“No! You’re doing it wrongly for god’s sake!” my brother, Lee Kai, hollered, before passing me an impatient look. Sighing in exasperation, I snarled at him to shut up. At this rate, I was going to be stuck with an annoying little brat. Just then, the door creaked open and out came…

“John, get out of bed immediately!” my mother ordered me like an army general.

I rubbed my eyes forcefully, trying to stay awake, while a stream of drool trickled down the side of my mouth. Grudgingly, I parted with my bed, as I made my way to the bathroom and changed into my T-shirt and bermudas.

“I want you and Lee Kai to work together to paint the wall in our backyard. Only when you are done can you have breakfast,” my mother commanded, before handing us tins of paint and two roller brushes. I sighed. Why did I have to be paired up with the least cooperative person? Why did fate have to be so cruel to me?

On the other hand, Lee Kai was bouncing off the walls thinking that this could finally be a chance to prove to my mother that he was always better than me. Reluctantly, I made my way to the wall at our backyard.

Cobwebs hung at all corners of the wall which was coated with a layer of dust. The wall looked as if it was as old as time itself. I grabbed my roller brush and filled it with paint. Just as I was about to start work, I was interrupted by a babyish voice.

“No! You’re doing it wrongly for god’s sake!”

Instinctively, I turned around. I rolled my eyes. Great, Lee Kai was trying to be a smart-alec again.

“You’re so stupid, John. You don’t even know how to use a roller brush!” Lee Kai snickered.

Black, molten anger rushed into my brain. I was like a beast waiting to be unleashed. Smoke puffed out of my nostrils as I glared menacingly at Lee Kai, who was now starting work. What have I done wrong? I was holding the roller brush correctly and he even dared to call me, his older brother, an idiot. The more I thought about it, the stronger the raging inferno in me became.
Unable to control my anger anymore, I lunged at him, throwing punches at Lee Kai
madly. I had enough of his arrogance. Staggering backwards, Lee Kai fell to the ground
like a limp rag doll, as excruciating pain radiated throughout his entire being.

Regaining his balance, Lee Kai rewarded me with a swift and hard punch to my
stomach. I groaned in agony as I rolled on the floor, clutching my stomach.

Just then, the door creaked open, and out came my mother who heard the
commotion. She immediately queried for the details of the incident. Left with no other
choice, we told her the truth.

“Boys, you must remember - ‘United we stand. Divided we fall.’ In order to
accomplish anything, we need teamwork.”

With that, she ended her speech, before getting us to bury the hatchet and work
together as one. We agreed, apologising to each other.

Getting back to work, we decided to stop our quibbling. We helped each other and
split our workload evenly. Not long after, we finally accomplished the ‘impossible’. We had
finished painting the wall!

This freshly-painted wall was a constant reminder to me that one could achieve more
if we worked together harmoniously. As Helen Keller always said ‘Alone we can do little.
Together we can do so much.’ We should never underplay the importance of team spirit if
we want to achieve more.