She turned away, patting his cheek as she did so.

At first, joy filled Jimmy. Joy and pride. *I'm the one who's right*, he thought, dazed. *My mother was wrong. Actually wrong.* She admitted it.

And then came a queer and a frightening sense of loss, as well as of gain. It was like being alone, high up on a precipice where the footing was slippery with moss. Jimmy felt he had to be careful of each step. He had always been sure, even in his anger, of being able to depend on the wisdom of his father and mother. They'd always been right.

But not any more. Now they might be wrong. And Jimmy would have to decide.

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**After Reading**

1. State the significance of the title of the story. Suggest an alternative that you feel works as well as the author’s title.

2. Explain why the author includes Jimmy’s recollection of swimming to the raft after his father had refused him permission to try.

3. Describe in your own words the feelings Jimmy experienced in the last two paragraphs of the story.

4. Create a storyboard for a montage of shots that captures the events of the hike Jimmy and Paul go on in the story. Select a song for the soundtrack accompanying this segment in a film version of the story.

5. In your journal, write an account of a time your parents or guardians supported you in a difficult decision you had to make.

6. With a partner, write a short anecdote based on humorous dialogue you heard recently at home, in the classroom, or around the school. Use the dialogue in this story as a model for correctly punctuating the direct speech in your anecdote.

7. With a small group, rewrite this story into a play. Be prepared to present your play to the class.