



Teddy walks outside and meets Sperry Sparrow.

Sperry Sparrow: I'm glad to see you, Mr. Teddy. I need some advice.

Teddy: You look upset, Sperry. What's troubling you?

Sperry: Well, there's this kid on my bus. Sometimes I have to sit next to him. He curses like anything and I don't want to hear it.

Teddy: Does he use really bad curse words?

Sperry: He uses the f- word and s__ word all the time and combines them with other words.

Teddy: That's not good! In fact, that's very bad! I'd like to meet this kid, Sperry. I want to find out why he curses. And I'll encourage him to put those words away in my 'inappropriate language' box.

Teddy waits at the school bus stop. Lots of kids get off the bus.

Teddy: Can I talk to you for a minute, BJ Blue Jay. I'm Teddy Bear.

BJ Blue Jay: I . . . I guess so.

Teddy: Let's sit down here for a minute. I hear that you curse a lot.

BJ (defensively): Not when a teacher can hear me.

Teddy: I suspect you are angry about something, and cursing makes you feel better.

BJ: You're right, Teddy. I am really, really mad at my Dad. He just flew off and left my Mom and me alone.

Teddy: BJ, does expressing your feelings by cursing make you feel better?

BJ: Yes . . . in way. I can use words that other kids aren't allowed to use.

Teddy: Maybe you are showing off. Maybe instead of cursing, you can do something helpful that other kids don't do.

BJ (excitedly): I really want to be a patrol.

Teddy: Talk to your teacher and find out how you can become a patrol.

BJ: I'll do that tomorrow.

Teddy (opens a box): And please put all your curse words in this box here and now.

BJ (reads the label on the box): Inappropriate Language

Teddy: Read the label on the other side.

BJ: Offensive Language. What does that mean?

Teddy: The definition of *to curse* (verb) or *a curse* (noun) is to use offensive language when you are angry or annoyed.

BJ: What's offensive language?

Teddy: Words that hurt your feelings. Words that hurt another person's feelings. So you can dump all your offensive words, curse words into this box.

BJ: Oh, I didn't know all that. (*spits curse words into box*) Thank you, Mr. Teddy. I feel lighter and better already.

Sperry Sparrow hops by.

Teddy: Hey, Sperry, come over here. Look at all the words in this box.

Sperry: It looks like it's full.

Teddy: Yes, BJ put all his curse words in here.

Sperry: I'm glad that I won't have to listen to him cuss on the school bus anymore.



Do I use curse words? Why? Does using curse words make me feel better? Am I showing off? What can I do instead of using curse words? How does my cursing affect other people?

Name _____

date _____

CUSSIN' ON THE BUS

- 1. Who are the characters? _____
- 2. What is the setting? _____
- 3. What is Sperry's problem? _____
- 4. Why does Teddy want to talk to BJ Blue Jay? _____

- 5. What does Teddy want BJ to understand? _____

- 6. Why are curse words offensive? _____

7. Writing. Text-to-self. Have you had a similar experience?

8. Writing. Stop and Think! Do I use curse words? Why? Does using curse words make me feel better? Am I showing off? What can I do instead of using curse words? How does my cursing affect other people?

