

A pair of red boxing gloves is positioned in the center of a boxing ring. The gloves are facing each other, with the fingers pointing towards the center. The ring's ropes are visible, and the background is a dark arena with bright spotlights creating a dramatic atmosphere. The text "A GENERATIONAL BATTLE" is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif font across the gloves.

**A
GENERATIONAL
BATTLE**

READING THEATRE

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Can Liam and his Dad sort out their issues?

Characters:

Liam

Dad

Counsellor

(As Liam and his father sit down for a counselling session, they wait for the counsellor to speak)

Counsellor Thanks for coming to see me today. What seems to be the problem? How can I help?

Liam My name is Liam and I have a problem. I'm not saying I'm any different to most kids. In actual fact, you probably will understand everything I have to put up with. However for me it's worse because of the guy sitting right next to me.

Dad Hello, my name is Mike; it's nice to meet you.

Counsellor Nice to meet you Mike.

So what seems to be the problem Liam?

Liam Oh you will see soon enough.

Dad If you listen carefully.

Liam She is paid to listen to us Dad.

Dad Yeah I know. I saw her bill.

Counsellor Well Mike, we all need to live.

Dad Glad I could pay for your Ferrari and yacht.

Liam Anyway my Dad thinks he knows everything

Dad Because he does.

Liam He nags me about everything

Dad Until he does what he's told.

Liam But I like to live on the edge

Dad Until I tell him to come back; I don't want him falling off.

Liam I'm actually cool Dad

Dad When you are standing under an air conditioner.

Counsellor Tell me more about you Liam.

Liam I'm actually a rebel deep down but I am so easy to get along with

Dad Until you don't get your own way.

Liam I make up my own rules

Dad And then you follow ours.

Liam You see I never get into trouble

Dad Unless you get caught
Liam And I don't care if I do
Dad Unless you get consequences
Liam And I don't care about consequences
Dad Unless you get consequences
Liam This is what I deal with every day
Dad Unless you are staying at Grandma's.
Liam He just hates me because I just leave my lolly wrappers everywhere
Dad Until we tell you to pick them up.
Liam I don't make my bed
Dad When you're sleeping in it at night.
Liam I'll swear at you in anger soon Dad
Dad When the door's shut and I can't hear you
Counsellor Continue Liam; this is good. Tell me what you want.
Liam I stay up as late as I want
Dad Until I tell you to go to sleep
Liam You can't take my phone
Dad Until I do.
Liam I don't see the point of doing the dishes
Dad Until they are in the sink.
Liam I like to wake up when I ilke
Dad Or when I wake you up
Liam He gets irritated because I'm so tough
Dad Unless I'm not looking
Liam I never cry
Dad Unless I take your phone
Liam I never need to apologise
Dad Unless there's a chance you'll get your mobile back.
Liam Some of that may be true.
Counsellor Anything else you want to get off your chest Liam?
Dad Does it cost more?
Liam Well I never fight with my siblings
Dad When you're fast asleep.
Liam I try not to argue with you
Dad When I leave the room.
Counsellor Please continue. I am really learning a lot here.
Dad Glad we could educate you. I thought Uni might have done that but whatever.
Liam You know I don't need to do homework
Dad Unless you think your teacher will tell me.
Liam I don't eat vegetables
Dad Except when I put them on your plate.
Lian I never need to clean my room

Dad Until I get sick of it and do it for you.

Liam For once that is true.

Counsellor He got you on that one.

Dad Thanks for the support. Maybe you should be paying me, seeing I'm
teaching you.

Liam I don't know why he always gets so angry. I mean I get off my technology
immediately

Dad If you have been on it for ten hours

Liam I always put down my phone when asked

Dad If it's flat.

Liam I will race outside and play when you ask

Dad If there's a blackout and your technology won't work.

Liam See no matter what I say he has an answer. I try to ignore him

Dad But I am just always here.

Liam You don't understand what being a kid is like

Dad Except I was one once.

Counsellor Well the good thing is, I know exactly what the problem is and how to fix it.
But the bad news is we are out of time today. So if you just book an
appointment at the desk for next week we'll get to it then.

Dad Or we could just make out that the time isn't up yet.

Counsellor If I didn't have to use your money for a massage today.

Dad I feel you are ripping us off

Counsellor Only after you pay at the counter. Sorry Liam but I can see why he thinks
this is fun.

Liam Yeah, being a kid sucks

Counsellor } When it's you! *(Counsellor and Dad say this line together)*

Dad } When it's you!