Stumps

The strongest in the family might think they'll rule this tug-of-war game. But just watch what happens if they yank their rope too hard against a wily opponent.

**Players:** 2 players (best if comparable size), plus a spotter for little kids.

**The Object:** To get your opponent to step off his or her stump.

**How to Play:** Set up two stumps (4 to 10 inches tall) or upside-down milk crates about 6 to 12 feet apart. Lay a 30-foot length of rope between the platforms, leaving the surplus rope coiled at both ends. The players, standing on the platforms, pull or relax the rope, trying to get the other to lose his or her balance and step off. Might is not always right here, as a hard tug can be neutralized by a loosened grip — and the sudden slack can make the tugger teeter.

**TIPS**

- Make sure to play this on a soft surface in case someone takes a tumble.
- If a smaller person is playing against a much bigger person, try having the bigger one stand on one foot, or have the little one's spotter help control the rope.
- If you really want to have fun, on a hot summer's day build a few gooey mud pits around the stumps. Just don't forget to have the hose handy.