

Name: _____ Date: _____

"The Piglet, the Sheep, and the Goat"

Directions: Sometimes we become upset and complain about things that nothing can be done about. For instance, many adults complain and get upset about having to wait at stoplights. Some risk a traffic ticket or an accident and "run" the red light. Other times we complain about things that might be changed, but we don't do anything about them. For instance, we cannot find the shirt we want very much to wear, but it is in a heap under the bed and needs to be washed. Will we stop shoving shirts under the bed and neatly place them in a hamper to be washed from now on?

You have moved to a new house and are riding home on the school bus after the first day of school. You are the last student to be dropped off. The bus driver reaches a bus stop and orders you to leave because this is the end of the route. However, you know it is not your stop, and you must cross a dangerous street to get home from here. At school the next day, you tell all of your new friends about the mistake. In fact, you talk about it every chance you get, all day long. Your new friends begin drifting away from you and avoid you when they see you in the halls. That afternoon the same bus driver orders you off the bus at the same incorrect bus stop.

Explain why you complained so much all day. Describe why this situation is different from the complaining your friends do about having to ride a school bus every day. Describe what you could have done when the driver ordered you off the bus. Discuss what it is like to hear someone complain constantly about unimportant things, and what good it does to complain endlessly about things that need to be changed.