

November 11, 2011

Ramona Quimby, Age 8

1. **Name the conflict-** The main character Ramona Quimby is in third grade. She is struggling with a student in her class who likes to make fun of her and tease her. This same student likes to break hard boiled eggs on his head before he eats them. Ramona wanted to be like this boy so she made sure her mother made her a hard-boiled egg to bring to school. At lunch, Ramona saved her egg for last. When she went to crack her egg on her head, she found out the egg was not hard-boiled so it got all over her hair and face. She had to go to the office so the secretary would wash her hair for her. While sitting in the office, Ramona overheard her teacher, Mrs. Whaley call Ramona a show-off and a nuisance in class. This created a problem for Ramona because she felt like her teacher had turned her back on her by saying that she did not like Ramona. This type of problem is an interpersonal problem because all children and even adults need acceptance of authority and of people in their lives.
2. **Who is involved? Conflict resolution style?-** Ramona is the main person involved in the problem. Mrs. Whaley did not know that Ramona had an issue with her until Ramona finally had to ask her about it. Ramona used the resolution style of avoidance because she did not want to talk to anyone, especially Mrs. Whaley about the problem. Eventually she discussed it with her father at home, but he gave little response to help her. The consequence for Ramona using this resolution style was that she missed out on a chance to interact more with her classmates and teacher because she believed her teacher did not like her. Ramona chose avoiding the problem because she was embarrassed and upset that her teacher thought poorly of her. She did not want to talk to the teacher more about the issue for the fear that her belief would be true.
3. **How did the conflict start?-** The problem started with the thought that Ramona wanted to fit in with her classmates. She had an idea that went terribly wrong. In doing this idea, she overheard her teacher talking about her, which made her very sad. The problem may have been escalated by the fact that the day after the egg incident, Ramona was sick with the stomach flu. She missed a few days of school, which allowed her to sit with the idea that her teacher did not like her for that many days. For a child this is devastating and something that affects them in a huge way.
4. **How did the characters feel?-** Ramona was very sad and hurt to hear those mean things from her teacher. She had actually started liking her teacher and the third grade, but this event made her go backwards in her progression. She isolated herself from others and became easily angered when anyone helped her. It is always hurtful when someone is talking badly about you. I have had this happen to me in my life, not necessarily by my teachers but my friends. It hurts a lot when you think that

someone who supposedly cares about you, is taking badly about you. It stays with you and lowers your self-esteem. I can relate to Ramona and her feelings with this situation because especially at a young age, you care what other people think about you. It matters when you hear someone you thought liked you or thought highly of you, talk poorly of you.

5. **What does each character want or need?**- Ramona wants her teacher to like her. Mrs. Whaley is unaware of the situation until the end of the problem, which is how the problem gets solved. Ramona does not want her teacher to think that she is a show-off and that she creates a nuisance in the classroom.
6. **What question would you like to ask Ramona?**- I would like to ask Ramona why she would automatically assume that her teacher does not like her based on what she overheard? I would try to explain to her that sometimes it is best to not make assumptions because she was not in the room with the teacher. Ramona could not have known exactly what the conversation was and maybe she took the context the wrong way.
7. **How are the characters the same and different?**- The characters are very different because of the fact that one was unaware of the problem while the other wanted to avoid the problem. She did not want to talk to Mrs. Whaley about the problem because she wanted to be mad and hurt by her comments. These differences make the situation more difficult because it is hard for the teacher to talk to Ramona about an issue that she has no idea about.
Ramona and myself: sensitive, seeks approval of others, tries to make other people laugh, avoid conflict and resolution, and suppress their feelings.
The major problem Ramona and I have in common is the fact that we both are avoiders when dealing with conflict resolution. I do not like any type of conflict so I try to avoid it at all costs. It is not that I do not want to fix the problem; it is just that I do not like to make people unhappy. Ramona is similar to this because she does not want to get hurt, which is one of my issues as well. Another problem we share is that we struggle to seek approval from others. I like making people happy. I do this at all costs, even when it means taking myself down in the process. Ramona's problem was that she wanted to make people happy by laughing at her in a humorous way and not in a mocking way. It backfired on her and then ended up with her getting hurt.
8. **How was the problem solved different or similar than how you would have solved it?**- Using the skills of how to listen for facts and feelings and how to help each other solve problems, I can help my students answer this problem. These two skills were demonstrated in the book and can be answered through this higher level of thinking question. Ramona did not listen at first for the facts until she eventually gave in and asked Mrs. Whaley about what she had said about Ramona in the teacher room. This is an educational moment for students because it holds the students accountable for making sure they are listening fully and not only hearing what they want to hear. The other skill used was to help each other solve problems. Ramona at first did not tell anyone about her problem. Eventually, she talked to her dad about it who even though he did not give her a lot of advice, helped her see that

what was said might not have been a big deal. She needed to talk to the teacher to investigate the situation further to make sure that what was said was true or not.