

February 17, 2005

Hello to Annie's friends,

She says hello to all of you. However, the newly polite and restrained Annie has not been rearing her head as often as she has in the past few months. I attribute it completely to a simple game of *War*. It all began with Annie's sister leaving a deck of cards on the kitchen table. I attempted a game of *Solitaire* with Annie to see what she could identify. Although it was difficult for her to recognize certain cards and distinguish between some of them (especially sixes and nines) she became quite excited. So I tried to think of a game she could play. Then her mother informed me that she had played a game of *War* with Annie's sister. Things were going splendidly as Annie was trouncing me, but as can happen in card games, the tables turned. A new personality emerged from this tiny little person - for a moment I thought the old Annie was back with us. She called me every name that was buried somewhere deep in her memory (not dear ones, either) and had me laughing hysterically with tears running down my face. It was such a wonderful afternoon. We played three very lengthy exhilarating games. Annie was ready to keep going but I was totally exhausted.

The following week I arrived armed with new games to try. Go Fish (not a hit), Jack's, and Junior Scrabble. Nothing compared to *War*. The old jigsaw puzzles are now history. If any one has suggestions as to another easy game similar to *War*, I would dearly love to hear it.

JoAnne Nearents mailed the video of her retirement party to me. I will take it this Sunday and see Annie's reactions and who and what she recalls. So until next week.....

Linda