

## Lesson #3 CASE STUDY: WILLOW THE WHINER

This case study is presented in “Reader’s Theater” format, with four parts: Narrator, Willow, Dad, and Hailey.

**Willow** (in a super whiny voice): Why doesn’t anyone understand me?

**Narrator:** This question rolled through Willow’s mind many times a day. Willow was the youngest child in a family of all daughters; her two older sisters were close in age and super tight. They did everything together.

**Willow** (with a pouty attitude): I’m such an outcast. I feel so left out and misunderstood.

**Narrator:** One Saturday morning, Willow stumbled out of bed and entered the kitchen to find her two sisters and her parents enjoying breakfast together.

**Willow:** Why didn’t anyone tell me we were having breakfast?

**Dad** (incredibly chipper): Good morning to you, too, Sunshine! Pull up a chair and enjoy this beautiful day by starting with a stack of Mom’s famous pancakes.

**Narrator:** Willow rolled her eyes and flopped into a chair. Reaching for the syrup, she mumbled while she doused her pancakes with liquid sugar.

**Willow:** Nobody ever tells me anything. Why am I left out of all the conversations? Why do we have to have blueberry pancakes? I hate warm mushy berries. Yuck.

**Narrator:** Willow’s parents eyed each other, both aware of her infamous attitude. They decided to let it go ... for now.

**Dad:** Well, we’re just glad you could join us. I sure love family breakfasts together! What should we all talk about on this fine Saturday morning?

**Hailey:** Well, I’m working on this skit for my literature class, and it’s going to be super funny. Let me tell you the plot and opening scene—it’s going to be great!

**Narrator:** By the end of Hailey’s story, the whole family, except for Willow, was rolling with laughter. The skit certainly will be very funny!

**Willow:** Why didn’t you ask for my help preparing your skit? I am the one who does drama.

**Hailey:** Well, Willow, to be honest, you’ve been a little hard to talk with lately, and haven’t seemed very happy, so I just decided to leave you alone and work on it myself.

**Narrator:** The family went on to discuss the upcoming family reunion. This year, it was to be held at their house and everyone (except Willow, of course) was enjoying being involved in the planning. Willow's mom and oldest sister, Megan, were in charge of food. Hailey was in charge of games. And Willow's dad was in charge of setup and cleanup.

**Dad:** Willow, why don't you plan on helping me with setting up and cleaning up?

**Willow:** Why do I have to be on setup and cleanup? That's no fun at all! Why doesn't anyone ask my opinion on anything?

**Narrator:** Willow whined, slouched in her chair, and dejectedly chugged some orange juice. By now, the entire family was a little tired of Willow's whining. Her victim mentality was a drain on everyone around her. Hailey wanted to try to help Willow with her attitude. She pulled Willow into her bedroom ...

**Hailey:** Willow, I know you think I ignore you and you feel left out of the family, but try to just listen to me for a minute . . .

### Discussion Questions:

- If you were Hailey, what advice would you give to Willow?
- What "Why" questions did Willow ask over the course of the morning?
- How did Willow's complaining cause her family to respond to her?
- What could Willow change in her thinking to avoid complaining? What QBQs could she ask instead? **(Remember: QBQs begin with "What" or "How," contain an "I," and focus on action!)**
- How might Willow's victim mindset continue to affect her later in life?