January 2025 Parent Guide



Article Summaries &
Family Dinner Conversation Starters

Letter to Parents

Dear Parents,

We want our *Tuttle Times* Parent Guide to be a valuable resource for you. Parents play a crucial role in shaping their children's minds and helping them understand the big ideas that lay the foundation for a bright future. We want to empower you to confidently guide your children in learning these principles.

Our mission is to equip you with knowledge and resources to make learning engaging and meaningful for your children. By encouraging curiosity, critical thinking, and a love for learning, your children can apply their knowledge in real-life situations and nurture their problem-solving skills and creativity.

We have included dinner table conversation starters in this Parent Guide. We firmly believe that changing the world begins at the dinner table. We hope these conversation starters will spark meaningful discussions and provide opportunities for bonding as a family.

—The Tuttle Twins team

Be sure to check out our January Issue Resources, which has links to the challenge badges, activity solutions, and more!

We would love for you (and your child!) to share your thoughts on this month's issue with us. Find the survey links on the Issue Resources page!

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Article Overviews and Dinner Table Conversations

We encourage you to read the *Tuttle Times* articles with your children, and we hope that the topics and big ideas bring about conversations that expand their knowledge and understanding of how the world works.

For each article, we give an overview or explain our reasoning for including it in this month's issue along with dinner table conversation starters. Bon appétit!

The Sourdough Situation (Issue pages 3–7)



Ethan and Emily visit the Winter Wonderland Market with their parents, excited to spend their Christmas money on unique items. They encounter a dilemma when their favorite bread stand, Mrs. Parker's Rise & Shine, has raised its prices.

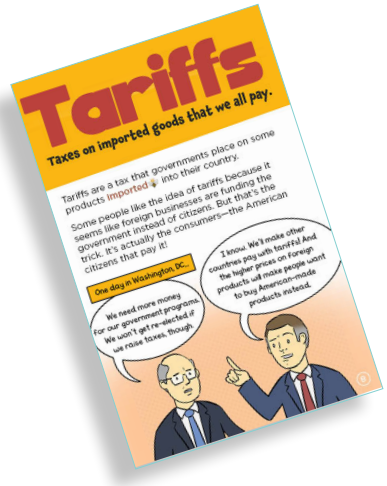
Mrs. Parker explains that the market charges her a higher fee since she now lives in a different town, which forces her to increase her prices to cover the added costs. This policy, meant to support local sellers, leads to unintended consequences, impacting Mrs. Parker, the customers, and other market vendors. Through discussions with their parents, the twins learn about tariffs and how policies can have ripple effects.

Dinner Table Conversation Starters

- What do you think of the policy that charges nonlocal sellers a higher percentage of their sales to participate in the market?
- Can you think of other ways the market could help local sellers?

Tariffs: Taxes on imported goods that we all pay

(Issue pages 8–10)



This article explains how tariffs don't just impact foreign businesses. It begins with lawmakers discussing ways to fund the government "without raising taxes." Their solution? Tariffs—so foreign businesses pay instead of Americans. The realities—companies raises prices and consumers always end up paying the tax through higher prices—is explained through a comic strip story.

Dinner Table Conversation Starters

- How might buying more American-made products help the economy? Are there downsides to this approach?
- What would happen if all countries started using high tariffs on each other's goods? How might that affect global trade?

Our History of Tariffs (Issue pages 11-12)

This article provides a timeline of tariffs in the United States. It highlights how the main funding for the federal government was tariffs from our country's founding through the 1800s. That changed in 1913, when the income tax was introduced.



Dinner Table Conversation Starters

- Do you think tariffs are a good way to protect jobs in a country, or do they create more problems than they solve?
- Why do you think Alexander Hamilton wanted high tariffs while Thomas Jefferson wanted low tariffs? How would these ideas affect people today?

Latest Buzz: Trump Tariff Tactics (Issue pages 13–14)

This article discusses President-elect Donald Trump's use of tariffs as a strategic political tool to influence other countries like Canada, Mexico, and China to do what he wants.



Dinner Table Conversation Starters

- What do you think about using tariffs as a negotiation tool?
- Do you think Canada and Mexico are going to do what Trump is asking to avoid the new tariffs?

Is Shopping Local Important?

The mantra “Shop local!” is quite popular nowadays. It’s understandable. Supporting local businesses connects people locally and helps build a strong community. It benefits communities by keeping more money local to circulate among other local businesses.

However, it is also important to recognize that nonlocal businesses and sellers are not inherently harmful or unworthy of support. The Silk Road is a great example of how not every community or local area has everything. Global trade expands our options.

Whether a business is local or operates from across the country, its owners and employees have much in common. They are people striving to make a living, support their families, and plan for a better future.

While the media and politicians continually push for division between every group they can, we need to elevate our thinking. Every business, regardless of its location, has people who dedicate their time and energy to deliver goods or services. Demonizing them overlooks the interconnectedness of modern commerce in a specialty economy as well as the shared struggles of business owners and employees everywhere.

The decisions of what to buy and from where to buy something aren’t always easy choices. We should take into account all the factors that are important to us. While shopping locally is good, nonlocal businesses can sometimes bring a wider selection, convenience, and accessibility. Or they might bring niche products or services that are not available locally.

Many people forget that while communist governments are horrible, there are people living under the control of those communist governments that are often very similar to us. Most times, when our government does something to punish a corrupt government (The irony!), it ends up punishing the people in that country who are already suffering so much. The government elites aren’t affected in the slightest.

So whether you’re buying something from a local farmer’s market or something produced halfway across the globe, your purchase supports someone’s livelihood. Let’s remember this shared humanity while making thoughtful, informed choices as consumers.

Extra Resources

Podcasts

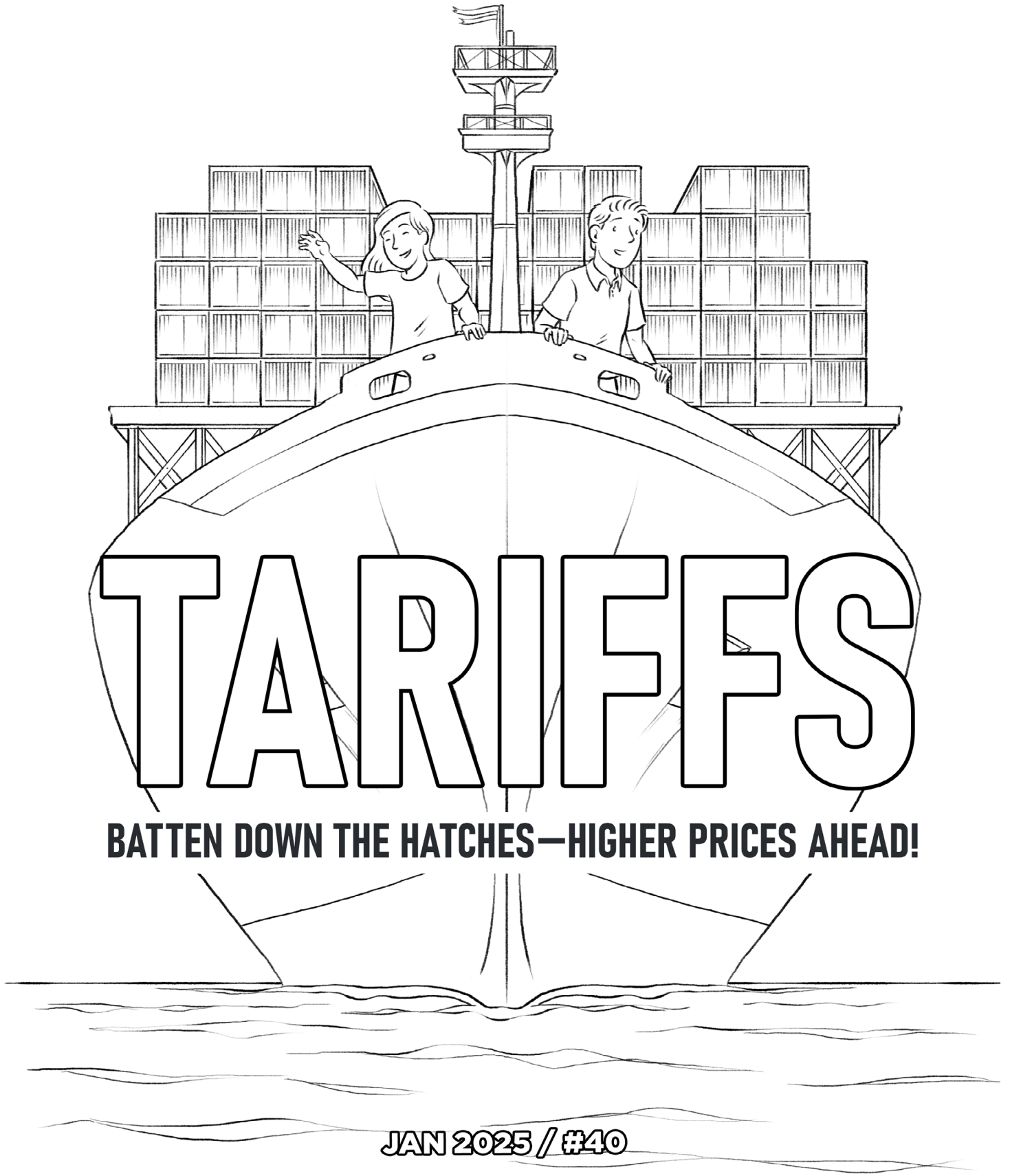
What Is Globalism? - Episode 281

Tuttle Twins Books & eBooks

The Tuttle Twins and the Miraculous Pencil

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TARIFFS

BATTEN DOWN THE HATCHES—HIGHER PRICES AHEAD!

JAN 2025 / #40