

SASKIA. (*aged 7*)

The river flows like a leaf in the sky, floating to the ground
Me and my friends are flowing along, our lives together
The nature we see is helping us
I hope me and everybody has a good life

YANI. My boys were to meet their friends this morning. I had organised to meet the bank manager. We had our wires crossed - our appointments were at the same time. I hadn't told them, but anyway, our little girl needed looking after and it *certainly* was the boys' turn to do something for me; *all during the holidays* we had been doing stuff *for them*. But they wanted to go rollerblading with their friends, Yani said. I was fuming, this was the *one important appointment* I had this week and we were *all the time* doing things they wanted to do and I was under *a lot of stress* these days and now I needed *their help* and I had to go *now*, I was late already. They saw my fury and relented. They hung their heads low and Yani protested, "*thanks a lot, Dad - you really spoiled our day.*" I stormed out. As soon as the door fell into its lock I stopped in my tracks. My fury was gone - I knew my children were right. I went back and apologised. Yani said, "that's ok, Dad."

see also GOING BROKE

RADJIN. Our kids were primary-schoolers when we divorced. They lived with their mother but came to visit for the holidays. One day, when it was time to go back, Radjin said, "Dad, I want to live with you now." "Sure, call Mum and let her know." When he spoke to her, she said, "ok, I'll send your stuff down." She later told me that she nearly died when he called her. A few months later Rad said, "Dad, I think I want to go back and live with Mum again." I said, "no worries, mate, give her a call." He never made the call ... and he never mentioned it again.