

I Wish My Parents Would Get Back Together

Lots of children in divorced families wish their parents would get back together. They imagine their whole family living happily in one place. Sometimes children try to get their parents to make up or love each other again. But as much as you want your parents to get back together, the truth is, your wish will probably never come true. Divorced parents usually don't remarry each other or live together again. Once you realize this, you may feel sad. Your feelings are normal. The story, *Willy's Wishes and the Wise Wizard*, will help you talk about these feelings. Read the story, then answer the questions below.

How did Willy feel after his parents separated?

What special power does Willy (and each and every person) have? How does this special power help Willy?

Make a list of things that you *do* have:

Willy's Wishes and the Wise Wizard

This is a story about a boy named Willy. His real name is William but most people call him Willy. Willy was a typical kid; he liked to play computer games and ride his bike, and he preferred dessert to eating vegetables! Willy led a pretty normal, happy life until something bad happened... his parents separated. Then his whole life changed. He felt very sad and angry, but he did not want to talk about these feelings with anyone. Because of his sad, angry feelings, Willy sometimes did things he never used to, like wetting his bed. He often had a nervous feeling that would give him stomachaches. Nighttime was especially difficult because he had a hard time falling asleep, and he often had scary dreams. Willy stopped laughing and playing and having fun. He spent much of his time in his secret hiding spot, curled up in a little ball. He would lie there for hours and think about how much better things would be if his parents were still together.

One day, while in his secret hiding spot, he fell asleep and dreamed the most wonderful dream — that he had magical powers and could make wishes come true! So, he wished for a new shiny red bike, and for chocolate fudge cake for dessert every day, and for his parents to get back together and — poof! — his wishes came true! He felt so happy! But then something startled him, and he woke up and realized it was just a dream. No new shiny red bike. No chocolate fudge cake for dessert every day. And worst of all, his parents had not gotten back together. He felt so sad. He buried his head in his teddy bear and cried.

Willy lay there for a long time and, after awhile, he fell asleep again. This time, he dreamed that a wizard came to him — a very old, wise wizard, named Waldorf. He had a long white beard, and he wore a long purple cape with bright yellow shiny stars and a tall pointy hat to match. But he did not have a magic wand. “You can’t be a real wizard,” said Willy, “because you do not have a magic wand.” “Oh, but you see, my boy, I do not need a magic wand, for I have discovered a special power that does not require any magic.” “What kind of special power?” asked Willy. “Well,” replied Waldorf the Wizard, “It is a special power that will bring you happiness. It is the power to think about all that you have.” “Huh, what do you mean?” asked Willy. “Well, instead of thinking about what you *do not* have, just think about what you *do* have. And if you think about all that you have, this will bring you happiness.” “I wish I had that special power,” said Willy. “Ah, but you do have this special power,” replied Waldorf. “In fact, each and every person has this special power. They just have to use it.” “So you mean I have this special power?” asked Willy. “Yes! I’ll show you what I mean. First, think about what you do not have.” “Well,” said Willy, “I do not have a new shiny red bike. And I do not get to eat chocolate fudge cake for dessert every day. And worst of all, I do not have a mother and a father who live together.” “And how do you feel when you think about what you do not have?” “I feel bad,” replied Willy in a sad tone. “Now, think about what you *do* have.” “Well, let’s see, I have a bike that I got two years ago and it has a cool yellow banana seat that the kids on my street think is pretty neat. And I get chocolate fudge cake sometimes, like when it’s my birthday. And I have a mother and a father who love me.” “How do you feel now, as you think about what you *do* have?” “I feel better!” replied Willy with a smile on his face. “You see! You have the power to think about what you *do* have, and if you choose to use this power, you will feel better!” Just then, something startled Willy, and he woke up from his dream. He ran to his room and got a pen and paper. He made a list of all that he had. And whenever he started to feel sad, he looked at his list, and this made him feel better. “Wow!” he thought, “I do have special power!”