

Causative Verbs: *Neighborhood Gossip*

Directions for the teacher: Write the list of prompts on the board. Tell students to imagine living in the same neighborhood with all the people listed on the board. Each student must repeat all the gossip s/he has heard *and* share a new piece of gossip. Each piece of gossip must use a causative verb. In short, this is a memory game. Have students sit in a circle. Model:

- Student A asks Student B (on the left): *Have you heard about Mr. Jones?*
- Student B replies: *No, what? / No, tell me.*
- Student A then shares the gossip: *Mr. Jones **let** his dog eat all the flowers in Mrs. Greenwood's garden.*
- Student B reacts appropriately: *Oh my! Really? Etc.*
- Student B to Student C (on the left): *Guess what? Mr. Jones **let** his dog eat all the flowers in Mrs. Greenwood's garden...and you know what else? Mrs. Greenwood **got** her son to build a fence around her garden so the dog can't get in anymore.*
- Student C must address Student D (on the left) and pass on all the gossip and, of course, add a new piece of gossip. The game continues until all students have had a turn to spread some gossip. Allow previous speakers to help the current one to recall information if necessary.

PROMPTS:

Mr. Jones – his dog

Mrs. Greenwood – her son

The Smiths – their grandchildren

Doctor Woodson – his wife

Mrs. Woodson – her husband, the doctor

Mr. McCormick – the delivery men

The Hancocks – their sixteen-year-old daughter

Professor Ray – his ex-wife

Gwen Ray – her ex-husband, the professor

Ms. Sanchez – the mailman (mail carrier)

Mr. Benson – the trash collectors

Doctor Paul – his cats

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