

## THE TATER FAMILY

**LEADER:** I want you to meet the Tater sisters today. They are HESSY, Dickie, Irry, Emmy, Ajie, Specky, and their cousin – Par Tissy Pater. They all belong to our organization, and each one has a very big problem.

**HESSY:** Hi. I suppose you know me – HESSY Tater. I've never held an office and I have yet to really work on a committee. After all, I'm not a college graduate, and I may not be smart enough to do the job right. I don't even like to help with the refreshments. The ice cream might melt, you know. They wanted me to be treasurer! Why, I couldn't do that job, because I hesitate to pay my dues until I have to! You know, my husband or I could lose our jobs, or I may have an extended illness, so I wait until the last day to pay them. I'll come to the meeting when it suits me, but don't expect too much. Would I help with the planning? I should say not! You realize that one person can't do it all. One thing I can't understand, though. Why don't I enjoy the fellowship at the meetings the way the others do?

**LEADER:** Haven't we all met up with HESSY Tater? She always hesitates to venture into anything new, she hesitates to take a stand on any issue for fear of what "they" will think, and she hesitates to make a motion because her name will go down in the secretary's book. Poor HESSY Tater! She's so shy she even refuses to give a helpful hint at roll call. She just pipes up with a meek little "present"

**DICKIE:** My name is Dickie Tater. I'm one of the most important of the Tater girls, because I know how things ought to be done in our organization. No, I don't actually do much, but I have a voice loud enough and a tongue long enough to tell everyone how to do everything. I have practically memorized the bylaws and standing rules, and I have everything figured out except this one thing... Why do I always wind up sitting in a row or at a table all by myself?

**LEADER:** I'm telling you, Dickie Tater can surely make the fur fly and get resentments bristling all over the place. She's the know-it-all who has Robert's Rules of Order and the

Bylaws all learned by heart. Heaven help the presiding officer who makes a mistake when she's on deck. Poor Dickie Tater, she spends most of her time trying to put the other members in their places, but we're all just independent enough to push back when she starts on her tirade. Oh, yes. What Dickie Tater really needs is to think about carrying a bit of sugar instead of a big stick.

**IRRY:** Yes, hello! I'm Irry Tater. I don't mind telling you that I am a very faithful member because I would not miss a meeting for anything. You see, I found out a long time ago what got our President's back bone up, so I just get her going really good! I just love to whisper, for instance, to Mrs. Williams during the meeting, and she is deaf, so it makes people uncomfortable. Guess it's because I have always been uncomfortable myself. I always chew gum, and my neighbors frown, I try to help the hostess before the meeting is over by rattling the dishes, well, just a little, and I figure I can do as I please. No organization is perfect and I do have a problem. Why does someone always rub me the wrong way?

**LEADER:** Now Irry Tater is a pain in the neck to the president, for she is the one who keeps up a running flow of whispers and asides to the women sitting next to her. "I know the right way," or "Now I heard..." while the presiding officer asks for discussion. But doe Irry Tater ever speak right up and say her piece and then let others talk? Oh, no. She does all her fault finding after the meeting is over. Yes, Irry Tater is a trial to every presiding officer.

**EMMY:** I'm Emmy Tater. My sister Ajie and I always do the same things. She didn't marry, so I decided not to marry either. I don't like to be different. I figure other people can think better than I can, so I just do what they do. I don't try to develop my own ideas. I could make a mistake, you know. In the business meetings I vote however my neighbors vote. That way I don't have to listen too closely to the motions. When the group stands, I stand, and when they sit, I sit. If my neighbor puts in a dollar for something, I put in a dollar. The other night, they took a collection for something, and my neighbor put in a \$5 bill. Well! I found another seat. When the other members go to a meeting, I go too. Guess that's why I'm here right now. But I will say this, I get mighty tired of having other people think for me. I would really appreciate a way out of this dilemma.

**LEADER:** Poor dear Emmy Tater! She has never had an idea of her own and she doesn't take time to study the person she imitates. Just let someone come up with an idea or raise an objection and Emmy Tater pipes up with her little old "Me too!" She doesn't know for sure what she's "me too-ing" about. I have often been tempted to get up sometime and say that someone gave our chapter \$500 and see if Emmy Tater would "me too" that!

**AJIE:** I'm Ajie Tater, Emmy's older sister. I like to keep things in an uproar. I know all the latest gossipe and I'm an expert at adding a little flavor to my stories. I have a keen sense of humor and I can make up in suspicion what I lack in knowledge. I tell everything I can get my ears on. I may not know the people well enough to talk about them, but I talk anyway. I don't like to choose my friends – I would rather pick them – to pieces, that is. Yes siree! You ought to see how quickly I can damage a friendship with my attitude. I'm a born agitator – I just don't understand why I do not have any close friends – other people do!

**LEADER:** Talk about a fuss! Ajie Tater can stir up a big fuss every time she opens her mouth in a meeting. She's the one who can always see something wrong in every single plan brought up. She always wonders if we aren't spending too much from the treasury and why isn't there an itemized bill for every cent spent by every committee. Oh, Ajie Tater can surely keep us in hot water. She can keep things stirred up wherever she goes.

**SPECKY:** I'm Specky Tater. I'm a member and attend most of the time, but I'm not very smart, and I'm scared to speak in public, so I go to the meeting early, get my favorite seat, and there I stay until the meeting's over. I enjoy the ideas and the programs they present, and I think it is a nice group of people, and they are so concerned about most things, but I don't know what I can do about it.

**LEADER:** Here is the shadowy member who just sits and sits and sits and never puts her two cents worth in. Need someone to help with the refreshments? Need someone to help with the fund-raising? Need someone on the yearbook committee? Well, don't look to Specky Tater for help. She'll never run out of excuses. She has a million excuses why she shouldn't help. All take and no give, that's Specky Tater. But you had better not suggest she be

dropped from the roll. She wants her name left right there so she can say she belongs. That's Specky Tater – just a name when the roll is called.

**LEADER:** Our last family member is actually a cousin of the Tater family, but her last name is Pater. She is Ms. Par Tissy Pater. One look at her and you know that she is one ideal member. Let's hear what she has to say.

**PAR TISSY PATER:** Hello, friends. Yes, I am Par Tissy Pater and I want you to know that I thoroughly enjoy this organization. My cousins have not taken time to find out how the organization works and what it really stands for. They don't seem to realize that there are thousands of others working for the same goal. What they need to do is PARTICIPATE. I enjoy my participation in my chapter and its programs and philanthropies. I will serve on any committee either as the chair or as a member. It's a real challenge and a joy to be of service to the community and to let everyone know that you appreciate and enjoy your opportunities for service. It takes all of us working together to achieve a common goal. I wouldn't trade places with any of my cousins, but I have a problem too. What are we going to do with Hessa, Dickie, Irry, Emmy, Ajie, and Specky?

**LEADER:** How thankful we are to meet Par Tissy Pater and to know that most of our members are like she is! What in the world would we do without Par Tissy Paters? She is the one who gets to meetings on time, works cheerfully on any committee, volunteers for some of the tough jobs, takes part in the discussions, pitches in when the going gets rough, and is always a booster for every project we tackle. She's dear to the heart of every chapter officer because she's a Builder Upper, not a Knocker Downer. She makes up for all those others. What can we, in our own chapters, do to help our OWN Par Tissy Paters bring about change in her cousins?