

What Were You Thinking?

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Names: Smith, Bryan (Bryan Kyle), 1978- author. | Griffin, Lisa M. (Lisa Middleton), 1972-illustrator.

Title: What were you thinking? : a story about learning to control your impulses / written by Bryan Smith ; illustrated by Lisa M. Griffin.

Description: Boys Town, NE : Boys Town Press, [2016] | Audience: grades 2-5. | Summary: Third grader Braden loves to be the center of attention. His comic genius, as he sees it, causes his friends to look at him in awe. But when his ill-timed jokes and actions result in interrupting class or hurting others, it's time for a lesson about impulse control.--Publisher.

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My teacher began class by saying,

*“Good morning,
boys and girls.
Today **WE** are going to...”*

That’s when it just
happened.... I shouted out,

**“Talk about
how AWESOME
I am!”**

The class giggled. My teacher, Mrs. Vickerman, said, “Whoa. Braden, we have rules to follow in class. Is interrupting me when I’m talking to the class following the rules?”

“No, I guess it isn’t being respectful,” I answered.



“Right! Remember, the first day of school we talked about what those rules look like in class, and we said *one way to show respect is to raise your hand if you have something to say*, and calmly wait for the teacher to call on you. That is one way that we control our impulses.”



“Control our **WHAT?**”

*I’m sorry,
Mrs. Vickerman, but that sounds like grown-up talk.”*

Mrs. Vickerman smiled and said, “They are big words, but what they mean is that sometimes our bodies are telling us to do things, and we have to decide whether or not to do them.”



Later on, Mrs. Vickerman pulled me aside. She asked, “When you shouted out, saying we were going to ‘talk about how awesome you are,’ what were you thinking?”

“Well, I thought it would be really funny.”

“Right, but did that make the situation **better** or **worse**?””

I sat there for a second, then sighed and said, “**Worse.**”

