

Nothing got in the way of Dad's snooker. Sophie trudged upstairs to the bathroom and washed her hair while Jenny found her make-up set and searched for her missing bracelet. Sophie returned to the bedroom with dripping wet hair. As she scabbled behind a chest of drawers to plug in the hair dryer, her fingers happened to fall on the missing bracelet.

'I told you so!' she said. 'It must have fallen down the back.' She handed the bracelet to her sister.

Jenny was so relieved. 'Thanks,' she mumbled.

'It's OK. Here, you can dry my hair seeing as mum's not here.' Sophie plonked herself down on the chair in front of the mirror and handed the hairdryer to Jenny. Unknown to Sophie, Jenny had always wanted to dry her sister's long hair, just like a hairdresser would. She'd watched her mum do it hundreds of times and longed to have a turn.

'Would you like some coloured braids as well?' asked Jenny, 'I've done them for my friends.'

Sophie was tempted. 'Maybe...' she said, grudgingly. Then: 'Ok... but you'd better not mess it up.'

When Jenny finally finished, Sophie stood up, inspecting herself in the mirror. 'Not bad!' she said, which - for Sophie - was praise indeed. Then she added: 'Here, give me your make up. Sit there on the bed and face me.'

Downstairs, Dad's snooker was about to start and there was no sign of the girls. He frowned, puzzled that he couldn't hear anything. He was just about to go and investigate when they appeared.

'Wow!' gasped Dad. 'You both look great... I thought mum was too ill to help!'

The girls looked at each other with sheepish grins. 'She didn't,' they both answered simultaneously.

'We did each other,' added Sophie.

'Well?' asked Dad, when he picked the girls up from the disco. 'How was it?'

'Great!' said Sophie, 'and the other girls really loved my hair - especially the braids. Claire couldn't believe it was Jenny that had done it!'

'And my friends thought my make up was the best!' added Jenny.

For the second time that evening the girls smiled at each other. In the car Dad enjoyed a peaceful ride home as the girls swapped stories instead of arguing. But the biggest smile came from mum as the girls tiptoed in together to say goodnight, and that they hoped she'd be better soon.

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Reflection

Why do you think Sophie and Jenny argued so much?

What steps did the sisters take to get closer to each other?

Which of the people in the story had a happy ending to the evening?

What made them happy?

How do you think the girls felt about each other at the end of the evening?

We all argue with people from time to time. What sort of things cause that?

If you are in an argument with someone and you know you are right, is it important who wins?

What should happen after an argument?

Did Sophie and Jenny apologise to each other? Did they need to say sorry?

What kind of things can we do to help resolve conflict?

Why is it important to avoid conflict?