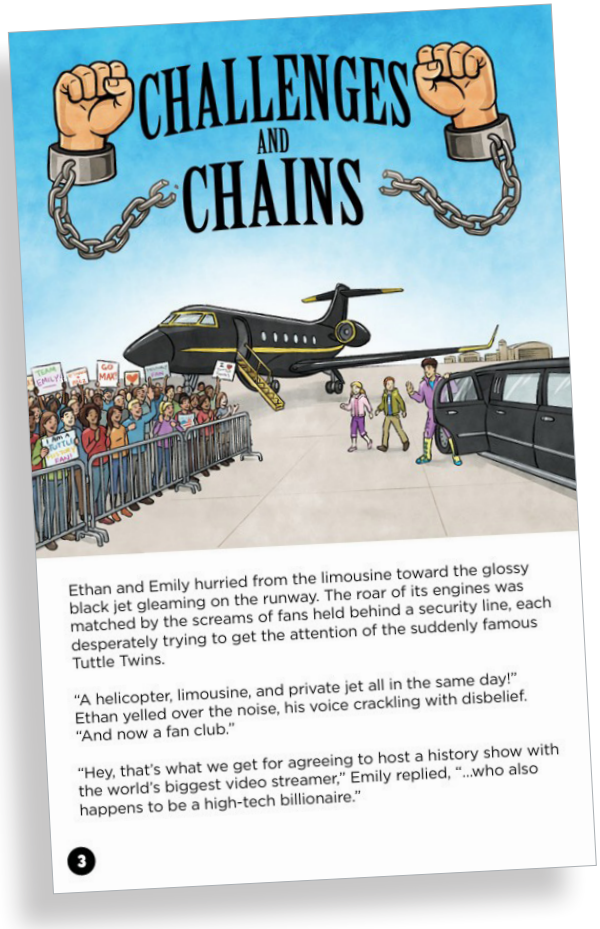
Parent Guide: May 2026

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.



Challenges and Chains.

Ethan and Emily join Max Impact and Fred aboard a private jet after their history show becomes a huge success. As they talk about famous presidents like George Washington, John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, and James Madison, the group discovers that even great leaders struggled to follow the limits set by the Constitution. Again and again, presidents used power in ways they believed were necessary—even when those actions stretched the rules they had promised to obey.

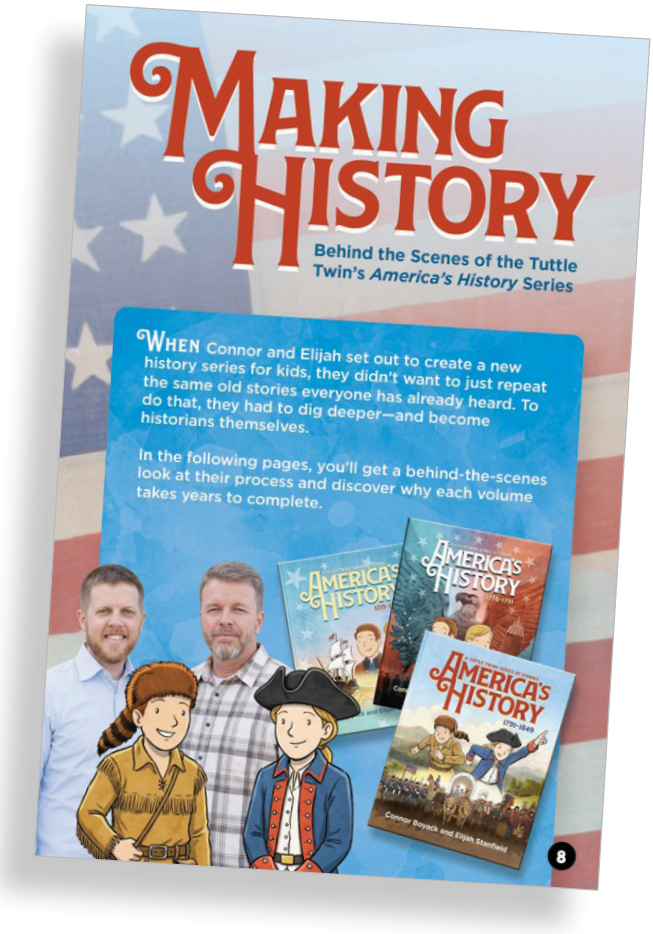
As the conversation continues, the group wrestles with difficult questions that Americans still debate today: Should leaders always follow constitutional limits, even during major crises? Or should presidents sometimes break those limits if they believe it will help the country? The story encourages readers to think deeply about power, freedom, and if it's ever okay for politicians to break their constitutional "chains".

Conversation Starters

• What do you think Fred meant when he said the Constitution was supposed to act like "chains" on government power?

• Do you think it's ever okay for leaders to break or bend the constitutional rules?

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Making History.

Connor and Elijah take readers behind the scenes of how the Tuttle Twins America's History books are created—from the very first ideas all the way to the final printed book. Readers learn how historians search for clues about the past by reading books, interviewing experts, comparing different perspectives, and building narratives that connect important events and ideas together. The article explains that history is often much more complicated than the simplified versions most people hear.

The article also gives kids a look into the creative process behind turning historical research into exciting stories. The behind-the-scenes tour continues through sketching, digital illustration, coloring, layout design, printing, and shipping—showing how an entire team works together to bring each book to life. More than anything, the article encourages kids to think like real historians: to stay curious, ask questions, investigate deeper, and understand that discovering the truth about history is an ongoing adventure.

Conversation Starters

• What part of making a history book sounded the most interesting or surprising to you?

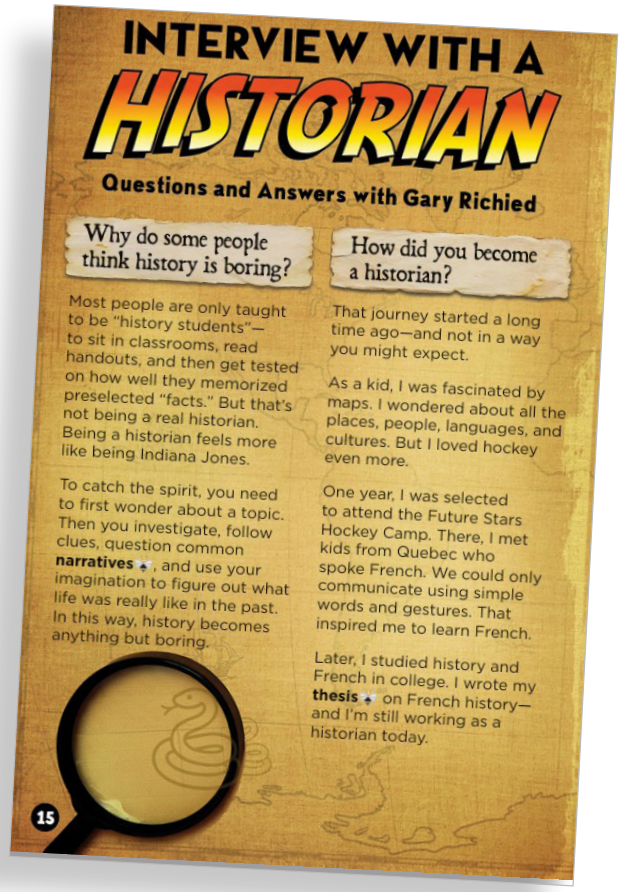
• Why do you think Connor and Elijah spend so much time researching and comparing different perspectives before writing?

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Interview With A Historian

Historian Gary Richied answers questions about why history matters and why so many people misunderstand what historians really do. He explains that real historians are more like investigators than students memorizing facts. They follow clues, question common narratives, and search for a better understanding of the past.

Gary also discusses the challenges historians face when powerful institutions, schools, and historical "gatekeepers" only promote approved versions of history. Throughout the interview, he encourages kids to stay curious, investigate topics they care about, and realize that learning history can make almost any interest—from sports to music to business—more meaningful and exciting.



INTERVIEW WITH A HISTORIAN

Questions and Answers with Gary Richied

Why do some people think history is boring?

Most people are only taught to be "history students"—to sit in classrooms, read handouts, and then get tested on how well they memorized preselected "facts." But that's not being a real historian. Being a historian feels more like being Indiana Jones.

To catch the spirit, you need to first wonder about a topic. Then you investigate, follow clues, question common **narratives**, and use your imagination to figure out what life was really like in the past. In this way, history becomes anything but boring.

How did you become a historian?

That journey started a long time ago—and not in a way you might expect.

As a kid, I was fascinated by maps. I wondered about all the places, people, languages, and cultures. But I loved hockey even more.

One year, I was selected to attend the Future Stars Hockey Camp. There, I met kids from Quebec who spoke French. We could only communicate using simple words and gestures. That inspired me to learn French.

Later, I studied history and French in college. I wrote my **thesis** on French history—and I'm still working as a historian today.

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Conversation Starters

- Why do you think some people only want certain versions of history to be taught or repeated?
- Why do you think it's important to question stories, investigate evidence, and stay curious when learning about the past?

Share your conversation experiences with the world!

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