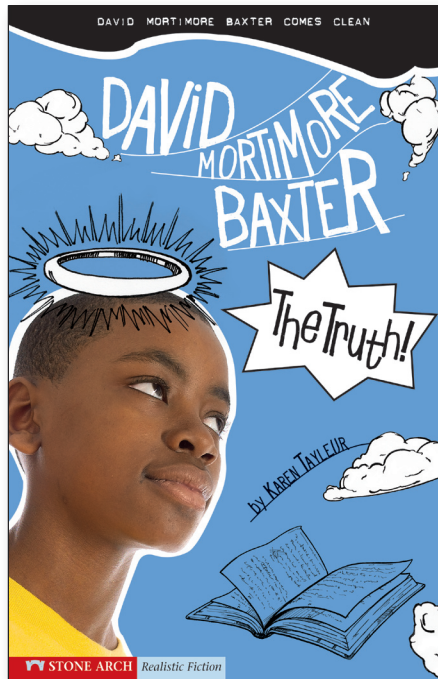




## READER'S THEATER (Teacher's Version)



### **The Truth!** **by Karen Tayleur**

PAPERBACK ISBN: 978-1-59889-210-9  
HARDCOVER ISBN: 978-1-59889-078-5

**Characters:**

- David's Thoughts** — reads above grade level
- David** — reads at grade level
- Mom** — reads slightly above grade level
- Harry** — reads below grade level
- Dad** — reads slightly below grade level
- Zoe** — struggling reader

**Genre:** Realistic Fiction

**Ages:** 9-13

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# The Truth! page 1

**David's Thoughts:**

Hi. I'm David Mortimore Baxter. This has been the worst week of my life. It all started a week ago. I got caught telling a lie. Again. The truth is, I used to have a lying habit. I lied because sometimes the truth can be boring. Last Saturday night Mom was getting upset and it was all Rose Thornton's fault.

**Mom:**

Come on, David. Let's go! We're running late.

**David:**

Ohhhhhh. Ooooooh. I don't feel so good.

**Mom:** (Sighing)

I'll get the thermometer.

**David's Thoughts:**

My family had been invited to the Thornton's house for dinner. I didn't want to go. My sister, Zoe, was staying home, so I pretended to be sick.

**Mom:**

Open up, David. Here's the thermometer.

**David:**

Mmmmmmmghghh.

**David's Thoughts:**

When Mom left the room to give Zoe instructions for the night, I shoved the thermometer in my dog Boris's mouth. I grabbed it from the dog just as my mom returned.

**Mom:**

Hmmm. I'm not sure this is working. Let's try it again. Open your mouth.

**David's Thoughts:**

Now I really did feel sick. There was no way I wanted that thing in my mouth after Boris had it in his. I must have looked really ill, because my mom suddenly forgot about the thermometer.

**Mom:**

David, maybe we should cancel tonight and we'll all stay home. I'll just call the Thorntons and reschedule.

**David:**

No!

**David's Thoughts:**

I said that too quickly and with too much energy for someone who was sick. I flopped back down on the bed.

**David:**

No. I'll be fine here with Zoe. I'll probably just sleep.

**Mom:**

Well, I'm not sure about this.

## The Truth! page 2

- David:** Mom, really. There's no point in everyone staying home.
- David's Thoughts:** I said this with a brave smile.
- Mom:** All right. I'll leave the Thorntons' phone number with Zoe in case she needs to call us. Now you get into your pajamas and hop under the covers. I'll check on you when I get back.
- David's Thoughts:** When she patted my cheek softly, I felt like a jerk. My brother, Harry, came in before they left.
- Harry:** You're not sick. What am I going to do at the Thorntons' without you? They'll probably want me to hang out with Rose or something.
- David:** Give Rose a kiss for me!
- Harry:** Yuck!
- David's Thoughts:** I could tell Harry wanted to punch me.
- Dad:** Come on, Harry.
- David's Thoughts:** When Harry left my room he had a weird smile on his face. I should have paid more attention to that smile. After the rest of my family left, Zoe stuck her head through my bedroom doorway.
- Zoe:** Sick?
- David:** Nope.
- Zoe:** Cool.
- David's Thoughts:** After eating a few snacks, I decided to play Spies with Boris. Spies is a game my friends and I made up one rainy weekend. I decided to make a spy headquarters on top of a mountain, using the pillows and blankets from my bed. Making a mountain was hard work, so I grabbed something to drink from the kitchen. When I got back to my room, Boris had made a tunnel through the mountain.
- David:** Get out of there, Captain Boris! You're messing up the fort!

## The Truth! page 3

**David's Thoughts:**

I crawled under the blanket and found Boris munching on some potato chips.

**David:**

Those are the rations! You're not supposed to be eating them yet.

**David's Thoughts:**

I yanked the bag out of Boris' mouth and as I did, I fell backward, sending chips flying through the air. That is when I realized I had company.

**Mom:**

David Mortimore Baxter!

**David's Thoughts:**

I looked over at my bedroom doorway. There stood Harry with the same weird smile he had given me when he had left. Next to him stood Rose Thornton, shaking her head and Mom was looming over both of them.

**Mom:**

You've really done it this time, David.

**David's Thoughts:**

These events were the beginning of the worst week of my life. I was going to discover how hard it was to tell the truth and how often I lied. Read my story, *David Mortimore Baxter: The Truth!* and find out what my punishment was for lying about being sick, how Rose Thornton schemed to catch me in more lies, and all the trouble I got in for telling the truth.

**THE END**