

INTERACT

A RISING STARS PLAY



Step Wars

INTERACT
INLEBACH

STEP WARS

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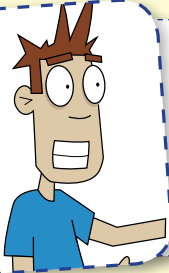
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CHARACTERS



Jay

Jay's parents are divorced. His mum has married again and his new step-family is moving in. Worst of all, Jay has to share his room with his new step-brother, Conor.

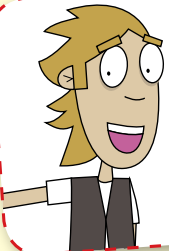
Ross

Jay's best mate at school. Ross's parents are divorced too, and Ross is always on hand to give advice.



Conor

Conor is just as unhappy about things as Jay. Jay and Ross are football mad. Conor thinks football is boring. He likes music, drumming and being in a band.



Characters

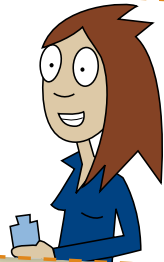


Rashid

Conor's mate and fellow band member.

Amy

Jay's younger sister. She tries to help Jay and Conor get along. But Amy thinks Conor's band is cool, which really annoys Jay!



Narrator

The narrator tells the story.



Scene 1

MOVING IN

Narrator Jay is on the phone to his best mate, Ross.



Ross What's up, mate?

Jay Today is the day.

Ross Oh. When?

Jay Any time now. I am *so* dreading it.

Ross You will get used to it. *I* did.

Jay No way. I can't forgive Mum for this.

Step Wars

Ross She has to have a life of her own you know.

Jay Yeah, but she doesn't have to ruin ours!

Ross I thought Amy was okay about it?

Jay Yes, well, she gets to keep her room, doesn't she? She isn't the one who has to share with a complete stranger.

Ross Conor is not exactly a stranger.

Jay Look, whose side are you on?

Ross Yours, mate. Remember, I have been there too!

Jay Don't give me all that happy step-family stuff!

Ross I am just saying you *do* get used to it. I did.

Scene 1 Moving in

Jay Well, I don't want to get used to it.
I want things the way they were,
just Mum, me and Amy.

Ross Well, that's not going to happen.
Not now your mum has married him.

Jay I hate it. I hate them! And most of all
I hate having to share my room
with that hippy Conor!

Narrator Conor is on his way to Jay's house.
He is on the phone to his best mate,
Rashid.

Conor I am *so* not
looking forward
to this.



Rashid It will be okay, you'll see.

Conor Why can't my parents stay together like yours?

Rashid Mine just row all the time.
I think they'd miss it!

Conor I don't want to move.

Rashid I thought it looked like a nice house.

Conor But it's not our house, is it?
Why can't we all live in Dad's house?
That way I'd get to keep my room.

Rashid I've told you. The grown-ups make the choices.
We just pick up the pieces!

Conor Well, it's not fair. I don't want to move.
And I really don't want to share a room with him.

Rashid That is a bit of a bummer, I agree.

Conor All he talks about is football.

Scene 1 Moving in

Rashid Bummer.

Conor He's got football posters
all over the walls.

Rashid Double bummer!

Conor I mean, what have we got in common?

Rashid Um, you are family now I suppose.
Well, step-family.

Conor Thanks, mate. You're a great help!

Narrator Conor and his dad arrive at Jay's house.
Jay's mum and Amy are there to help
them move in.

Amy Hi Conor. I'll help you move your stuff
into your room.

Conor Don't you mean Jay's room?

Amy It's your room as well now!

Conor Does Jay see it like that?

Step Wars

Amy He'll have to. He can be a bit stubborn.
But he'll come round, you'll see.
What's that?

Conor It's my drum kit. Well, part of it.

Amy Wow! Are you a drummer? That's cool.

Conor Drums are great. I don't think about
anything else when I'm drumming.

Amy I'd love to hear you play.

Conor Oh, I am sure you will!
That is, if Jay lets me play them
in his room. I mean, in our room.

Amy Leave Jay to me. I'm used to him!

Narrator Amy shows Conor to the room
he will share with Jay.

Amy This is your room, Conor.
Conor and his dad are here, Jay.

Conor All right, Jay?

Jay What's all that?

Conor It's just my clothes and stuff.

Jay No, I mean *that*.

Amy That's Conor's drum kit.
He plays the drums.
How cool is that?

Jay You can't play them in here.

Amy Don't listen to him, Conor.
I'll help you set them up
if you like.

Conor Rashid's going to bring
the rest of the kit later.
He plays the guitar.



Step Wars

Amy Cool! What kind of stuff do you play?

Conor Indie, mainly.

Amy I love Indie.

Jay Oi, you two!
In case you haven't noticed,
I'm trying to play a game here.

Narrator Conor looks over Jay's shoulder.

Conor What level are you on?

Jay Level five, why?

Conor Oh, it's good that one.
I got to level six last week.
We can have a game together
if you like.

Jay No thanks. My mate Ross
is coming round later.

Scene 1 Moving in

Conor Oh. Well, I suppose I had better get unpacked anyway.

Amy Did you clear some space for Conor, Jay?

Jay Why don't *you* clear some space Amy, since you two are such good mates?

Narrator Jay storms out. On the way, he kicks the drum kit. It sounds like thunder!



Scene 2

THE BLUE LINE

Narrator The next day, Conor has band practice. He gets back to find Jay has been up to something in their room.

Conor What's this?

Jay What does it look like?

Conor It looks like a blue line.

Jay You're not as stupid as you look.

Conor So what's it for?

Scene 2 The blue line

Jay Isn't it obvious? This is *my* side.
That is *your* side.

Conor You *are* kidding?

Jay Do I look like I'm kidding?

Conor But that's crazy.

Jay You keep to your half,
that's all I am saying.

Conor But I can't get to the TV!

Narrator Jay grabs the TV remote
and puts it on the blue line.

Jay Sorted.

Conor What about the light switch?
It's in your half!

Jay So you get a lamp your side.
Easy.

Conor Mate, this is going too far.
Are you being serious?

Jay First off, I am being serious.
Secondly, I'm not your mate
or your brother. A week ago,
this was *my* room.

Conor Do you honestly think
I want to be your mate
or your brother? No way!
A week ago I had my own room too.

Jay Pity you didn't stay there.

Narrator Amy comes into the room.

Amy What's all the shouting about?

Conor Have you seen what your
stupid brother has done?



Scene 2 The blue line

Amy Jay?

Jay I've just marked out *my* bit
and *his* bit. See?

Amy Oh Jay!

Jay Look, you can shut up.
You're not the one having to share.

Conor Don't tell her to shut up!

Jay She's my sister not yours.
I'll tell her to shut up if I want!

Amy Just stop arguing!
It's like living in a war zone!

Jay You said it. He's the invader!

Conor I don't even want to be here!

Jay Well, that's something we agree on.

Conor It's not my fault your mum
married my dad. We were doing fine
before she came along!

Step Wars

Jay And we were doing fine too,
weren't we, Amy?

Amy Don't drag me into it!

Jay We were fine.
Everything was fine before.

Conor Just how I feel.

Jay None of this mess is my fault.

Conor It's not my fault either, stupid!

Jay Don't call me stupid!

Narrator The doorbell rings.

Amy I'll go. You two sort yourselves out!

Narrator Amy goes to the door. It is Rashid
with the rest of Conor's drum kit.

Amy Hello.

Rashid Hi. You must be Amy. I'm Rashid.

Amy Conor's friend? You play the guitar, don't you?

Rashid He told you?

Amy I *so* want to hear your music.

Rashid Cool! Is Conor in?

Amy Yeah. He's upstairs.
I'm afraid my brother Jay
is being a bit stupid.

Rashid Step wars, huh?

Amy Something like that!

Rashid It'll work out. They just need to find
something in common.
Is Jay into music?

Amy If you can call
thrash metal, music!

Rashid Bummer!



Step Wars

Amy Are you and Conor into football?

Rashid Not really, only the big matches.

Amy Not much in common then.
Jay and his mates are football mad.

Rashid What about you, are you into music?

Amy I love music. I do a bit of singing.

Rashid Really? Nice one!

Narrator Amy helps Rashid carry the rest of
Conor's drum kit up to the boys'
bedroom. Jay and Conor
aren't talking to each other.

Rashid Hi Conor.

Conor Hi Rash.

Rashid You must be Jay.

Narrator Jay doesn't reply.

Amy Jay, I think Ross wants you.

Jay Ross is here?

Narrator Jay follows Amy downstairs.

Jay So where's Ross?

Amy I made that up to get you out of there.
But I think Ross needs to talk
some sense into you!
You can't go on like this.

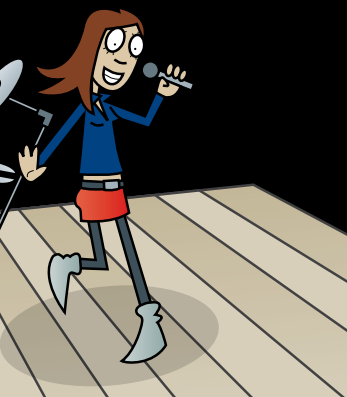
Jay Like what?

Amy These step wars! We all have to
get along ... or at least try to.

Jay Why should we?
We hardly know each other.

Amy Don't be stupid. We have to try,
because we have to live together.





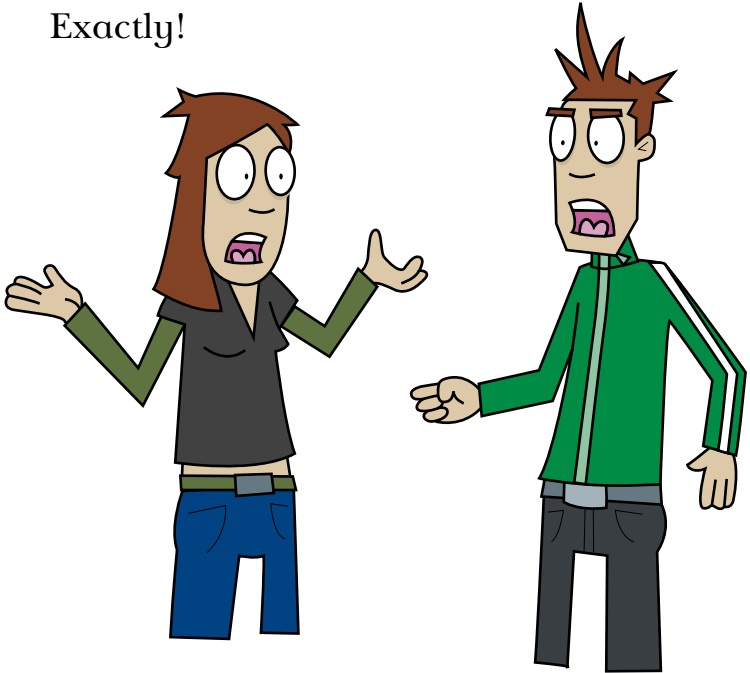
Jay But I don't want that.
I want things the way they were,
just you, me and Mum.

Amy You don't have to want it, Jay.
You just have to deal with it.

Jay I am dealing with it.

Amy By painting a blue line
down the middle of the bedroom?

Jay Exactly!



Scene 3

A DECISION

Narrator Conor is on the phone to Rashid.

Rashid So she can really sing?

Conor Amy is a brilliant singer.

Rashid Do you think she's up for singing in the band?

Conor I think so. She loves our stuff.
I played her that CD we made.

Rashid Go on, ask her. If we want to enter this contest, we need a girl singer.

Conor I'll ask her. There's only one problem.

Rashid Jay?

- Conor** Got it in one.
Jay hates Amy even talking to me.
- Rashid** What is his problem?
- Conor** He thinks she's gone over to the enemy!
- Rashid** He needs to grow up!
- Conor** I know how he feels. We don't want to be brothers, live in the same house or share the same room.
- Rashid** Well, that's something you have in common!
- Conor** Exactly, but he can't see it.
- Rashid** Well, we can't let Jay stand in Amy's way. She'll make a great lead singer.
- Conor** We don't have much time to practise.
- Rashid** I know. We need to get going!
- Conor** I'll ask Amy today. Jay can't stop her being in the band.

Narrator Jay and Ross are on their way back from a football match.



Jay Did you see that goal?
Slam! In the back of the net!

Ross It was a real banana!

Jay I just scooped it in!

Ross Looks like you scooped up
half the pitch! Look at your kit.
Your mum will go mad.

Jay Who cares? I've stopped worrying
about Mum. She doesn't
worry about me!

Ross That's not true. Your mum's great.

Jay *Was* great. Before she met *him*.

Ross Things are no better then?

Jay How can they be? My room
isn't my own any more. And Conor's
dad thinks he can ground me.

Step Wars

- Ross** What did your mum say?
- Jay** That's the worst bit. She sticks up for him, against me. It's so unfair.
- Ross** Yeah, well I've been there.
It does get better! With time.
- Jay** You keep saying that!
But it's getting worse.
- Ross** How?
- Jay** It would be okay if Amy was on my side.
- Ross** She's not?
- Jay** (*mimics Amy*)
"Conor is so cool. Rashid is so cool.
They play in a band."
So they play in a band. So what?
- Ross** Have you heard it, the band I mean?

Jay I've heard his drums!
I think he imagines he's beating
his sticks on my head!

Ross Well, it sounds like a good way
to get rid of anger! Anyway ...
that goal, mate!
Bang in the back of the net!

Jay It was good, wasn't it?



Narrator Amy hears Jay and Ross come in.

Amy Hey guys.

Ross Hi Amy.

Amy Good match?

Ross Wicked! Jay got this amazing goal.
He saw his chance and ...

Amy Guess what?

Jay Mum and Jeff have split up
and we've got our house back!

Amy Don't be stupid!

Jay Jeff has got it into his thick head
that he is *not* my dad.

Amy Stop it, Jay. Conor and Rashid
have asked me to join their band!

Jay *You?* In their band!
What as?

Amy As the lead singer!

Ross Well, you are a good singer, Amy.

Jay Shut up Ross, whose side are you on?

Ross Well, no one's side. I was just saying ...

Jay Well don't.

Amy You can't stop me, Jay.

Jay I don't get it. Why are you doing this?

Amy Because I like their music
and I want to be a singer.

Jay (*mimics Amy*)
"I like their music and I want
to be a singer."
Get real, Amy. Conor is just
doing this to get at *me*.



Step Wars

Amy Oh, grow up! He's doing this because they want to enter a contest. They need a girl singer.

Jay And it has to be you?

Amy I want it to be me!
They want it to be me.
Conor heard me sing and ...

Ross Nice one, Amy. I always thought ...

Jay Shut up, Ross. He is just getting back at me for the blue line.

Ross Oh yeah. So how *is* that working by the way?

Amy It isn't. Jay has to cross the line to get to his clothes.
Conor has to cross it to get out of the room. How stupid is that?

Jay But most of the time he knows to stay on his side!

Amy You can be so childish, Jay!

Jay And you are *so* grown up.
A lead singer in a band!

Amy That's right. I'm a lead singer
in Conor's band ... and if you
don't like it, then I don't care.

Jay Fine! Come on Ross.
Let's leave her to it.

Ross See you, Amy.
(*whispers*) I think you'll be great.

Amy (*whispers*) Thanks, Ross.



Scene 4

WINNERS ALL ROUND?

Narrator Jay and Ross are on the Internet.

Ross Any luck?

Jay Nothing.

Ross Try somewhere else.

Jay Where? We've tried everywhere.

Ross This is mad!

Jay Our team gets to the final
and we can't get tickets!

Scene 4 Winners all round?

Ross Well, we could.
We just can't afford them.

Jay It's not fair.

Narrator Amy comes in.

Amy See you at the sports hall, guys.

Jay What?

Amy Ross knows where.

Jay What are you talking about?

Ross Um ... Amy is singing tonight.
I said we'd go.

Jay You said what?

Ross Come on, Jay. It might be fun.

Jay Oh, my day just got better!
First we can't get tickets for the big match.
Now you want me to go to some
stupid band contest. No way!

Step Wars

Amy Please, Jay.

Ross Amy said there will be food and stuff.

Jay What kind of mate are you, Ross?

Amy Go on. Say you'll come.
Do it for me?

Ross They might even win!

Jay Great! So Conor's head
gets even bigger.

Ross What's the prize, Amy?

Amy The band gets played on local radio.

Jay Big deal!

Amy Oh, there is something else.
I forget what it is ...

Jay Never mind. You won't win!

Ross Don't be like that, Jay!
Amy is a great singer.

Jay Well, *you* go then.

Amy Please, Jay.

Jay All right. I give in. I will go, but only to see Conor's face when they say his band is rubbish!

Narrator The band practises all day.
Now the contest is about to begin.

Conor This is it, guys. Good luck everyone!

Rashid Good luck, Amy! Just enjoy it.

Amy I will. I just hope Jay and Ross have made it.

Narrator Amy peeps out to see.

Amy They came! Jay and Ross are right at the front, see?

Conor I hope Jay won't boo us!

Rashid Or throw eggs at us!



Narrator Jay and Ross are eating popcorn.

Jay How much longer?

Ross They're about to start. Hang on.

Jay I still think they're only doing this to get at me!

Narrator The contest begins. Conor's band is the last to play.

Amy Some of these other bands are really good!

Conor Don't panic! We're going to be the best, you'll see.

Rashid Come on, guys. It's our turn.

Narrator Conor's band plays their song. It goes really well and the crowd love it.

Ross Listen to that, Jay! They loved it. You must admit that they're good.

Jay Must I?

Ross Oh, come on, Jay. They were great!

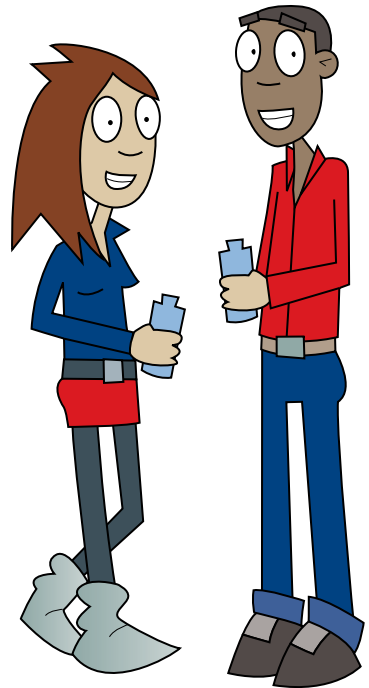
Jay Hmmm, I suppose they were okay.
Shush! What's happening?

Narrator The first results are in. Three bands have got to the final. Conor's band is one of them.

Ross There's Amy.
Let's say good luck.

Amy Isn't this amazing?

Ross You were great,
all of you.
Good luck in the final!



Jay Yeah, your band was okay.
You sang well, Amy. But it's no big deal,
is it? I mean, local radio.
It's hardly The X Factor!

Amy But that's not the only prize.
Didn't I say? The winner gets
five tickets for the big match.

Jay You're kidding?

Ross Amy, that's brilliant.
Go out there and win it!

Conor Are you coming, Amy?
We're on first. Jay, what did you think?

Jay (*after a long pause*) I think you did okay,
mate ... in fact, better than okay –
I think you can win this!

Ross Me too. So go for it!

Conor Thanks, guys.

Rashid Yes, thanks, guys.

Ross We'll be cheering all the way!

Conor Really? That means a lot.

Jay Yes, really. We're right behind you!
We really want you to win,
don't we, Ross?

Ross We really, really do!

Amy Thanks! We'll try.

Narrator The band goes up to play.
Jay and Ross clap and cheer them.

Jay They're great, aren't they, Ross?

Ross Totally!



Step Wars

Jay Do you think they will win?

Ross Let's hope so! Five tickets for the final!

Narrator All the bands have played.
It is time for the result. Conor's band
has done it. They've won!

Conor I can't believe it!

Rashid Nor can I!

Amy It's wicked!

Conor We get to go on the radio!

Narrator The band get their prize.
Then there's a party. Jay and Ross
are first there.

Jay (*slapping Conor on the back*)
Brilliant, mate!

Conor Thanks, Jay.

Ross We always knew you would win!

Rashid Thanks, guys.

Conor Hey, I was thinking.
You two are into football, aren't you?

Jay and Ross (*together*)
Just a bit.

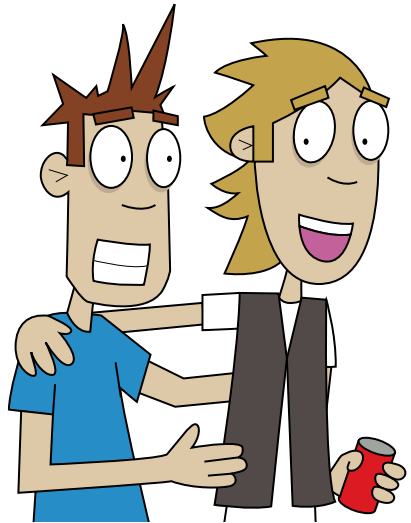
Conor Do you want to come to the big match?
We have five tickets. We can all go.

Amy Thanks, Conor. That's really sweet.

Conor So what do you say, guys?

Jay The big match?
All five of us?
Thanks, Bro.

Rashid and Ross (*together*)
Looks like things
just got better!



IN THE CHATROOM...

While you are surfing the net, you see this message written by Conor on a chatroom message board:

Message posted by

Conorlovesdrums



Tues 4.30 p.m.

I've just moved in with my dad's new wife. She's ok and so is her daughter but my new step-brother is a nightmare! 😞

He's just painted a line down the middle of our bedroom to keep us apart!

I think it's mad but how can I deal with him? Help! 😞

- Write a reply to Conor, offering him some good advice.

ROLE PLAY ...

In your group, each choose a character from the play and create the following scene.

- Jay and Conor are arguing.
- Amy walks in and tries to make them be nice to one another.
- Ross and Rashid walk in. They also try to make things better.
- Remember to think about your body language as well as what you actually say.

Tip: The person who plays the narrator could observe the role play and give feedback on how well it worked.

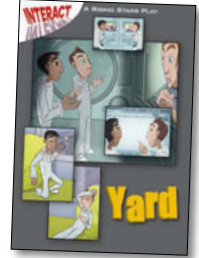
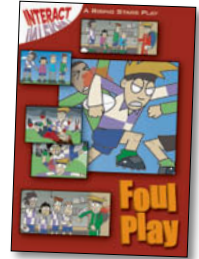
IN THE HOT SEAT ...

Choose one person to be Amy. Think back to Scene 3 where Amy tells Jay that she is in Conor's band. Everyone else asks Amy questions, e.g.

- How did Jay's reaction make you feel?
- Did Ross's support help you?
- Will you stay in the band even if your brother is against it?



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INTEFACT



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STEP WARS

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Jay

Jay's parents are divorced. His mum has married again and his new step-family is moving in. Worst of all, Jay has to share his room with his new step-brother, Conor.

Ross

Jay's best mate at school. Ross's parents are divorced too, and Ross is always on hand to give advice.



Conor

Conor is just as unhappy about things as Jay. Jay and Ross are football mad. Conor thinks football is boring. He likes music, drumming and being in a band.



Rashid

Conor's mate and fellow band member.

Amy

Jay's younger sister. She tries to help Jay and Conor get along. But Amy thinks Conor's band is cool, which really annoys Jay!



Narrator

The narrator tells the story.

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