

A Messy Situation

Part 1

Narrator: Amy and Malik sit by each other in art class. They have to share the supplies. When painting, Amy likes to spread out and mix the colors. She doesn't worry about messes when she's being creative. Malik likes to keep his paints and brushes clean and separated. He thinks it's easier to be creative when things are organized.

Malik: I'm so frustrated! Amy, you always take up too much space!

Amy: What are you talking about? You have lots of space that you're barely using.

Malik: Also, you keep dipping dirty brushes in the paint. If your brush has blue paint on it, don't dip it in the yellow! Now it's GREEN!

Amy: It's not your water, it's OUR water! Besides, there's no rule about double-dipping a paint brush.

Part 2

Narrator: Neither Amy nor Malik can concentrate on painting anymore. They both feel really angry. They each take a break to help themselves feel calm. Amy goes to see her friend's painting, and Malik takes a few deep breaths. Amy comes back to the table.

Amy: Hey, Malik. Let's figure this out. What bothers you about a messy workspace?

Malik: I can't focus when it's messy, and I don't like it when the paint colors get mixed up. I can paint better when everything is organized. What about you?

Amy: I feel more creative when I spread out, and I focus better when I don't have to think about cleaning up until the end.

Malik: I think I get it—the problem is that we need different things to focus and be creative. We have to find a way to work together.

Amy: I agree. Let's try to think of solutions.