

Name: _____

ONLINE WORKSHEET

A TALE OF TWO CRITTERS

Read the following story aloud. Use the questions below for class discussion.

First point of view:

Deep in the woods in Maine, our log cabin is a quiet, peaceful haven from our busy city lives. My family and I drove up here for a long, relaxing weekend.

We were unpacking when I heard strange noises coming from the fireplace—scratching and squeaking. Cautiously, I shined a flashlight up the chimney, but couldn't see anything. I banged on the flue. The scratching stopped, but it started up again within a few minutes.

I called Larry, a man who lives here year-round and knows a lot about animals. He came over, got on the roof, and peered down the chimney.

"Congratulations," he said with a grin. "A raccoon family has made a home inside your chimney." He explained that the babies were old enough to leave. We just had to convince mom and babies to move.

At Larry's suggestion, we put a radio, blasting rock music, in the chimney. Hopefully, this will encourage the critters to leave. In the meantime, the loud music is irritating. So is the fact that we can't use the fireplace. (So much for toasting marshmallows!)



Second point of view:

Before I had my babies, I searched high and low for the best place to raise them. I'm a little picky, but I finally found the perfect place: a cozy cabin on the lake. Nobody lives here, so it's nice and quiet.

The cabin has a brick tower on top of it. Nestling inside, we are safe and snug. My two babies and I love our new home.

But then everything changed. People showed up! Somebody began banging on our den! We were terribly frightened and held still. But my babies soon started making a racket again.

We thought things were going back to normal. Then we heard someone stomping around on the roof. All of a sudden, light flooded our den. I saw a man glaring down at us. Luckily, he quickly left.

Now there is a terrible sound blasting beneath us, day and night. It looks like we'll have to look for a new home.

Questions:

1. *What is the problem from the person's point of view?*
2. *What is the problem from the mother raccoon's point of view?*
3. *Why did the raccoon choose to raise her family in the chimney?*
4. *Pretend that you are the mother raccoon. What would you say to Larry?*