

# Activity #3

## Problem-Solving

### Curriculum Link:

Language Arts, Social Studies

### Materials:

Problem-solving organizers (see reproducible on p. 33)

### Procedure:

1. Ask the children to identify Lacey's problem at the beginning of the story. Discuss why she does not have any clean clothes to wear to school (refer to page 4 of the story). Discuss whose responsibility it is for Lacey to have clean clothes. Is it fair for Lacey to blame her mother?

2. Write the problem — Lacey needs clean clothes, or Lacey needs to organize her room — in the appropriate box in the problem-solving organizer.

3. Brainstorm with the children as many different solutions to the problem as they can think of. For each solution, identify what might happen if that solution is put into action. For example, if Lacey put her clothes into a laundry hamper in her room, her mother would be able to find them and wash them.

4. Of all the possible solutions suggested, have students select the best option and explain why it is the best.

### Extension:

☉ Brainstorm other typical daily problems the children face: doing household chores, completing homework, resolving disagreements with siblings. In pairs, have students select one problem, brainstorm solutions and select the best solution, recording their thinking on the organizer. Ask them to present their problems and their solutions to their peers.

### Literature Connections:

*When Mom Turned Into a Monster*

by Joanna Harrison

*Please Clean Up Your Room!*

by Itah Sadu, illustrated by Roy Condy

*Martin by Himself* by Gloria Skurzynski, illustrated

by Lynn Munsinger

*Super-completely and Totally the Messiest*

by Judith Viorst, illustrated by Robin Preiss Glasser

*Fritz and the Mess Fairy* by Rosemary Wells



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Problem-Solving Organizer

**Problem:** \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Solution 1:**  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Solution 2:**  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Solution 3:**  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

↓  
**What will happen?**  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

↓  
**What will happen?**  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

↓  
**What will happen?**  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**The best solution:** \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_