

Body Language.

Megabites and Prince were pups from the same litter. They grew up in the same compound and got along very well with each other. Prince being the larger dog assumed the dominant role between the two. This fact anyone could tell by looking at the way Megabites would lower his head and tail whenever he passed in front of Prince. Dogs have their own distinct code of behaviour which distinguishes social ranks within their group. For example, the dominant dog may circle and smell any other member of the group, but none would dare perform this ritual on him. There are many other gestures that dogs use to communicate with each other, and through this communication a certain order is maintained.

One day Megabites grew ill and in the space of a week he was completely blind. Eventually she recovered from the illness but the blindness was permanent. Dogs are amazing animals. One would have hardly noticed her handicap as she walked about the yard using only her keen senses of smell and hearing. Unfortunately, Prince was also unaware of Megabites' blindness. One day the little dog drifted in front of Prince. Unaware of her closeness to the dominant dog she kept her head and tail high in what Prince construed as a challenge to his dominance. Megabites was startled as Prince snapped at her. More out of instinct, than thought she snapped back in Prince's general directionThat was a fatal mistake.....



Let's Discuss:

Do people use gestures to communicate with each other?

Suggestions: When your mother or father gives a look of intensity by staring at you with a frown and clenched jaw? Can this instil fear??

What could be the subtle messages related to the following?

- **Folded arms:** Usually denotes a closed position. *Your mind is not really receiving what is being said.*
- **Putting one's arms behind one's back:** *This is an open stance. You are ready to receive the information/ correction being delivered.*
- **Slightly lowering one's head in the presence of another.**

How do people communicate their social or professional standing? Would a shelf packer raise his chin and look down on his supervisor when speaking?

Have you ever been misunderstood not because of what you said but because of your mannerisms?

Have you used nonverbal signs to express displeasure or disrespect to anyone in authority? Eg. Facial expressions, body postures, silence.

*How can you make a person feel more at ease without using verbal language? **Smile, hold yourself in a relaxed posture.***

How can you make a person feel that his presence is not wanted?

Are you aware of the signals you give by the way you stand or speak or dress?

If you were angry with your best friend, you might speak in a certain tone and turn your head and body in a particular way to show to show your displeasure. Would you use those same gestures to a teacher or parent? What would happen if you did? !!!!

Recap here by having the boys create a small dictionary of bodily postures and common gestures stating their possible meanings.

What do you Think?

By.

L.A.Fortune