striving to reach or obtain something that only one can possess. A **conflict** is a fight, struggle or disagreement. The **resolution** of a conflict comes about when people figure out how to solve a problem or work things out together.

## Sibling Rivalry

**L**avinia and Emmeline fight because they feel jealous of each other and always seem to want what the other has, even though they actually like different things. And they both want their parents’ attention—all the time. The sisters work out their conflicts when they can imagine and empathize with the other’s feelings, and they realize that they also love and appreciate one another.

## Help with Conflicts

**C**hildren cannot always resolve conflicts on their own. Often an adult is needed to help. Go to your parent or a teacher if you are fighting with someone. If a sibling or a classmate bullies you, you should ask for an adult’s help.

## Ask Students

1. Do you have a sister or brother whom you fight with? What kinds of things do you fight about?
2. What kinds of things do your sisters or brothers do that annoy, anger or upset you? What makes you feel jealous of them? What do you think makes them feel jealous of you?
3. How do you work out conflicts with your sibling? Do your parents help you?
4. When you fight, do you use words only? Do you ever hit your brother or sister? Why is it better not to use physical action in a fight?



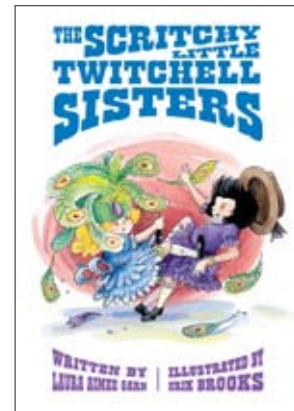
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# What to Teach (Page 2)

## Lessons for Older Children

### *Phonemic Awareness*

**T**he **Scritchy Little Twitchell Sisters** offers many opportunities for phonemic awareness (41 phonemes, opportunities to blend phonemes and manipulate sounds: *sw-eet, st-age*) and word recognition (high frequency words: *the, to, you, her, don't*) appropriate for primary students.



### *Vocabulary and Concept Development*

**I**n the area of vocabulary and concept development, the book exposes students to new and intriguing words that contribute to vocabulary and concept development in three major areas.

### **Infrequent and Rare Words**

Students need exposure to infrequently used and rare words in order to acquire new vocabulary. **The Scritchy Little Twitchell Sisters** also provides alliteration and rhymes. “*Slugging Sisters in Smashing Success*” and “*Road to Riches Paved with Pinches*” are two examples.

### **Incidental Word Learning**

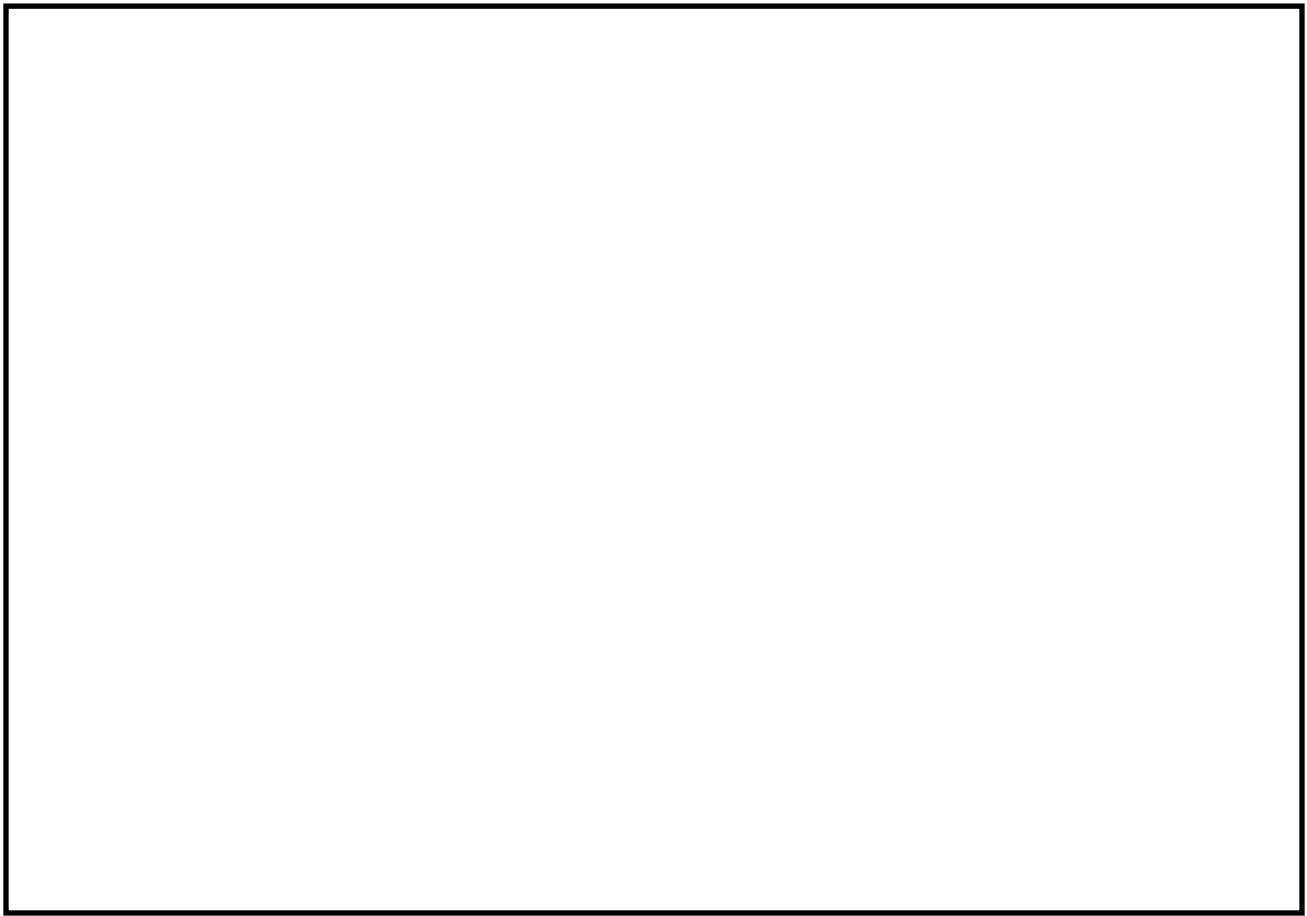
Early reading texts often make use of existing vocabularies of young children, but acquiring sophisticated vocabulary is important to expand word knowledge and reading fluency. In **The Scritchy Little Twitchell Sisters**, children are exposed to a number of words and concepts that are not normally part of their everyday experiences, including such examples as *greengrocer, magician, and croquet games*.

### **Building a Knowledge Network**

Knowing a word involves connecting the word meaning to concepts and linguistic knowledge about words. The escapades of the Twitchell sisters allow students to expand their knowledge of the performing arts. The sisters and their parents go to the *theater* to see a *variety show* with *acts* that go on *tour* (*the company on tour*). The *theater* has a *stage*, as well as a *balcony* and *rows of seats* (two characters sit in the *fifth row*) for the *audience*. On the *stage*, there are *sets* (*a lawn with a bird bath*) and *props* (*bicycles, scooter, cakes, rabbit in a hat*). The actors wear *costumes* (*dresses, feathers, sequins*).



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*Draw a picture of you and your sibling that shows what's different about you. Or draw a picture of you and a sibling or friend having a disagreement and working it out.*

*Describe what happened below. How did you feel when you resolved the problem?*

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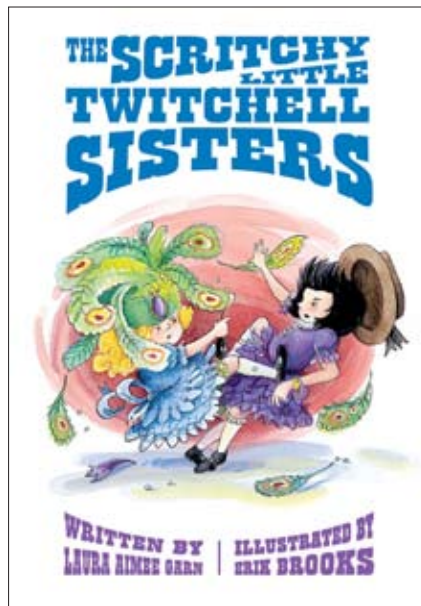
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for educators and parents:

*Bella Basset Ballerina* by Laura Aimee Garn

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