



Put the conversation back in order

Number these moments from 1 to 6. Underline the moment where Miriam starts treating delivery as a test rather than a way to communicate.

☐

The sisters make different arrangements for different deadline nights.

☐

Miriam practices the sentence until dry eyes become more important to her than the desk.

☐

Chaya asks for ten more minutes, and Miriam checks her own work before answering.

☐

Miriam asks Chaya to keep their agreed desk times, then leaves when her voice cracks.

☐

Miriam pauses during the kitchen-table discussion and then finishes her request.

☐

Mama asks whether a calm voice tells them how long the desk is used.



What does this prove?

Label each statement: E (evidence about the arrangement), D (delivery), or N (not enough information for a conclusion). Some statements can need discussion rather than one label. Choose one statement that could tempt a listener to jump to a conclusion. Write the missing question that would help.

Statement	Your label
Chaya uses the desk beyond her agreed turn on two evenings.	
Miriam's voice trembles.	
Chaya folds her arms.	
Miriam's drawing requires a flat surface.	
Chaya says she has more work.	
Miriam asks for a short pause and then continues.	

Question or explanation



Two paths, not two winners

Choose useful steps and draw arrows between their boxes. More than one route may fit; do not choose every box automatically.

Start

Miriam starts to cry while asking about the desk.

☐ Decide the calm person must have the better argument.

☐ Offer a brief pause or ask whether to continue.

☐ Return to the agreed times and the actual work each sister needs to do.

☐ Give Miriam everything because she cries.

☐ Ask what arrangement could meet both needs.

☐ Check that each sister understands the new arrangement.

☐ Require Miriam to start over until her voice never trembles.

Finish

A clear arrangement, not a prize for a particular kind of face or voice.



What she notices, what she decides

For each story clue, finish two separate lines. "What is observable here?" "What can't I know from this clue alone?" Optional: Add a support Miriam can request while continuing. You do not need to disclose personal experiences or demonstrate these sensations.

Observation	What is not established	Question / next action
Story clue: Miriam's throat tightens.		
Story clue: A tear slips down her cheek.		
Story clue: Chaya looks disappointed after Miriam says no to more time.		



A request without a courtroom

Use a fictional situation of your choice: sharing a desk, choosing a quiet work time, or arranging use of art supplies. No real names or private family details are needed.

What is the existing arrangement?

What specific part isn't working?

What do I need to ask for?

What question should I ask the other person?

What can I say if I need a short pause?

Write an opening of at most three sentences. Leave three lines for an answer you have not prepared. You may use Miriam.



Small reminders

**Look at the
actual request.**

**A pause can
leave room to
continue.**

**Tears don't
decide the
answer.**

**Calm doesn't
prove a claim.**

**Ask what each
person needs.**

**Leave space for
the reply.**

Choose one reminder for a listener and one for a speaker. Explain why the same reminder might not help in every situation.



A table with room to listen

Create a line-art illustration or visual map of the kitchen-table conversation. It may be object-only: two folders, a glass, a tissue box, a clock and empty space between them. Color or shade each object's role. Add short labels showing which objects offer support and which supply actual information about the arrangement. A clock records time; a tissue offers comfort. Neither records every fact about fairness. Do not use red faces or tear symbols to label one person wrong.

Your scene, labels and captions



Find the conversation words

Find eight words, all left to right. Choose two and connect each to a specific scene in the story.

Q	R	E	Q	U	E	S	T	M	N
P	A	U	S	E	R	T	W	B	C
D	L	I	S	T	E	N	A	F	G
N	E	E	D	S	H	P	K	L	M
R	S	P	A	C	E	O	Q	T	U
A	N	S	W	E	R	V	X	Y	Z
C	V	O	I	C	E	J	K	M	P
L	A	G	R	E	E	N	O	R	S
T	I	S	S	U	E	B	O	X	D
W	O	R	K	C	L	O	C	K	F

REQUEST

NEEDS

VOICE

PAUSE

SPACE

AGREE

LISTEN

ANSWER



Parent notes and answers

Do not use this story to grade a child's emotional control or to make tears a bargaining method. Its distinction is about evidence: assess the request and the behavior described, while offering support for emotion. Neither sister automatically wins.

Three questions: Which parts of Miriam's request can be checked? What does Chaya need on deadline nights? What changes after the family stops using calmness as proof?

One tool: Separate "How shall we support this conversation?" from "What are we deciding?" Offer a pause without erasing the topic. A child need not perform perfectly to ask for help. A pause should not become an indefinite way to avoid an important matter; arrange a suitable return time with adult support when needed.

1. Listed order: 5, 3, 6, 1, 4, 2. Underline the second listed moment.
2. Suggested labels: E; D; N (folded arms are observable, but not enough to prove a motive or a position); E; N until the workload and relevant nights are discussed; D/support process. A sentence spoken calmly is still a claim to examine. Alternate labels are acceptable with sound reasons.
3. Use offer pause/continue, return to times/work, ask needs, check understanding. Reject automatic winners and a no-trembling test.
4. Observations are the named clues. They do not alone establish fairness, manipulation, dislike, intent, or whether the request should be granted. Support could include water, a pause, writing one point, or adult help, chosen rather than imposed.
5. Open responses. No compulsory personal sharing.
6. Open responses. No compulsory personal sharing.
7. Open responses. No compulsory personal sharing.
8. REQUEST row 1 columns 2-8; PAUSE row 2 columns 1-5; LISTEN row 3 columns 2-7; NEEDS row 4 columns 1-5; SPACE row 5 columns 2-6; ANSWER row 6 columns 1-6; VOICE row 7 columns 2-6; AGREE row 8 columns 2-6.