

Role Playing A News Story

NEIGHBOR BITES DOG IN FENCE DISPUTE



A 47-year-old man named William Jesperson bit his neighbor's dog. This happened because of a problem about a garden fence. The dog's owner, Mrs. Carol Ramsey, told the police that her dog needed four stitches.

The argument started when Mrs. Ramsey took down the fence between their gardens. She said she would put up a new fence, but she has not done it yet because she says she does not have enough money.

After the fence was gone, Mrs. Ramsey's dog played in Mr. Jesperson's garden. One time, the dog scared Mr. Jesperson's two-year-old son, according to his wife, Harmony. Mrs. Ramsey did not do anything about this. When the dog chased Mr. Jesperson's pet rabbit, he got very angry and decided to act.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. Who are the four characters in the story?
2. What are the key points from the story?
3. What is each character's perspective on the situation?
4. What might a police officer do or say to try to resolve the dispute?

A Sample Role Play

Police Officer: Good afternoon. I am here to look into a report about a dog being bitten. Can someone tell me what happened?

Carol Ramsey: Officer, it was terrible! My neighbor, Mr. Jesperson, bit my poor dog! Look, he needed four stitches!

William Jesperson: That's not the whole story. Mrs. Ramsey took down the fence between our gardens and hasn't put up a new one.

Police Officer: I see. Mrs. Ramsey, why haven't you replaced the fence?

Carol Ramsey: Well, I've been meaning to, but I don't have enough money right now. It's expensive, you know.

Harmony Jesperson: But because there's no fence, her dog keeps coming into our garden. It scared our two-year-old son!

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Carol Ramsey: Oh, come on. My dog is friendly. He wouldn't hurt anyone.

William Jesperson: That's not true. Your dog chased our pet rabbit. I got so angry, I... I didn't know what to do.

Police Officer: So you bit the dog, Mr. Jesperson?

William Jesperson: Yes, I did. I know it was wrong, but I felt I had to protect my family and pets.

Carol Ramsey: That's no excuse! You should control your temper, not bite innocent animals!

Police Officer: Alright, let's calm down. It seems like there are problems on both sides here. Mrs. Ramsey, when do you think you can replace the fence?

Carol Ramsey: I don't know. Maybe in a few months?

Harmony Jesperson: That's too long! We need a solution now.

Police Officer: I understand this is a difficult situation. Mr. Jesperson, biting a dog is not a good response, no matter what happened. And Mrs. Ramsey, you need to control your dog and work on replacing the fence. I suggest you both try to find a compromise. Maybe you could share the cost of a temporary fence until Mrs. Ramsey can afford a permanent one?

William Jesperson: I guess we could think about that...

Carol Ramsey: Well, I guess that's better than nothing.

Police Officer: Good. I will write down this incident, but I hope you can solve this peacefully. If there are more problems, please call the station instead of taking matters into your own hands.