

Disability

A disability can affect a child in many ways. Some children cannot see well. For some it may affect their hearing. Others have trouble talking.	12
Physical problems are also common. Some disabilities affect a child's learning or behavior.	25
Our nation's laws promise an appropriate education for these children. This law is called IDEA. IDEA stands for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. This law gives kids with disabilities certain rights. One right is an Individual Education Plan. It is also known as the IEP. Every child who has a disability has an IEP. In the IEP the child's family and the school set goals for the student. The goals are important. The goals describe what the child needs to learn in school. The IEP also states who is going to help the child at school. In addition, the IEP also says what special materials the child needs to succeed. A child may need special books. Some children may need special glasses. Other children may need hearing aids. There are some kids who need wheelchairs. Some kids may need special helpers.	35
Every year the child, the parents, and the school staff get together. At this meeting they look at the IEP. They want to make sure the child has made progress. At this meeting they look at the child's progress and make new plans for the upcoming year. This is how IDEA helps children with disabilities.	38
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Should I Play Football?

I started playing football when I was just a kid growing up in our neighborhood. We had a great time playing football. Of course, it was just “touch” football, and we didn’t actually tackle anybody. We did do some blocking, but that only amounted to getting in other people’s way so that they could not touch the person with the ball. No one was allowed to jump at somebody or hit him in the legs the way they do in tackle football.	14 27 39 53 68 82
When I got into sixth grade I had my first chance to play tackle football where everyone wore football pads and a uniform. I thought I looked great with those huge shoulder pads covered by my football jersey. Once we got out onto the field, though, and had to start blocking and tackling, I wasn’t so sure that I enjoyed playing football. Instead of taking turns playing as quarterback or pass receiver the way we did in our neighborhood touch football games, I had to play as an inside lineman all of the time. This meant I had to block someone on every play, and I never got to touch the football. I’ve got to be honest with you, I’m not so sure I really want to play football.	96 108 120 134 147 160 174 190 206 211

The Test

Angela was confident she would do well on the reading test. She had	13
been preparing for a long time. She knew it was important. If she didn't do	28
well, she wouldn't get a diploma. Her teacher had Angela and her friends	41
practicing their reading a lot. First, they had been reading lots of books.	54
Second, the teacher had been listening to every student read aloud. If	66
Angela stumbled on word, she'd help her with it. Third, after reading	78
stories, the students would talk about what they had read. Fourth, the	90
teacher taught them how to approach multiple-choice items. Fifth, Angela	101
had been trying to learn lots of new words. And finally, her class had been	116
taking lots of practice tests. Every time Angela took a practice test her	129
score would improve. She was sure all this time and work would lead to a	144
passing score.	146
Wednesday was the big day of the test and everyone would start at	159
9:00 AM. The test had no time limit, so Angela wasn't worried about	171
finishing. The teacher told the class to get plenty of sleep the night before	185
the test. She also suggested making sure they had a good breakfast. Angela	198
talked to her parents about getting ready. They said they would help her be	212
ready. Angela knew the test wouldn't be any problem. She was ready!	224

The Hot Day

It was one of those hot, muggy August days that Jermaine dreaded.	12
Last night was bad enough. He couldn't sleep in his family's hot	24
apartment. His mom had opened all the windows because they had no air	37
conditioning. But it didn't help much and only made the city noises louder.	50
So Jermaine's sleepless night was turning into one of those days when	62
finding a gushing fire hydrant might be the day's main activity. Even the	75
thought of playing basketball down at the square seemed unappealing.	85
This, of course, was remarkable since Jermaine lived to play	95
basketball. Every free moment he had, he spent down at the square playing	108
in pickup games with boys two and three years older. Jermaine was proud	121
of the fact that as a seventh grader he could hold his own in one-on-one	138
games with older kids. When they played in teams, he was often one of the	153
first kids picked.	156
Today Jermaine's only thought was on staying cool. Swimming	165
seemed like the best choice. He looked around the apartment for his	177
swimming suit. His Mom and Dad had already gone to work and his older	191
brother had left too. Jermaine was on his own. He was too young to work,	206
but really too old to have someone stay with him. During the summer, he was	221
under strict instructions to stay close to home and check in every couple of	235
hours at Mrs. Hardaway's. Mrs. Hardaway was the next-door neighbor on	247
the fourth floor.	250

Plane Ride

Stosh was leaving to visit his brother in Maine and he was both	13
scared and excited. For the first time ever he was going to fly in an	28
airplane, and he wasn't sure what it would be like to be so far above the	44
ground.	45
Stosh's parents drove him to the airport at the scheduled time.	56
Unfortunately, as so often happens, the plane was late so they had to wait at	71
the gate for almost an hour. The additional sitting and waiting gave Stosh	84
more time to think about the hazards of flying and increased his anxiety.	97
When the plane finally arrived, Stosh kissed his mom, shook his	108
father's hand, and carried his bag onto the airplane. He had a seat by the	123
window, so after he fastened his seat belt, he sat and looked out at the	138
terminal. While he sat there he wondered whether there might still be time	151
for him to get off of the plane and not risk flying.	163
Finally, the plane took off, and Stosh felt his stomach leap. The	175
plane was speeding down the runway and suddenly they were off the	187
ground. Stosh could feel his ears popping as they rose higher and higher.	200
When he looked down, his hometown appeared to be very small. He	212
realized that it was now too late for him to get off of the plane, so he sat	230
back and tried to enjoy the ride.	237

London

London, England is one of the top tourist attractions in the world. It is steeped in history. It also has plenty of pop culture to experience.	13 26
London has many palaces, museums, and theatres to see. Here are few of the main attractions.	39 42
Buckingham Palace: This is where the Queen of England lives. It is open to the public for two months each summer. Visitors can see eighteen rooms.	54 67 68
Changing of the Guard: The guards change outside of Buckingham Palace. The ceremony begins every day at 10:45 and lasts over an hour. The guards are famous for their red coats and black hats.	78 91 102
Tower of London: The Tower is a castle that is over 900 years old. It is the location of many important events in English history. Tours are conducted by military guards dressed in Tudor uniforms. On display are the Crown Jewels and the homes of past kings and queens. Also interesting are the dungeons where many were jailed. The Tower is on the Thames River.	116 129 140 153 166 167
Houses of Parliament: Parliament is also along the Thames River. This is the home of British government. Westminster Hall and Big Ben clock tower are part of this area. Visitors can view the house debates.	177 189 202
Westminster Abby: This is a cathedral that has been the site of many coronations. It includes chapels, monuments, and a museum.	215 223
Piccadilly Circus: The Circus is actually a trendy shopping area and is very close to most of the landmarks. It's a great place for restaurants. At night there are many theatres and nightclubs to visit.	236 250 258

Just "Hanging Out"

On weekends, my buddies and I spend a lot of time just "hanging out." I suppose that's true for a lot of guys who are in seventh grade.	13
During the week, we are incredibly busy going to school, going to basketball practice, coming home to eat, and doing our homework. We don't always get to our homework, of course! Given that kind of a schedule, it should be easy to understand why we spend a lot of time on weekends just "hanging out."	28
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You can imagine that our parents don't like "hanging out" very much. Each one of us has had more than one "heart-to-heart" conversation with our folks about what we ought to be doing with our time on weekends. They all seem to think we'll get into trouble if we have too much free time on our hands. They have all read the stories in the newspaper about how kids need to be actively involved to prevent delinquency.	94
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I wish someone would explain to me why having free time necessarily leads young people to bad behavior. I don't believe that is true, at all. One of our teachers once talked about something called the "work ethic." His view was that working hard all of the time was required to be a good person. The work ethic must still be strong in our society.	173
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The Hike

Bob and Steve had been planning their weeklong hike for quite	11
awhile. It took a long time to prepare for this adventure and the boys were	26
ready. Steve worked at the local grocery store during the winter so that he	40
could save enough money for camping equipment. He was pleased with the	52
new two-person tent and sleeping bag he had bought. Although he thought	64
the sleeping bag cost too much, he was glad that it would be extra warm for	80
cold temperatures.	82
Bob had also been busy planning. He was in charge of getting the	95
food ready, which was no easy task. Since the boys would be gone for six	110
nights, they had a lot of food to bring along. This worried Bob because it	125
meant they would have too much weight to carry on their six day hike.	139
Bob solved his problem, though, when he visited a camping store. There he	152
found out that he could buy packages of food that were specially prepared	165
to be lightweight. Best of all, Bob thought, the packages contained some	177
pretty good meals such as beef stew, scrambled eggs, lots of vegetables and	190
even popcorn.	192

Twins

What would it be like to have twins in your family? I think that if	15
they were identical in their appearance it could be a lot of fun to watch	30
people react to them. I could watch to see if people could tell them apart,	45
and as they got older, might even try to get them to play tricks on people.	61
One of them could deliberately pretend to be the other. In school, for	74
example, they could try to trade places, and each one could try to go to all	90
of the other twin's classes. They could try to see whether the teachers	103
would be able to discover that they were talking to a different person.	116
I'm sure that there are some things I might not like very well about	130
having twins in my family. Right now, I'm the only child in our family.	144
I'm the center of attention. If all of a sudden we had twins in our family, I	161
would no longer be in that center. I think my parents would be so	175
preoccupied with their two new babies that they might easily forget all	187
about me. I imagine that when they planned things for us to do as a family	203
that they would think more about what would please the twins rather than	216
what would please me. I suppose that's not all bad.	226

The Doughnut Shop

One day Danny made a big mistake. It just happened to be when he	14
was helping Mr. Appleby. Mr. Appleby was one of the grumpiest men in	27
town, and everyone knew it. People would stay away from Mr. Appleby	39
because they were scared of him.	45
Mr. Appleby also happened to have a brand new sedan with a leather	58
interior. When Danny put the groceries on the seat, one bag fell over. It	72
happened to be a bag with a dozen eggs on top, which broke all over Mr.	88
Appleby's seat. It was a huge mess and took quite awhile to clean up.	102
Anyone else might have forgiven Danny, but not Mr. Appleby. He made	114
sure Danny was fired from the job.	121
Now that he was starting a new job at the doughnut shop, Danny	134
couldn't imagine that it would be too difficult. There would be no dishes to	148
break, and he wouldn't be going near any new cars, so, he was confident	162
that this would be the job to earn him the money he needed. He was	177
greeted at the door by Mrs. Haney, the owner of the store.	189
It smelled wonderful in the shop; there were chocolate covered	199
doughnuts, glazed doughnuts, sugar doughnuts, and plain cake doughnuts.	208
Danny could tell he was going to like this job! The hardest part would be	223
trying not to eat too many.	229

It's Contagious

Most people think of illness when they hear the word contagious.	11
But viruses are not the only things that can spread quickly from one person to another. Have you ever noticed how one person in a room will yawn and the next thing you know, several other people are yawning? It's some kind of subliminal power of suggestion.	25 40 53 58
Another human behavior that is contagious is smiling. Within a matter of hours, one smile can multiply into a thousand smiles reaching across a thousand miles. Think about it. The same is true, no doubt for frowning, but who wants to spread negative feelings? Next time you are in a group, notice what the general atmosphere of the crowd is. If it is less than enthusiastic, see if you can light up the room with a smile. Odds are that your grin will become contagious as people pass it on throughout the gathering. An outbreak of smiles could actually start an epidemic!	69 82 96 110 124 141 152 160
Can you think of any other things that people do that are contagious? How about kindness? We often hear that acts of kindness can spread. Presumably, if you do something helpful for someone else, then that person is more likely to do something helpful for another person. How much nicer and friendlier the world would be if we could all make kindness a contagion.	173 185 197 210 224

The Farm

Now that my mother lives in our house all of the time, going home to	15
the farm is a special trip for her. We usually make that trip at	29
Thanksgiving or Christmas. My favorite time to go is early in the summer.	42
That's when the strawberries are ripe. My grandfather has a big strawberry	54
patch and we get to eat all of the strawberries that we want. We eat	69
strawberries with fresh cream from the farm. We eat strawberry shortcake.	80
I really like the shortcake that my grandmother makes. My favorite way to	93
eat strawberries, though, is with homemade ice cream. I usually eat too	105
much and feel sick when I'm done.	112
Sometimes I watch my grandma make real pork sausage. She takes a	124
meat grinder out of the drawer and clamps it to the breadboard. Then she	138
takes the chunks of pork, grinds them, and fills the sausage casing with the	152
sausage mix. After I watch her make the sausage, I don't feel much like	166
eating it.	168
I hope you can see why going home to the farm is special to my	183
mother, you can probably tell that going home is very special to me, too.	197
I'll bet going home is special to just about everyone.	207

Soccer

Rosa’s soccer team had not played well all season. They had won	12
only seven games in their twenty game season. Rosa had struggled all	24
season long too. She had injured her right ankle early in the season.	37
Several other players had also been hurt.	44
Now the playoffs were beginning and expectations were high. The	54
good news was everyone was healthy. For the first time all season, Rosa	67
could run at full speed. Better yet, she didn’t feel pain when she kicked the	82
ball. That was important, because as left striker, her team needed her to	95
make goals.	97
Their first playoff game was against Oakdale, their big rival. During	108
the regular season Rosa’s team lost twice to Oakdale. Today would be a	121
different story. Before the game, Rosa and her teammates had a meeting.	133
They talked about how, this time, they would put together a good team	146
effort. Everyone wanted to have their best showing of the year.	157
It was a hot, humid day, but everyone was giving it their best. The	171
coached substituted players often and told them to drink lots of water.	183
There were only a few minutes to play and the game was tied. Rosa’s	197
teammate, Kia, intercepted the ball at midfield and sped toward the goal. Rosa	210
sprinted down the left side, hoping to get a pass. Just as the goalie came up	226
to make the stop, Kia made a beautiful pass over to Rosa. Rosa kicked the	241
ball into the open net. Rosa’s team led 2 to 1. She was ecstatic.	255

Cold Weather

The radio announcers were all talking about the unusually cold	10
weather we were about to experience. Apparently, a cold front was coming	22
down from Canada and it was coming fast. They expected it to arrive by	36
noon.	37
All of the weather forecasters were predicting that the temperature	47
would drop to at least 25 degrees below zero. When combined with the	60
wind, the temperature would be like it was 75 degrees below zero. That kind	74
of temperature would be really dangerous because unprotected skin would	84
freeze in a matter of minutes. The people on the radio talked about the	98
importance of being careful, and they said that we should stay inside if	111
possible.	112
I didn't want to hear about the weather being so cold that we should	126
stay inside. I wanted to go skiing with my friends after school. I hoped the	141
weathermen were wrong, but they weren't. Before the end of school that	153
day, the temperature began to drop. The school ski club trip was cancelled,	163
and I was really disappointed. I slowly walked home.	175
Mom came home and said that since everyone was staying home she	187
had brought lots of treats. Dad came in a little later and said he had bought	203
lots of snacks for our night at home. Right then I realized that staying	217
home wouldn't be so bad after all!	224

Being A Star Athlete

My dad was a junior high school physical education teacher. It	11
should come as no surprise that I grew up thinking that playing sports was	25
just about the most important thing anyone could do. I was lucky that I	39
grew up in a neighborhood with a lot of boys who were similar in age to	55
me. We could almost always get together enough guys to play a game of	69
whatever sport was in season. In the fall, we played football. In winter,	82
most of us played basketball, although, some of the guys liked to play	95
hockey. In the spring, it was softball.	102
Sometimes, on weekends, my dad would be working in the woodshop	113
at school and he would let my brother and me into the gym to play	128
basketball. I would spend two or three hours shooting baskets and really	140
learned to love the game. When I got into junior high school, my	153
homeroom won the intramural basketball championships for three years in a	164
row. I thought I was going to be a sports star when I got to high school. I	182
did manage a fairly successful basketball career, but now that I think about	195
it, I'm sure I was too focused on athletics.	204

The Truck

Angelo climbed into his grandpa's old, red pick-up truck. Angelo	10
loved all of the sounds the truck made – the gears grinding and the horn	24
blowing. Every time he took a ride in the truck he thought it would quit	39
running, but the truck always seemed to get them to wherever they were	52
going. Even though the truck had never failed them on any of their trips,	66
Angelo’s grandpa didn’t like to take any chances, so he always carried a	79
box full of tools in the back of the truck.	89
On this morning the weather was pretty cool and the truck didn't start	102
right away. "No problem!" said Angelo’s grandpa, "I think it's the fuel	114
pump, and I can fix that right away."	122
Grandpa got out of the old truck, lifted the hood, and began fiddling	135
with the motor. Angelo tried looking over the fender, but he wasn't tall	148
enough to see the motor. He knew his grandfather would be able to fix the	163
problem and, sure enough, Grandpa had the truck running in just a few	176
minutes.	177
"She's ready now, Angelo, hop in before she stops," his grandpa said.	189
Angelo jumped in again, and this time they were off on their way to	203
the river. Slowly the truck rumbled along the road, and Angelo told	215
himself that some day he'd have a truck just like this one. Only, his truck	230
would be blue and go much faster. He hoped that he would know as much	245
about his truck as his grandpa did.	252

Language Problems

My family has been living in China for six months now, and during	13
this time I've eaten lots of different foods. I like most of them, but I	28
haven't had a hamburger for a long time. My mother just told me that we	43
are going to a place that makes hamburgers and I'm really excited. She	56
said I don't have to have one if I don't want one. I think she must be joking	74
because now I can't even stop thinking about hamburgers. I'm so anxious	86
to have a hamburger that I'm even going try to get everyone to go early to	102
supper.	103
When we get to the restaurant we are happy to find that the waitress	117
speaks a little bit of English. We feel very lucky because we speak Chinese	131
almost not at all. Everyone orders a hamburger and I order mine "plain."	144
The waitress asks me, "What is a 'plain' hamburger?" Of course, I tell her	158
that in the United States, it is a hamburger with nothing on it.	171
After a while, the waitress brings our food to the table. Everyone	183
else's hamburger looks really great, but mine doesn't come. After a long	195
wait, I look around the table and see an empty hamburger bun to one side.	210
We all laugh because we realize that this must be the hamburger with	223
nothing on it!	226

Jermaine

Jermaine couldn't wait to go swimming. His apartment was	9
unbelievably hot. Jermaine threw his swim trunks, a towel, and a few	21
dollars into his old red gym bag. As an afterthought, he tossed in his	35
basketball. On his way out, he grabbed a handful of chocolate chip cookies.	48
He headed for the elevator. Before reaching it, he knocked loudly on Mrs.	61
Hardaway's door. He opened her door and yelled that he was on his way to	76
the square. As he closed the door behind him, he could hear Mrs. Hardaway	90
saying he needed to check back in a couple of hours.	101
Normally, Jermaine would have headed down to the 2nd floor to the	113
apartment of his best friend, Landon. But Landon, that lucky guy, Jermaine	125
thought to himself, was away to a summer camp. So Jermaine was on his	139
own. Jermaine headed out the front door of the apartment building. The	151
swimming pool was about six blocks away, so it would take him about ten	165
minutes to get there. The sun was beating down on him and the air felt	180
very humid. He started to sweat almost immediately. Jermaine started to	191
jog. He thought he might as well get very hot and sweaty before he jumped	206
into the pool. Unfortunately, while he was sweating, he forgot that the	218
chocolate chips in the cookies were melting in his pocket.	228

Women's Athletics

I wonder how men actually feel about women's athletics. A lot of	12
fathers who have daughters that play a sport are really supportive of	24
women's athletics. In fact, I doubt that you could tell the difference	36
between a father's enthusiasm when rooting for his daughter or his son.	48
Despite the enthusiasm of so many fathers, I still wonder how most men	61
feel about the quality of women's sports.	68
Why is it that I wonder about men's attitudes toward women's	79
sports? The reason is that so many of the men I know have virtually no	94
interest in watching women's teams compete. I have a good friend who likes	107
to play and watch men's basketball. He has never watched a women's	119
basketball game. I've asked him about his lack of interest. He says it stems	133
from the fact that women players look so awkward. Perhaps that is the	146
reason, but he will watch boys play high school basketball even when they	159
are relatively unskilled.	162
Do I think men are biased? I suppose many are. Eventually, I think	175
that bias will diminish. I don't know that it will completely disappear,	187
however. As long as women are given an equal opportunity to play, men's	200
interest in women's sports may not be all that important.	210

Rico's Dog

Rit was Rico's dog, and Rico's most important job was to take care	13
of his Rit. Taking care of Rit was no simple matter for Rico because Rit	28
had to have fresh water at all times, and, of course, he had to be fed daily.	45
Providing food and water were not the only jobs to be done in caring for	60
Rit, however. Rit's fur had to be brushed and kept clean.	71
Brushing Rit was something Rico had to do a lot because Rit was	84
always getting dirty. Last week Rit found a big mud puddle to play in and	99
Rico's mama did not like that. Yesterday, Rit ran through the garden and	112
his papa did not like that. It seemed like Rit was always getting into trouble	127
and Rico was afraid that his mama and papa would make him get rid of Rit.	143
Last night, all of that changed when Rit saved his family. The family	156
had enjoyed a fire in the fireplace. When they went to bed his father put	171
out the fire, but while they were sleeping, a spark flew from the fire and	186
onto the rug. The rug began to smoke, and everyone was sound asleep,	199
except Rit, who smelled the smoke and began to bark. His barking	211
awakened everyone and prevented a disaster.	217