

Devin and Shawn were cousins. They lived next door to each other, and their parents wanted them to do the same activities. It always seemed like a competition, but Devin never won. Devin watched Shawn shoot baskets in the driveway. He heard the swish of the net as Shawn nailed every shot. Devin raised his eyebrows and wished he had skills like his cousin. Shawn was a natural athlete and excelled at sports. He was the only sixth grade player who started each game. Devin had tried out for basketball but got cut from the team because he couldn't dribble a basketball.

Devin grumbled to himself and went in the house to start his homework. He whipped through his social studies homework, and then finished reading two chapters of a novel. Next he quickly reviewed his spelling list for the upcoming spelling competition. Devin had won the district spelling competition almost every year, except for one year when he was sick. Most of Devin's friends had to practice spelling, but for Devin, it came naturally.

After finishing his homework, Devin went over to Shawn's house to play video games. As Devin walked up to the house, he could hear Shawn and his mom talking through the door. Shawn's mom was scolding him for spending so much time playing basketball and getting behind in his reading. Shawn was mumbling about how he wished he were smart like Devin so school wouldn't take so much effort. Devin was shocked. Shawn was jealous of him? That was weird; he had always thought that he was the one who was jealous of Shawn. As Devin thought about Shawn's words, he realized that they each had their own talents. Maybe instead of being jealous, they should try to help each other.