

Name _____

Word Count: 292

The Battle of the Brains

Manisha and Saul tried the left-brain, right-brain quiz while sitting with their class in the computer room. They considered such questions as, “When you are looking for a new place, do you prefer written directions or a map?”

The quiz results showed that Saul naturally used the left side of his brain more and was “ruled by reason, language, and habit.” They also showed that Manisha naturally used the right side of her brain more, which made her “creative, sensitive, and aware of the world around her.”

“That means I’m artistic and more connected with my feelings,” she told Saul.

“Yeah, well, I reason and solve problems better,” Saul said, “which must be why I get better grades.”

“I do better in art and music,” Manisha replied, “and you trip over your own shoes!”

“That doesn’t make sense,” Saul said.

Just then, Mr. Pai glanced over their shoulders.

Name _____

Word Count: 292

“The old left-brain, right-brain quiz,” he said, speaking to everyone in the room. “How many of you have completed this quiz?”

Most hands in the room went up. The students soon started to argue over which side of the brain was better.

“Hold on,” Mr. Pai said. “This quiz doesn’t really give you the whole picture. For example, it says that the left side of the brain deals with language. It turns out that the right side of the brain engages with the sounds and rhythms in language, while the left side figures out the content. The left side pays attention to detail, while the right side puts the bigger picture together. Neither side works without the other, and everyone uses both.”

Manisha and Saul looked at each other.

“That makes sense,” Saul said.

“Yeah, I like the sound of it, too,” Manisha said.