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.


ETHAN'S NEW STYLE

Every summer, the country club filled with volunteers and sponsors preparing for the Spoonerville Charity Golf Tournament. Mrs. Tuttle directed the event, so the Tuttle Twins spent the days leading up to the tournament helping however they could. Whenever they weren't needed, they ran across the rolling green hills and through the sand traps, practicing golf with the children of the other volunteers.

On Monday morning, while they were practicing on the driving range, a group of boys arrived.

Their golf bags matched. Their hair was perfectly styled. Their shirts fit perfectly. Their hats, sunglasses, and shoes all carried logos that Ethan recognized from magazines in the clubhouse. Their clothes seemed to show they were **exceptional**.

One of the boys looked at Ethan's polo shirt. "Nice threads, dawg," he said, while the others snickered.

For the first time, Ethan realized something. Those boys had decided what kind of person he was after only one quick glance. His clothes had introduced him before he ever had the chance to say hello, and to them, he wasn't worth knowing.

That thought stayed with him all night.

3

Ethan's New Style.

While helping prepare for a charity golf tournament, Ethan notices that a group of stylish boys instantly judge him by the clothes he wears. Curious whether a different appearance might change the way people treat him, he reinvents himself as "E-Dawg" with a new outfit, hairstyle, and attitude. Before long, his experiment works exactly as he hoped, opening doors to new social opportunities while quietly creating distance between him and his closest friends.

As the week unfolds, Emily helps Ethan realize that clothing is a powerful way to communicate with others and shape the experiences we have. But she also helps him discover the difference between building connections for opportunity and being accepted for who he truly is. By tournament day, Ethan understands that while there's nothing wrong with dressing intentionally, the most meaningful friendships begin when people know—and like—the real you.

Conversation Starters

• Emily said there's a difference between networking and authentic friendship. What do you think she meant, and why do you think that difference matters?

• Ethan had to decide what kind of experience he wanted to have during the golf tournament. Can you think of a time when you chose to fit in with one group instead of another?

Parent Guide: August 2026

The XYZ's of Clothes.

Clothing does much more than protect us from the weather—it also communicates who we are, the role we want to play, and whether we respect the people and places around us. This article introduces the X-Y-Z Method for making thoughtful clothing choices. By considering the Zone you're entering, the Expectation your clothes create, and Why you're wearing them, you can use clothing as a tool to build trust, participate confidently, and strengthen relationships.

Rather than chasing attention or popularity, the article encourages readers to let their character shine through their appearance. When your clothing matches the setting, communicates your role clearly, and reflects honest motives, it helps others know the real you and creates opportunities for genuine friendships and mutual respect.



Conversation Starters

• The article says clothing is a way people communicate without speaking. What are some messages clothes can send, and are those messages always accurate?

• Two people can wear the exact same outfit for completely different reasons. Think of three examples that show this.

Share your conversation experiences with the world!

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