

Loving learning

Fantastic facts make learning fun!

It's absolutely amazing what you can learn about the world! Did you know that the earth is 92,897,000 miles from the sun? That's an unbelievably long way! Speaking of the sun, do you know how hot it is at the sun's center? 29,000,000 degrees! Ouch! Do you know how many nerve cells there are in the brain? 10,000,000,000! Wow, we must be incredibly smart! Every day we learn new things. We learn by reading, we learn by talking to other people, we learn by listening, watching, smelling and tasting. You started learning on the day you were born and you'll still be learning new things 60 years from now!

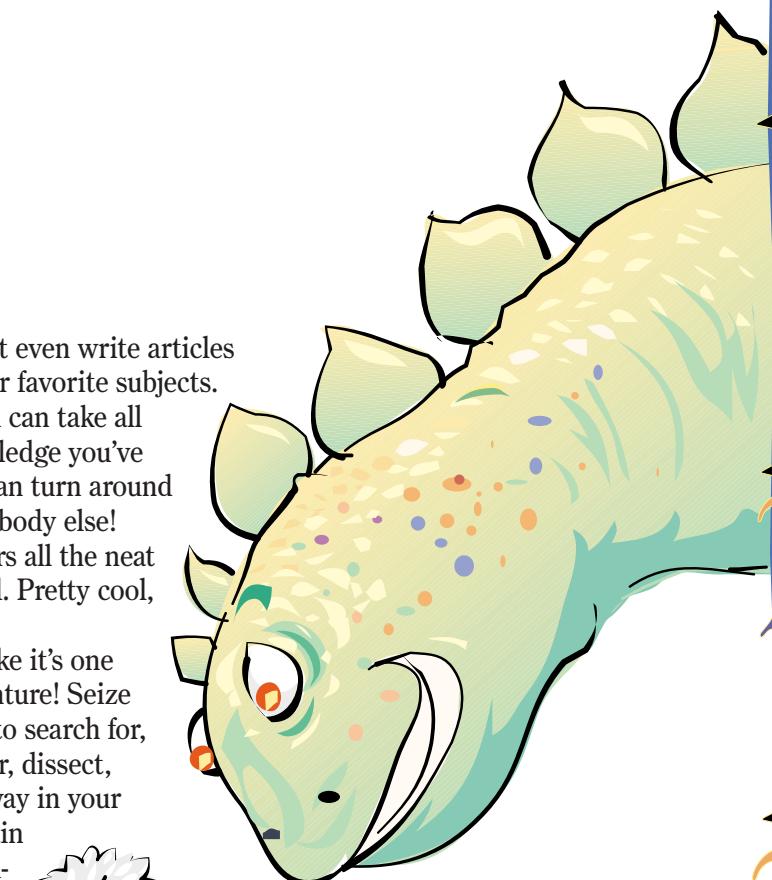
So, what can you do with all these fantastic facts and incredible ideas? Well, you can carry on fascinating conversations with your family and friends.

Someday you might even write articles or books about your favorite subjects. And best of all, you can take all that precious knowledge you've acquired and you can turn around and give it to somebody else! You can teach others all the neat stuff you've learned. Pretty cool, right?

So live your life like it's one long thrilling adventure! Seize every opportunity to search for, hunt down, uncover, dissect, analyze, and file away in your 10,000,000,000 brain cells that never-ending parade of fantastic facts!

VOCABULARY

- Acquire:** to get; to become the owner of
Dissect: to study carefully every part of something
Analyze: to examine or study something in detail





MOUNTAIN AMERICA
CREDIT UNION



All I want for Christmas ... after Christmas

Was there something you wanted for Christmas but didn't get? If it's something you really want, here are some ideas on how to get it.

Make a plan – Talk to your parents about how grateful you are for what you received but there was one item you were still hoping for. See if they can help you make a plan to earn money for it.

Be ready to work – If you want something badly enough, you have to work for it. Your family may have jobs around the house you could do for cash. You could also offer to babysit your siblings so your parents can go on a date. Ask your friends and neighbors if they have chores you could do for money.

Save for it – As you earn money, don't just spend it right away. Focus on what you really want by putting your money in a jar with the name of what you want on it, or have your parents put it in a savings account for you.

Maybe you didn't get it for Christmas, but when you plan, work and save, you can reach your goal.



Mom takes a ride in cyberspace

Hi. Ed here. Probably like you, I spend quite a bit of time on our computer at home. I have some really cool games and ebooks that are fun to use, and also help me with my school work. Dad uses the computer to keep up with news and sports on the Internet. Gramps uses it for figuring out puzzles and playing solitaire. El likes the programs that teach her how to read and write. In fact, it seemed like there was always somebody on the computer. Except Mom, that is. Mom had never learned how to use it. One day I asked her why she didn't want to learn how. She said, "Oh Ed, I'm too old to pick up this new technology. I could never figure out what to do on it, or how to use that moose thing!"

"You mean mouse, Mom," I said. Well, my mom's pretty smart, and if Gramps can use it, nobody's too old to learn. So last Saturday I decided to give Mom a computer lesson. I could tell she was reluctant at first, and maybe even a little afraid. But I tried to do what my teacher, Mr. Anderson, does. Whenever we don't catch on to a subject right away, he slows down and encourages us to ask a bunch of questions so we can really learn the right way. I tried

being especially patient with Mom. And you know what? She picked it up really fast. After just an hour she was using the mouse all by herself, clicking and dragging like a pro!

When I got home from school on Monday, there was Mom glued to the computer. She was writing a letter to our Aunt Lucy in Swamp City. You should have seen all the neat graphics and designs she put on the borders of the page. I was very impressed! At first, she didn't notice I was there. Then she turned around and saw me staring over her shoulder. "Ed," she said, "I can't tell you how thankful I am for you showing me how to use this. I love it!" Tuesday night she went to the computer store and bought a program to do the family's budget. Wednesday she was downloading a recipe for chicken gumbo from the Internet. Thursday she spent two hours chasing dinosaurs on my game! It's great to see Mom so excited about learning something new.

There's only one problem now. Since Mom learned how to use the computer, I barely get a chance to use it myself!

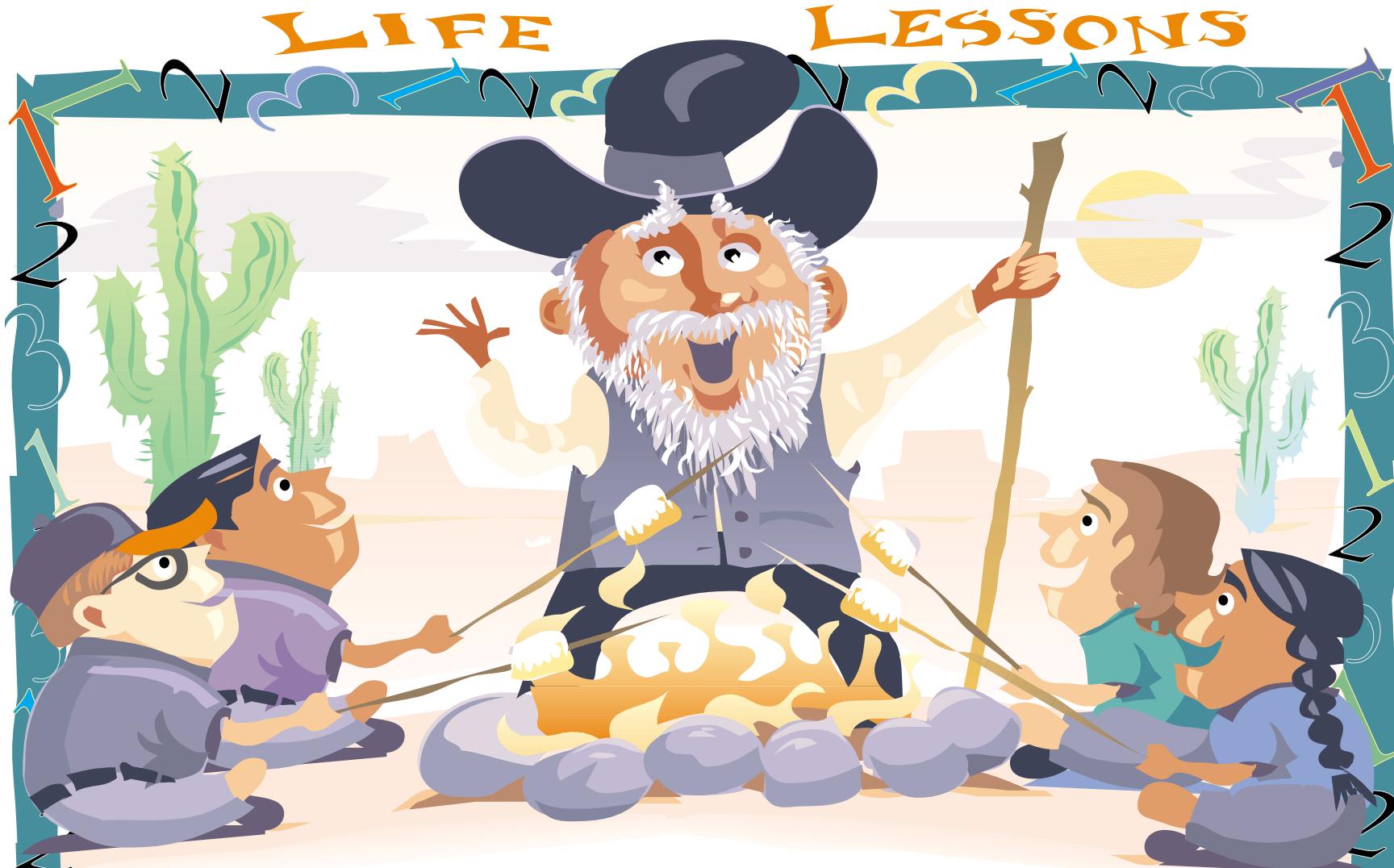


SHUTTERSTOCK



QUESTIONS

- 1) What are some of the different ways Ed's family uses the computer?
- 2) Why didn't Ed's mom use the computer? Why was she afraid to try?
- 3) Why was Ed such a good teacher? What had he learned from Mr. Anderson about teaching?
- 4) What did Ed's mom learn to do on the computer?
- 5) How did she feel about learning a new skill?
- 6) What did Ed say was the only problem with Mom using the computer? Can you think of a possible solution?



The boy who thought he knew everything

There once was a boy named Todd who thought he knew everything. Whenever anyone tried to tell him anything, he would just say, "I already know that!" or "Yeah, so what else is new?" He rarely paid attention in class, because he was convinced there was nothing left to learn. He never read books either. He thought, "Why bother? I already know everything there is to know!" He wasn't a very pleasant fellow to talk to really, because he was never interested in what anyone else had to say. Of course, as far as Todd was concerned, his answers and his opinions were always the right ones, and if anyone disagreed he would say, "Oh, you don't know!"

One day Todd was sitting on the steps in front of the school, waiting for the bus. A few of his classmates came out the door and walked by Todd. "Hey, Todd," Judith said, "how would you like to come with us? We're going exploring down by the stream, to see what interesting stuff we can find."

"No thanks," said Todd. "Been there, done that. Sounds pretty boring to me." So Judith and her friends said goodbye and headed toward the woods behind the school. A few minutes later, Todd's bus came. He rode home and spent the afternoon twiddling his thumbs and staring at the ceiling in his bedroom.

The next day in class, Judith and her friends walked in the door laughing and smiling, and carrying jars full of bugs and worms and

bags full of sticks and leaves. The teacher spent the first half of the class explaining what the different specimens were. Then he asked Judith and her friends to talk about their unique adventure at the stream. Judith was very excited about her discoveries, and the class was extremely curious. Except for Todd, who spent the whole time with his head on his desk, staring aimlessly out the window. As usual, he didn't listen to a word. He figured he already knew everything there was to learn about bugs and trees and streams.

And that's how Todd lived the rest of his life. While everyone else learned as much as they could learn, read as many books as they could read, went on as many adventures as they could go on, Todd twiddled his thumbs, and stared aimlessly at ceilings and out windows, convinced that he knew everything there was to know. But, truth be told, Todd didn't really know very much at all.

ACTIVITY

There's a saying that goes "You learn something new every day." You might learn that "something" in the classroom, in the schoolyard, in the gym, in a conversation with a friend or on a walk in your neighborhood. If you really love learning, you can pick up new ideas and information everywhere! Think really hard, and try to remember what new things you learned this week.



Directions: Sometimes in the magazine section of the Sunday paper you can read an interview with a famous person. Pretend you're a newspaper reporter, and you're interviewing a celebrity you really admire, like a famous athlete, actor, musician or politician. What kinds of things would you love to learn about that person? Try to think of five questions you would ask if you had this special opportunity, and write them below.

YOU HAVE A WEALTH OF KNOWLEDGE!

Directions: In the list below there are 10 different subjects. Pick three of them that really interest you, and write a few FASCINATING FACTS you've learned about each. If you don't find a favorite subject on the list, choose your own!

- Trains, planes and automobiles
- Dinosaurs and reptiles
- Parts of the body
- Fire safety
- Music and entertainment
- Other countries; other cultures
- United States history and the government
- The five senses
- Computers and technology
- The ocean and outer space

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____



Read Today Christmas Project



The Read Today team helped spread cheer to a few hundred Salt Lake families last month. Our team visited The Neighborhood House, which helps support low-income families, for Parent Involvement Night.

And that's not all! We teamed up with the KSL morning team who helped assemble boxes of holiday dinners then delivered those 210 gourmet meals, purchased by Elements Capital, to The Neighborhood House. The Read Today team, along with

Santa, gave every child a Christmas book and a candy cane. Families were able to spend time together, decorating gingerbread houses in their classrooms and were paid a visit by Santa himself! Families who attended left with a gingerbread house, a gourmet holiday meal, a Christmas book and smiles on their faces. We hope all our readers had a wonderful holiday break.



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S P O N S O R E D B Y



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Once upon a time

EXPLORING FAIRY TALES



The phrase "Once upon a time" has been used in some form for centuries. The Oxford English Dictionary has examples dating as far back as 1385 when it was used in Chaucer's Canterbury Tales. It is particularly prevalent in fairy tales where it is almost always the opening line of a tale.

But contrary to what you might suppose, these fanciful tales filled with mythical creatures aren't just moralistic stories for young children. In fact, the dark and often gruesome plots of the original stories were intended for adult audiences. (In the story of Cinderella the stepsisters cut off their toes to get their foot into the shoe!) Charles

Perrault, a well-known writer of fairy tales, often wrote his stories to be presented at the court of Versailles.

Around 1688, France was in upheaval. King Louis XIV had a very extravagant lifestyle and taxed all levels of French society, so even the aristocrats felt the sting. Because of censorship, the fairy tale was a way to critique the government subtly, as well as instill hope among the people.

WOMEN AND THE FAIRY TALE

Fairy tales became popular with the upper classes in the 1690s. Women would gather in salons to

discuss topics important to them and tell tales that protest the societal constraints that were placed upon them and to emphasize their own rights as women in a man's world. Two women of this time, the Countess d'Aulnoy and the Countess de Murat, published their *contes de fées* (fairy tales).

In a world where women were expected to remain silent, their tales allowed them to create heroines that were strong and enabled them to pass on stories to their daughters and granddaughters that taught powerful lessons of conquering adversity and rewarding virtuousness.

SOURCES: childrens-books.lovetoknow.com/History_of_Fairy_Tales, [wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fairy_tale), talesoffaerie.blogspot.com



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Save money by staying active

What do physical activity and money have to do with each other? Well, it can cost money if you don't take care of yourself. Did you know things like riding a bike, hiking or playing a sport are not only fun but also help you to stay healthy? That may not sound cool, but when people aren't healthy, they often have to spend extra money on things like medicine and doctors.

Sometimes our bodies are born with conditions we have to take medicine for, but other times we can get our bodies in bad shape by not being active. The trick is to find something physical you enjoy doing and do it often. Here are some of the top benefits to being active:

- Become better at something you enjoy
- Keep your body healthy so you don't get sick as often
- Save your family money by not going to the doctor very often
- Feel better about yourself
- Get stronger muscles and bones
- Be happier about life
- Avoid disease when you are older

By helping your body, you are also helping yourself. So, find something physical you like to do and enjoy what comes from it.

Create your own fairy tale



SETTING

Where does this story take place? Name and describe the place where your story happens.

CHARACTERS

Who are your characters? Give them names and write brief descriptions of each one.

CONFLICT

What is the action in the story? What gives the story a beginning, middle and end?

CONCLUSION

How will the story end? Will it be funny, sad or something else?

The Queen of Hearts has lost her crown. Find your way through the maze to help the Queen retrieve it.

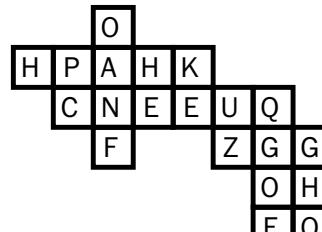
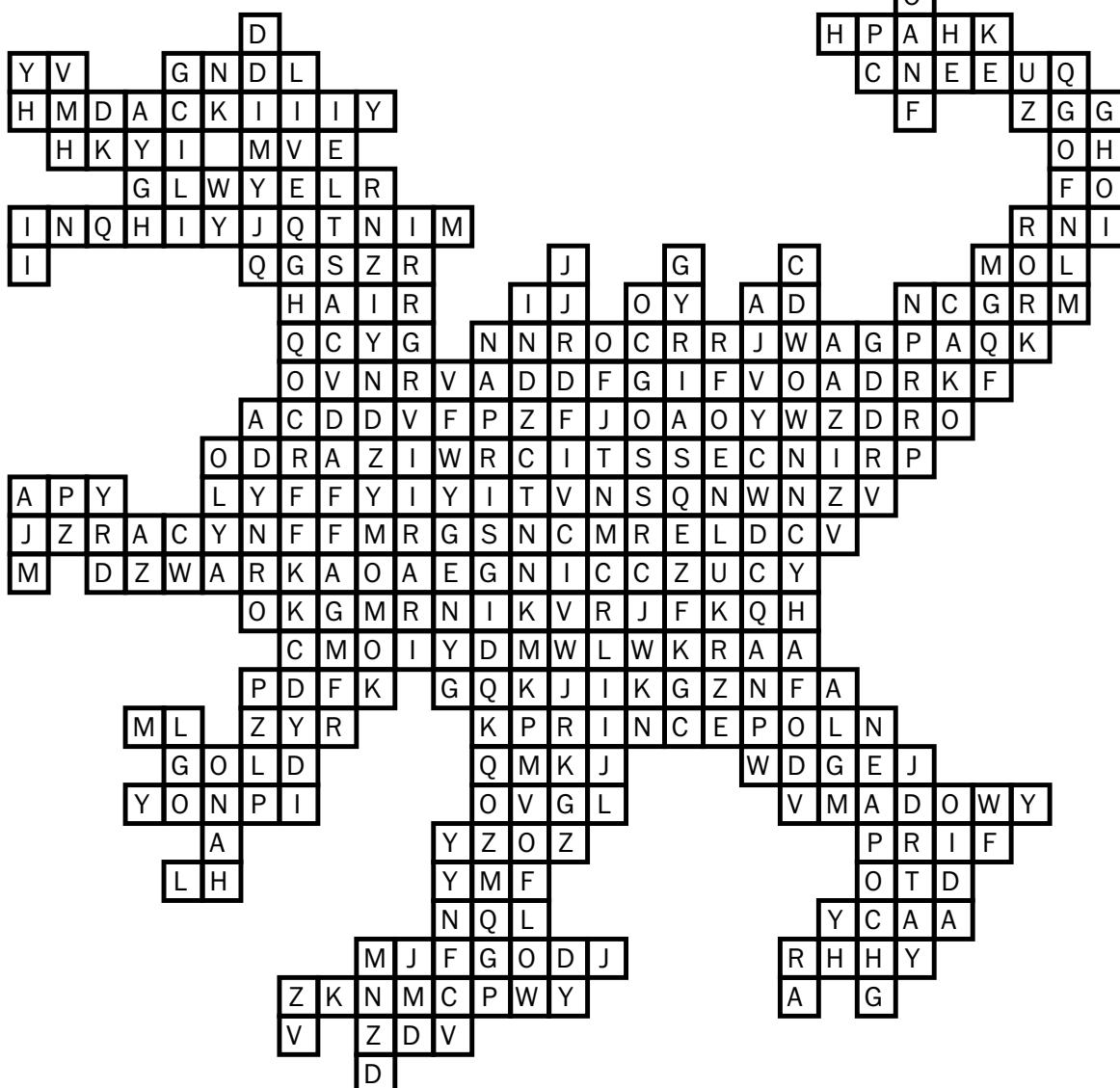


**Write an acrostic poem about
fairy tales. Begin each line with
a word or phrase that starts with
the letter on that line.**

D
R
A
G
O
N



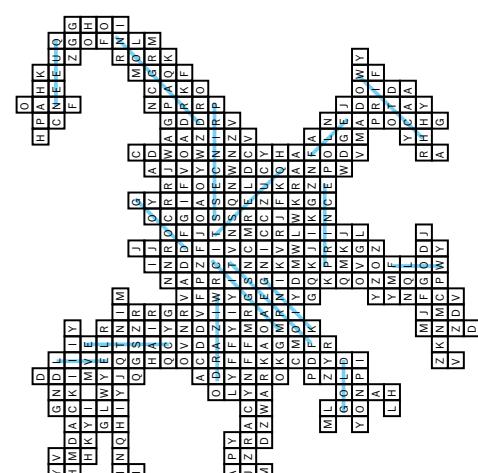
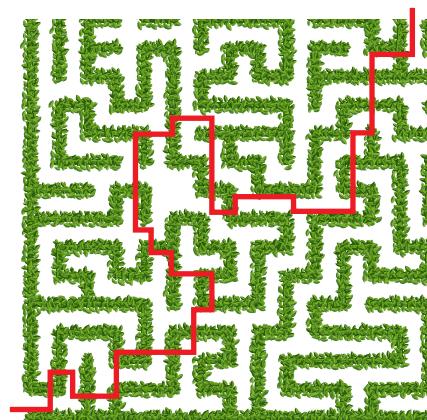
WORD SEARCH



CASTLE
DRAGON
ELF
EVIL
FOREST
GOLD

GOOD
KING
MAGIC
PRINCE
PRINCESS
QUEEN

QUEST
WITCH
WIZARD
WOLF



Read Today News



East Midvale Elementary School managed to change their school grade from a "D" to a "B." Santa, Buddy the Elf and the Read Today team were so impressed that we decided to pay them a visit. These students worked hard, considering nearly a third of their students come from homeless shelters or hotels. The faculty of East Midvale Ele-

mentary focus on having a culture of caring and reading. Teachers are able to customize reading plans for each student while also encouraging parents to read to their kids after school. With that, they found that science and math scores also improved and the results are the best Christmas gift this community could have asked for.



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Connect 1•2•3

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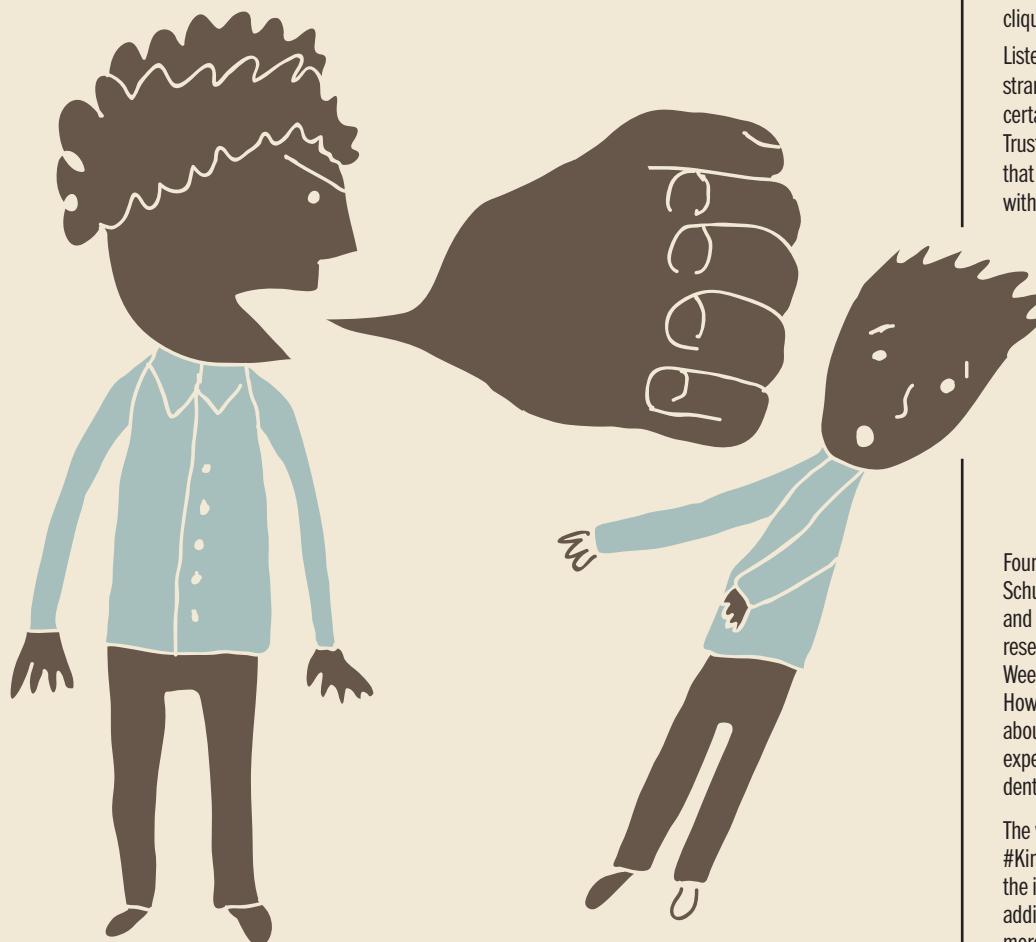
Anti-bullying starts with you

NO NAME-CALLING WEEK JANUARY 15-19, 2018

When people think of bulling, they sometimes think only of kids being pushed around. But being called hurtful names is a kind of bullying too. Sometimes being called names can hurt almost as much as being hit or shoved. Maybe the name-caller thought the names were funny, but name-calling is not funny at all to the person who is being called those names.

"One of the lessons that I grew up with was to always stay true to yourself and never let what somebody else says distract you from your goals. And so when I hear about negative and false attacks, I really don't invest any energy in them, because I know who I am."

- Michelle Obama



SHUTTERSTOCK

WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

Bullying hurts. If you are bullied, you know it feels horrible. To watch someone being bullied and not help makes you feel bad about that. So, you have three people involved: the target, the bully, and the bystander. Each is a part of the bullying process.

HERE IS WHAT MAY HAPPEN TO A TARGET OF BULLYING:

- **Verbal assault:** disrespecting through teasing, name-calling, put-downs, threats, intimidation, lies and gossip.
 - **Physical assault:** attacking a person in any manner.
 - **Exclusion:** deliberately keeping one out of a clique, group, club, team or organization.
- Listen to your heart and head. If you have strange, fearful or funny feelings around certain people, your "sixth sense" is at work. Trust your instincts, tell an adult, and avoid that person until you figure out how to deal with him/her.

Founded in 2004 with Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing, and evaluated by GLSEN research, No Name-Calling Week was inspired by James Howe's novel *The Misfits* about students who, after experiencing name-calling, run for student council on a No Name-Calling platform.



The week is rooted in the idea of #KindnessInAction – not merely recognizing the importance of kindness, but actively adding kindness into our every action. Learn more at: nonamecallingweek.com

WHAT IS BULLYING?

Bullying is the **intentional, repeated, hurtful action against someone who has less power.**

FACT 1: Everyone will most likely experience bullying at some time in their early life.

FACT 2: Anyone can identify bullying, learn about it, and find ways to stop it.

Recent studies have shown that by taking action, bullying can and will be stopped. Of course parents, teachers, friends, and family can and often do help.

DID YOU KNOW? Lady Gaga, Eminem, Madonna, Michael Phelps, and Selena Gomez have all been bullied.

SOME OF THE REASONS WHY A BULLY ACTS UP:

- To get attention.
- Peer pressure (i.e., everyone does it).
- Revenge, retaliation, ignorance.
- Easy access to electronic devices.
- Boredom, drive for excitement and drama.
- Inability to control himself/herself.
- Acting out (from hurt, anger or pain in other areas of life).
- Desire for popularity, status, or power.

SOME OF THE REASONS SOMEONE MIGHT STAND BY AND NOT FIGHT BACK:

- Belief that it's not his/her problem.
- They like the bully or he/she is a friend.
- Don't know what to do or who to talk to.
- Think the bully will start to target him/her.
- Think that it's just part of growing up.
- Fear that the situation will get worse.
- Friends say not to interfere.
- Belief that nothing will help.



WHY SHOULD I CARE?

Caring will help to get rid of many of the mistaken notions about bullying.

R - Repeated
I - Imbalance of power
P - Purposeful



"If there's someone in your class that maybe doesn't have a lot of friends, be the person that sits with them in the cafeteria sometimes; be the bigger person."

—Lady Gaga



FACT 3: It is possible to defeat bullying. A person does not have to tolerate or stand by. Bullying is never acceptable. It is wrong, hurtful and often serious. You are NOT powerless!

ANTI-BULLYING STARTS WITH YOU

WHERE DO I START?

Several steps I can take:

1. Hang out with my friends. Bullies love to pick on kids who are alone.
2. Be wary of empty locker rooms or restrooms. Bring a friend along.
3. Join groups and make friends with people who like what I like.
4. Make friends with others who are being bullied. Hang together.
5. Don't respond with anger. Use humor when I can.
6. Stay near a grown-up or teacher when I can.
7. On the bus, sit near the bus driver or aide.
8. Don't bring expensive things or money to school. It makes me a target.
9. Tell a trusted adult.
10. Most importantly, if I am in real physical danger, I will call for help or dial 911.

ARE YOU ONE OF THESE?

Look at the graphic on below. These are different types of bystanders.

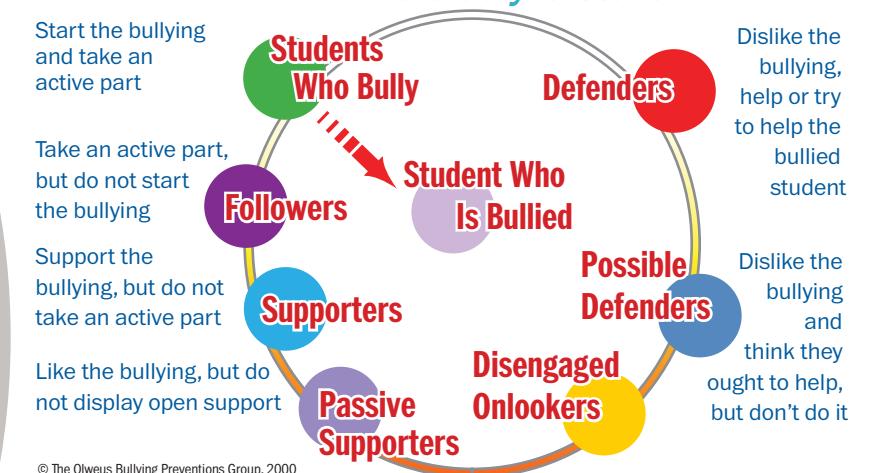
A bystander can say kind words to a target. "I'm sorry about what just happened to you" is one example. "I don't like what that person did to you, it was wrong" is another. Ask them how you might help. Be a friend.

Other steps:

- ◆ If you feel safe, you can speak up immediately! Be calm and state your opinion. "That isn't cool." "Sorry, but you are totally out of line." "Please stop." "Stop, you're better than this."
- ◆ You can urge the target to talk to someone about what happened. Offer to go along.
- ◆ Look for bystanders who are laughing or joining in, let them know they aren't helping.
- ◆ Tell an adult. This is important. Both the target and the bully need help. Talk to a teacher, counselor, coach, parent, older sibling, or any other adult you feel comfortable telling. If you don't want to do it alone, ask a friend to go with you.
- ◆ Start an anti-bullying club at your school.
- ◆ Start thinking about the differences in people as a good thing.

BYSTANDERS AND THE OLWEUS CIRCLE

Where do you stand?



© The Olweus Bullying Prevention Group, 2000



Feel good about how you spend money

Are you planning to buy something cool this year? Here are some ways to use your money wisely and feel good about what you buy.

Don't rush it: The more time you spend doing research, the better decision you will make. Take time to look at all the options available before you buy.

New vs. used: New things are cool but more expensive. Have a parent help you look through online classified ads. They can help you find some quality used items. You might get what you want and spend less money. Even if you still buy new, check out used first.

Name brand vs. other brands: Sometimes you pay for a name when another brand is just as good. Read reviews and talk to people who have the item already.

Entry level vs. high end: Do you need the nicest one? Some things come with cool extras that are unnecessary. Others come with upgrades you want or need. Whatever you buy, find other models that are similar and compare the features. Then, decide which features are most important to you.

To enjoy what you buy, give these a try.

BREAKING THROUGH THE MYTHS

Put a T if you think the statement is True, or an F if you believe it is False. Answers are at the bottom of the page. Give yourself one point per correct answer.

1. Most bullies are boys. _____

2. You cannot change a bully's behavior. _____

3. Bullies come from all backgrounds, rich or poor. _____

4. Bullies are big and aggressive. _____

5. Bullies are insecure and have a low self-image. _____

6. Bullies only target kids with physical differences (overweight, glasses, etc.) _____

7. Bullies are just looking for attention, so if you ignore them they will stop. _____

8. Most bullying occurs on school grounds. _____

9. "Sticks and stones may break your bones, but names will never hurt you." _____

10. Reporting bullying behavior most often improves the situation. _____

Reasons to care:

- The target is too shy, too scared, or doesn't know what to do. **You can help.**
- When you speak up, most often the bullying stops. **57%** of bullies stop if someone interferes right away.

You can be that person.

- Bullying is often hidden from adults. **You must tell them.**
- Speaking up, intervening, and telling about bullying empowers you. Studies now show that you and your peers have the most influence in changing bullying behavior. **You must take charge.**

ACTIVITY: BOY VS. GIRL BULLYING

Research to learn the different ways that a boy versus a girl may bully someone. Share your findings with your class.



Answers: 1. False 2. False 3. True 4. False 5. False 6. False 7. False 8. False 9. False 10. True

DESERET NEWS

CLASSROOM Connections

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WHAT IF YOU'RE THE BULLY?

- Have you ever harmed an animal?
- Do you regularly lie, cheat or steal from someone you think is weak or different?
- Have you ever deliberately hit, kicked, shoved, or attacked someone who is weaker or different?
- Have you ever called another person a bad name or slur?
- Have you talked about someone behind their back or when he or she can hear what you are saying?
- Have you ever deliberately destroyed someone's property?
- Have you tried to keep someone from joining a group, organization or team?
- Have you ever sent nasty emails, texts, or photos?
- Have you ever been bullied yourself, then turn around and picked on someone else because you were hurt, angry, or stressed?

If you honestly answered a "yes" to any of these questions, then you have shown bullying behavior.

You may not know how to stop, or your friends are egging you on. It is important that you ask for and get help now.

Bullying backfires. A person might feel miserable, not respected, and the abusive behavior can get him/her into a lot of trouble.

What can you do? It's important that you remember that it is never too late to change, although it might seem difficult at first. One step you can take is to ask an adult you respect for some mentoring or coaching on how you could change.

It's always good to ask for help.

CHECK IT OUT

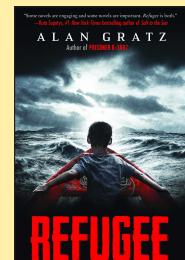


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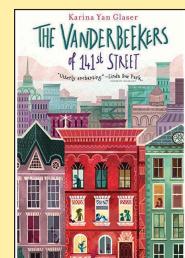
This month the librarians at The City Library have chosen the theme:

BOOKS THAT SHOULD WIN AWARDS

"**Refugee**," by Alan Gratz. Three young people will go on harrowing journeys in search of refuge. All will face unimaginable dangers. But for each of them, there is always the hope of tomorrow.



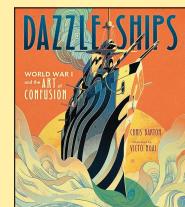
"**The Vanderbeekers of 141st Street**," by Karina Glaser. A large biracial family might lose their beloved brownstone home, but win it back with an all-out charm offensive.



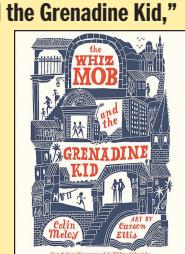
"**Hello Universe**," by Erin Entrada Kelly. Told from four intertwining points of view—two boys and two girls—the novel celebrates bravery, being different, and finding your inner bayani (hero).



"**Dazzle Ships: World War I and the Art of Confusion**," by Chris Barton. During World War I, British and American ships were painted with bold colors and crazy patterns from bow to stern. Why would anyone put such eye-catching designs on ships?



"**The Whiz Mob and the Grenadine Kid**," by Colin Meloy. From the creators of the New York Times bestselling Wildwood Chronicles comes an original, humorous, and fast-paced middle grade novel about a band of child pickpockets—imagine The Invention of Hugo Cabret meets Oliver Twist.



"**Beyond the Bright Sea**," by Lauren Wolk. From the bestselling author of Newbery Honor-winner Wolf Hollow, the moving story of an orphan, determined to know her own history, who discovers the true meaning of family.

