

## The Principal's Conundrum

The two students sat in front of the irritated principal. He sighed and leaned towards the girl.

"You allege that Carl here put a rotten egg in your locker?" he asked.

"No," Patsy said. "I don't allege it. I know it. He did it."

"I did not," Carl said. "What would I be doing with a rotten egg?"

"He is always trying to antagonize me," Patsy said. "He butts in front of me in line in the cafeteria. He always 'drops' my paper when he's supposed to be handing things back."

Principal Rutherford sighed again. The boy was about to start defending himself again; there was potential for this meeting to go on for a very, very long time.

"I think that we can both agree that going into a locker that doesn't belong to you is a blatant violation of the school rules," Rutherford began slowly.

"Which is why I would never do it," Carl said.

Unable to get to the bottom of the situation, Rutherford finally let them go, with the warning that he didn't want to hear about confrontations between them again. But he knew that he probably would see them again, because Patsy had the unmistakable glint of vengeance in her eyes.

**DIRECTIONS:** Circle the correct answer (True or False)

- T F 1. To *allege* means to know for sure.
- T F 2. *Antagonize* means to make someone hostile.
- T F 3. *Potential* means what actually happens.
- T F 4. In this story there is *potential* for more trouble between Carl and Patsy.
- T F 5. If something is *blatant* it is obvious.
- T F 6. A *confrontation* is like a fight.
- T F 7. *Vengeance* is a positive thing.

