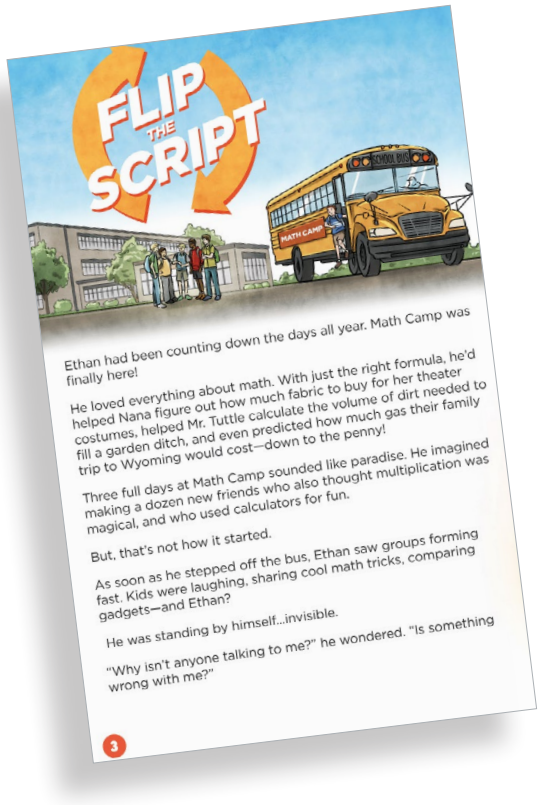
Parent Guide: August 2025

Article Overviews and Conversation Starters

This month, your kids will be reading several articles. Below you'll find summaries of each one along with suggested conversation starters. These discussions will help reinforce key concepts while also giving you, the parent, an opportunity to share your experiences and perspectives on the topic.



Flip the Script

Ethan was excited to attend Math Camp, expecting to make lots of new friends who loved numbers as much as he did. But when he arrived, he felt invisible and alone. After messaging his twin sister Emily for help, she showed him that his focus was all wrong—he was too worried about being accepted, instead of accepting others. She helped him "flip the script" by teaching him the Golden Rule: treat others the way you want to be treated.

Once Ethan started noticing others, talking to them, and caring about their interests, friendships naturally followed. The story teaches that the best way to make friends is to stop thinking about yourself, and start focusing on others.

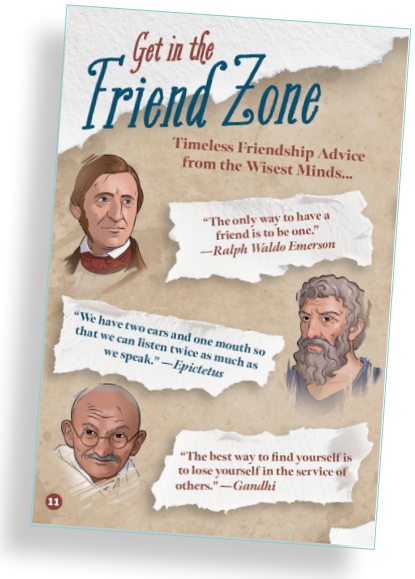
Conversation Starters

- Have you ever felt invisible or left out like Ethan did at camp? What did you do?
- Why would focusing on others helps us feel less nervous in social situations?
- What is one way you could make someone feel noticed and valued this week?

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Get in the Friend Zone

This article shares timeless advice about friendship from some of history's wisest minds. From Emerson to Epictetus, Jesus to Carnegie, each quote reminds us that making friends starts with being kind, curious, and thoughtful toward others. The message is simple: if you want good friends, focus on being one.



Conversation Starters

- Which of the six friendship quotes stood out to you the most, and why?
- What's a time someone made you feel important or cared for?

Break the Ice!

Starting a conversation can be one of the hardest parts of making a new friend—but it doesn't have to be. This article shares four practical tips to help kids break the ice: be curious about others, use their name, ask thoughtful questions, and exit conversations politely. The more we focus on helping others feel important, the less afraid we feel ourselves. Friendliness is a skill—and anyone can get better with practice.



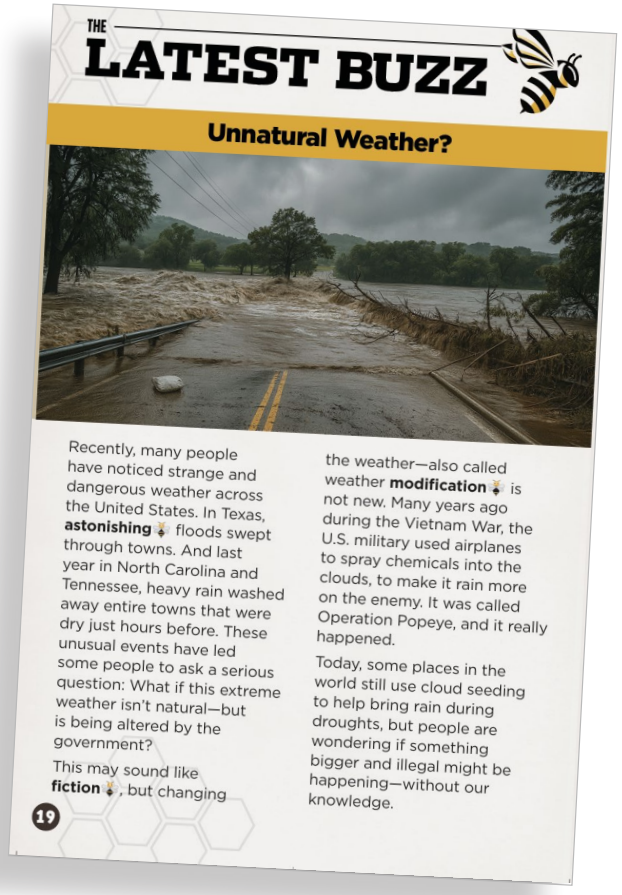
Conversation Starters

- Which of the four tips do you think is the easiest to try? Which is the hardest?
- Can you think of a time when someone "broke the ice" with you? What did they say or do?

Latest Buzz: Unnatural Weather?

Strange and extreme weather events—like sudden floods and unusual skies—have led some people to wonder if the weather is being altered by more than just nature. This article explores the history of weather modification, like the real Operation Popeye during the Vietnam War, and raises questions about modern experiments.

The article encourages readers to stay curious, seek truth, and demand transparency from those in power. The big idea? If something is affecting our world—especially without permission—we have a right to know.



THE LATEST BUZZ

Unnatural Weather?

Recently, many people have noticed strange and dangerous weather across the United States. In Texas, **astonishing** floods swept through towns. And last year in North Carolina and Tennessee, heavy rain washed away entire towns that were dry just hours before. These unusual events have led some people to ask a serious question: What if this extreme weather isn't natural—but is being altered by the government?

This may sound like **fiction**, but changing the weather—also called weather **modification** is not new. Many years ago during the Vietnam War, the U.S. military used airplanes to spray chemicals into the clouds, to make it rain more on the enemy. It was called Operation Popeye, and it really happened.

Today, some places in the world still use cloud seeding to help bring rain during droughts, but people are wondering if something bigger and illegal might be happening—without our knowledge.

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Conversation Starters

• Should people be allowed to ask hard questions—even if the answers make others uncomfortable?

• Why do you think some people believe the government might be changing the weather?

Share your conversation experiences with the world!

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