

Making Decisions



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Decisions, Decisions

What should I eat for breakfast? What color socks should I wear? Which movie should I watch tonight? Decisions, decisions. Whether you are **aware** of it or not, you make many decisions each day.





So, what is a decision? It is a choice you make about something. There are usually two or more **options**. People can make most decisions on their own. But sometimes, they have to ask for **help**.

Everyone makes hundreds or even thousands of decisions every day. Some decisions are easy, such as which shoes to wear to school, or whether you want strawberry or vanilla ice cream. Some decisions are more difficult, such as who to sit by on the bus. And some decisions are really difficult. What if you see a classmate being bullied at school? What should you do?

As you get older, you'll have plenty of decisions to make. There will be different levels of **complexity**. Making responsible decisions can be challenging!

Jump into
Fiction



Snowballs

At recess, Jamie swung on the swing, pumping her legs toward the sky. She searched the playground for her best friend, Teresa, but there was no sign of her anywhere—just the school’s meanest bullies, Blade and Cooper, marching toward Jamie with snowballs in their hands. Jamie’s legs grew heavy, and the swing swayed lower to the ground.

“Scramble, doofus! It’s our turn,” yelled Blade, as he stood by the swing set.





“Yeah, we have total dibs on the swings, so beat it,” added Cooper.

Jamie’s heart thumped against her chest. She hopped off the swing and started to walk away.

She felt someone grab her arm and yank her to the side. It was Teresa. She whispered, “You have every right to be on the swings, too.”

Just then, Blade hurled a snowball toward Jamie, and it grazed the top of her head as she ducked.



“You need to stand up for yourself,” said Teresa.

Jamie’s mind swam in circles, making her dizzy.

She could stand up to them, but if Mrs. Shelby thought she was fighting, she’d be in major trouble. Another option would be ignoring Blade and Cooper, but then Teresa would call her a wimp.

Jamie wanted to do the right thing—ignore it—but those bullies didn’t own the playground. She decided to make a snowball.

“Bawk...bawk...chicken,” teased Blade. “I dare you to throw it!”

“They deserve it,” said Teresa.





Jamie patted the snowball, but her stomach began twisting into knots. She threw the snowball to the ground and stomped on it.

"I changed my mind. It's not worth it! Let's get away from here," Jamie said.

Blade hurled another snowball at her, but this time it almost hit Mrs. Shelby's leg!

"What are you two doing? Both of you go inside now," Mrs. Shelby said, frowning her brow.

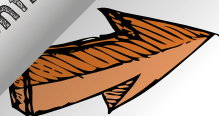
Cooper dropped his snowball to the ground. Cooper and Blade trudged toward the school, shoulders slumped.

"It's a good thing you didn't throw the snowball!" said Teresa.

"I know," replied Jamie. "That was a close call."



Back to
Nonfiction



Making Decisions

We make decisions every day. Some choices we make are easy and some are not. There are many things to consider when making a decision. It can be challenging, but you have the power to choose!

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