

# Values

**Directions:** Read the following story and respond to the questions.

Once upon a time there was a river that was practically overflowing with alligators. As you may have guessed, it was called Alligator river. A girl named Abigail lived on the west bank of the river. Her boyfriend, Greg, lived on the opposite bank. Abigail and Greg very much in love with each other and wanted very much to see each other. But there was one slight complication: no boat, and an alligator-filled river stood between them. Abigail decided to seek help so that she could see her boyfriend, Greg. She approached Sinbad the Sailor, who, as his name might indicate, owned a boat. She explained her situation to Sinbad and asked if she could borrow his boat. Sinbad thought for a moment and then replied: "Sure, you can borrow my boat, but only under one condition. The condition is that you sleep with me tonight." This startled Abigail because she didn't want to sleep with Sinbad; she just wanted to borrow his boat so that she could see Greg. So, she told Sinbad to forget it, and she wandered off seeking someone else who would help her.

After a great deal of time, Abigail was unable to find anyone else who could aid her. Discouraged, she returned home, where she sought out her mother. Explaining her dilemma and Sinbad's proposition, Abigail asked her mother about what she should do. Mom responded with, "Look, Abigail, you're a big girl now; it's about time you started making these kinds of decisions for yourself." With that, Mom turned and walked away.

Abigail thought and thought. Finally, she decided to take Sinbad up on his offer because she wanted to see Greg so very much; so that night, Abigail and Sinbad slept with each other. The next morning, Sinbad, true to his word, lent his boat to Abigail. Abigail sailed across the river and saw her beloved. After spending a few delightful hours together, Abigail felt compelled to tell Greg what had happened. After she had related her whole story, Greg blew up completely. "You what? I can't believe you did that!! I—I can't believe you slept with him! That's it! It's all over. Just forget the relationship. Get out of my life!"

Distraught, Abigail wandered off. She came upon a fellow named Slug. Borrowing his shoulder to shed her tears, Abigail related her tale to Slug. Slug then went looking for Greg (with Abigail close behind). Slug found Greg and proceeded to beat the stuffing out of him, with Abigail standing there, laughing.

# Values

Directions: Write down your reactions, thoughts and ideas about each of the characters of the story.

Abigail

Greg

Slug

Abigail's mother

Sinbad the Sailor