

***Chapter 11:*** *Development*

**Handout 11-C**

Piaget's Stages of Cognitive Development

Instructions: The main character in each of the scenarios following is displaying cognition at one of Piaget's developmental stages (sensorimotor, preoperational, concrete operational, or formal operational). Identify the stage of thinking being illustrated by each of these main characters.

1. Sheila complains because her brother has taken two big cookies and has only given her one. Her brother takes her big cookie, breaks it in half, and says, "Now we both have two." Sheila yells, "Not fair, all you did was break mine into two pieces!"

2. Rory's mom has given him five empty cardboard boxes. He lines them up in a row, puts his toys in them, and then says, "Choo, choo, here comes the train!"

3. Jenny's ball rolls out of sight under the sofa. She stares at the sofa for a few seconds, and then turns her attention to her doll.

1. Clara enjoys spending free time imagining what kind of society could be created if a  
   group of human beings from all over the world moved to a newly discovered, habitable  
   planet.
2. Sergio wants to pull his toy shovel into his playpen, but instead of grasping it by one  
   end or the other and pulling it lengthwise through the slats, he grabs it in the middle  
   and keeps pulling it against the slats.

6. Shula becomes upset because her sister's scoop of ice cream looks taller than her own. Her mother squashes down the sister's scoop, and Shula is happy now that it looks like they have the same amount.

7. Boris just loves his calculus and physics classes, where he consistently receives high grades.

8. Pepe wants to make sure he distributes the jelly beans fairly, so he lines them up in one-to-one correspondence before giving some to his friend.

*Source:* Malley-Morrison & Yap, 2001.

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