

## WORKSHEET #13

Excerpt of first paragraphs of Corinthe Morter-Lewis's "The Quarrel." From Moments in Time: Volume 1. Pp. 146-148. Belize: Author. Used with permission.

Maggie sat on the top front steps of her house plaiting her hair when her brother, Dale, came running up, skipping one rung at a time. "Mag, the Warlords are at it again!" Maggie did not wait to hear more. She put down the rectangular comb, with its thick steins, jumped up and went running to the mango tree in the corner of her yard. She climbed up into the thick leafy branches, festooned with yellow blossoms and tiny fruit that in a few months would be bulging with yellow juice. Her brother was already on his usual perch on one of the limbs above hers, his feet hanging down. Maggie made herself comfortable on the gnarled limb that gave her full view of the yard next door. The tree concealed the two spectators fully as they enjoyed what would be considered reserved seats for the drama that was about to unfold. It was a large and spacious family yard which accommodated several small houses occupied by families who were related and renters who were unrelated. It was the playground for scores of children, an arena in which fights, arguments, rough-housing, competitions and any number of games from tops to marbles to hide-and-seek and "Rachel-Rachel" were commonplace pastimes.

The Warlords was the nickname the children in the neighborhood used for two of the women who lived in the yard. Their activities were often a source of concern, sometimes fear—activities which could escalate to near anarchy. They were frequently involved in quarrels that were usually loud; these quarrels would start over issues that had to do with their children or their property, but before any issue was settled the exchanges often became heated and threatening. There were seven children in sight, standing in various parts of the yard; one, about four or five years-old, obviously upset by what had been happening, was crying at the top of her lungs, perhaps with the hope her distress would stop the impending storm. As they waited for the emergence of one or the other or both of the two women from their respective front doors, Dale filled in Maggie on the evolution of events to that point: "Miss Sarah seh dat Cyril beet Chesta dis maanin, ahn Miss Chris seh dat Chesta due wahn beetn bikaaz ih aalwayz di kaal Cyril none-an-a-nook." Chester was one of Miss Sarah's nine children, and Cyril was the youngest of Miss Chris' eleven children. Yes, between these two women there were 20 children of varying ages, a few of whom had children of their own. Add these 20 to the 11 of the remaining families, and it paints a picture of the dynamics that operated on a minute-by-minute basis in a large yard, but one much too small for the bodies inhabiting it.

### GUIDED QUESTIONS:

1. What are the effects of quarreling in front of children?
2. Discuss these families' economic situation. How did you formulate this conclusion?

3. Give character descriptions for both Maggie and Dale. List at least 2 character traits for each with supporting evidence from the story.

#### WORKSHEET #14

Directions. Students are to individually identify each of the items below as a phrase (P), or a clause that cannot stand alone, called a dependent clause (DC), or a clause that stands alone as a sentence, called an independent clause (IC).

NOTE: NO beginning or end punctuation marks have been included in this exercise.

Source: The items below have been adapted/used with permission from Corinth Morter-Lewis' story "The Quarrel," which is in her 2012 book Moments in Time: Volume 1.

Remember: Phrases can NEVER stand-alone (except when used as interjections).

Examples of interjections are: Great! Yes! No! Wow! Of course! Really?

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Maggie sat on the front steps of her house
2. \_\_\_\_\_ plaiting her hair
3. \_\_\_\_\_ her brother, Dale, came running up to her
4. \_\_\_\_\_ she did not wait to hear everything
5. \_\_\_\_\_ that he had to say
6. \_\_\_\_\_ Maggie put down her rectangular comb
7. \_\_\_\_\_ jumping up and running to the mango tree
8. \_\_\_\_\_ which was in the corner of the yard
9. \_\_\_\_\_ she climbed up the tree
10. \_\_\_\_\_ with its thick, leafy branches
11. \_\_\_\_\_ because she wanted a good view to see the usual quarrel
12. \_\_\_\_\_ the Warlords of the neighborhood were at it again
13. \_\_\_\_\_ because she knew them, she wanted to see and hear the quarrel
14. \_\_\_\_\_ even though she was a bit afraid
15. \_\_\_\_\_ then her brother joined her in the mango tree.
16. \_\_\_\_\_ wow
17. \_\_\_\_\_ this quarrel sounded like it would be a big one
18. \_\_\_\_\_ if Reverend Kaiser refused to intervene again
19. \_\_\_\_\_ the police would have to be called
20. \_\_\_\_\_ because the Warlords were sure to claw and scratch each other