

## Two Families

Everyone's family is unique in its own way. Below are the stories of two different families. Read the stories. Then answer the questions that follow.

### ANIKA'S FAMILY

Anika was sad. She couldn't remember if she left her favorite headscarf at her mom's house or her dad's house. It was so hard to keep track. Anika's mom and dad got divorced three years ago. That means that they are not married to each other anymore, but she knows they both still love her and older brother Abdul. Anika wishes her dad still lived with them. He could always make her laugh when the other kids teased her about wearing her traditional headscarf. Now she couldn't even find her favorite one. When Anika's parents got divorced, her dad moved to a new house. Last year, Anika's dad married a lady named Claudia. Anika's dad and Claudia just had a baby named Sami. That makes Sami her half-brother. He is really fun to play with! Anika likes going to both parents' houses because they both have fun things to play with. Her mom lives in an apartment and it has a hamster and a play kitchen. Her dad lives in a huge house with a trampoline, a big dog named Puddles and now Baby Sami. Anika loves her family, even though living in two different houses means she can't always find her favorite things!

### AARON'S FAMILY

Aaron feels so happy. Today is the day his mom is going to graduate from college! Aaron's mom's family

didn't have enough money to send her to college when she was younger, so she had to wait until she made money herself. Aaron's mom is raising him and his sister Emma by herself. Since she doesn't have a lot of money, they live with their grandma, too. Their grandma stays with them when Aaron's mom is at her job or her college classes. Sometimes Aaron wishes he saw his mom more, but he knows she is going to college, so she can get a better job. He hopes that they will have more money when she gets a new job. Aaron feels embarrassed because he wears clothes and sneakers with holes in them since they have no money for new clothes. Sometimes they don't even have money to buy food. If she gets a new job, maybe she will buy Aaron a basketball, so he can play with the other kids. Aaron can't wait! Aaron's grandma always tells him that they are rich with love! He is going to clap the loudest when they call his mom's name at graduation today!

1. Name two things that are the same about both Anika's family and Aaron's family.

---

---

2. Name two things that are different about both Anika's family and Aaron's family.

---

---

# TEACHING TOLERANCE

A PROJECT OF THE SOUTHERN POVERTY LAW CENTER  
TOLERANCE.ORG

EARLY GRADES ACTIVITY

3. Name one thing that is the same about your family and Anika's or Aaron's family.

---

---

4. Name one thing that is different about your family and Anika's or Aaron's family.

---

---

5. Both Anika and Aaron have felt a little sad or embarrassed by feeling different from other kids. What advice would you give them?

---

---