

Molly was the only little girl on her street, but when she was eight years old, another girl came to live in the house opposite hers. The new girl was eight years old too, and her name was Joan. Joan had two brothers. She didn't go to the same school as Molly, but they soon began to play together after school.

One day Joan came home, had her milk and cookies, and then went to Molly's house. She said to her friend, "Hi, Molly. Will you come to my house to play? I've got a nice new game."

Molly answered, "I'm sorry, Joan, but my Mother won't let me play with you today, because your brother George has a bad cold, and she doesn't want me to get it, too."

"Oh, that's all right, Molly," Joan answered quickly. "George isn't really my brother. He's my step-brother."