

Directions:

Pauline and Dale have very different opinions about having siblings. Read their views and answer the questions below.



I, Pauline, am an only child and I love it. First, when I was little I got all the attention. My grandparents, and even my parents to some extent, spoiled me. I got more presents and toys than I would have if I had brothers and sisters. Next, growing up we never had to schedule around kids' activities. I was it, so no waiting or giving up something or other because a brother or sister had a conflict or "dibs." Third, I always had my own room all to myself. There were no bigger or younger brothers and sisters to mess with my stuff or borrow things from me. Finally, and maybe best of all, I never had to stay home to watch a brother or sister or drag them along with me somewhere.



I, Dale, have an older brother and a younger sister, and I love being the middle child of three. First, there's always someone around to do things with, even if it's just watching TV. Second, in addition to all the stuff I have, there's my brother's and sister's stuff, too. Whatever I want or need is usually available to use or borrow. Third, having a brother and sister means there is always someone to talk to who understands what it's like to be a kid. We help each other with all kinds of things from homework to putting a united front on to the parents when we want something. Finally, and best of all, there are three of us to do the chores around the house, and we can even trade if we want to.

1. What do Pauline and Dale share in common? _____

2. Each person exalts the advantages of their situation and ignores the disadvantages.
One disadvantage Dale could point out to Pauline about being an only child is that it can be lonely. Name another. _____
One disadvantage Pauline could point out to Dale about having siblings is that there is little or no privacy. Name another. _____
3. Pauline and Dale have opposing views. Is one right and one wrong? Why or why not? _____

4. If you had to trade places with Pauline or Dale, which would you choose? _____
5. Describe your own situation: Are you an only child or do you have siblings? If you do, how many and where do you fall in the age range? _____
6. Are you happy with your situation as Pauline and Dale are, or would you rather it was a different way? Give your views and explain why. _____

Name: _____**Date:** _____