



### **Parent-School Communication Scenario I**

**The following scenario provides an example of how communication can be difficult for some parents and teachers. By answering the following questions, use this story to reflect upon ways that improved communication can help increase student academic achievement.**

Ben is a single father of an 11-year-old girl, Stephanie, who is in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Ben missed the Open House meeting at the beginning of the school year because of work, but he promised that he would find time to introduce himself to Stephanie's teacher at some point. Everyday Ben watches his daughter board the school bus and every night he asks Stephanie how school is going. Ben never sees Stephanie bring any work home, but Stephanie explains that her teacher does not give homework. According to Stephanie, she likes school and her teacher and has a lot of friends. Ben sends a note to school with Stephanie asking the teacher about the homework policy, but never hears back.

Ben decides one morning to bring Stephanie to school and try to talk with her teacher before classes start. As Ben approaches the classroom, he catches the teacher walking out of the room rushing to a meeting. The teacher glances at her watch and states that she is already late. She briefly explains that Stephanie is not performing up to her potential because she is too busy talking with her friends and because she never turns in any homework. With a quick apology, the teacher brushes past Ben in a hurry to make her meeting.

1. How do you think Ben is feeling now? What type of relationship do you think Ben and the teacher will have?
2. Identify the communication barriers that exist for Ben. How can he possibly overcome these barriers?
3. What are some possible benefits that will result from improving the communication between Ben and the teacher?
4. What are some possible method(s) of communication to help Ben and the teacher?
5. As a parent, what might you have done differently?
6. How can Ben be more engaged to help his daughter do well academically?