

DIGITAL WELLNESS

FALSE INFORMATION ONLINE



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CHAPTER 1

WHAT IS FALSE INFORMATION?

Leo is online. He reads amazing news. There is a fun new game. It is free! He clicks the link.



Instead of a free game, a **virus** gets onto his computer! The news was not true. It was false.

For Review Only

False information spreads through emails and text messages. It spreads on **social media** and other websites, too. It is important to learn about false information. Why? This will help you recognize it. False information can affect how you feel about something. It can also confuse you about what is true.

FAKE NEWS

People use the term “fake news” to describe false information. Some people also use it to describe news they do not like or do not want to think is true.

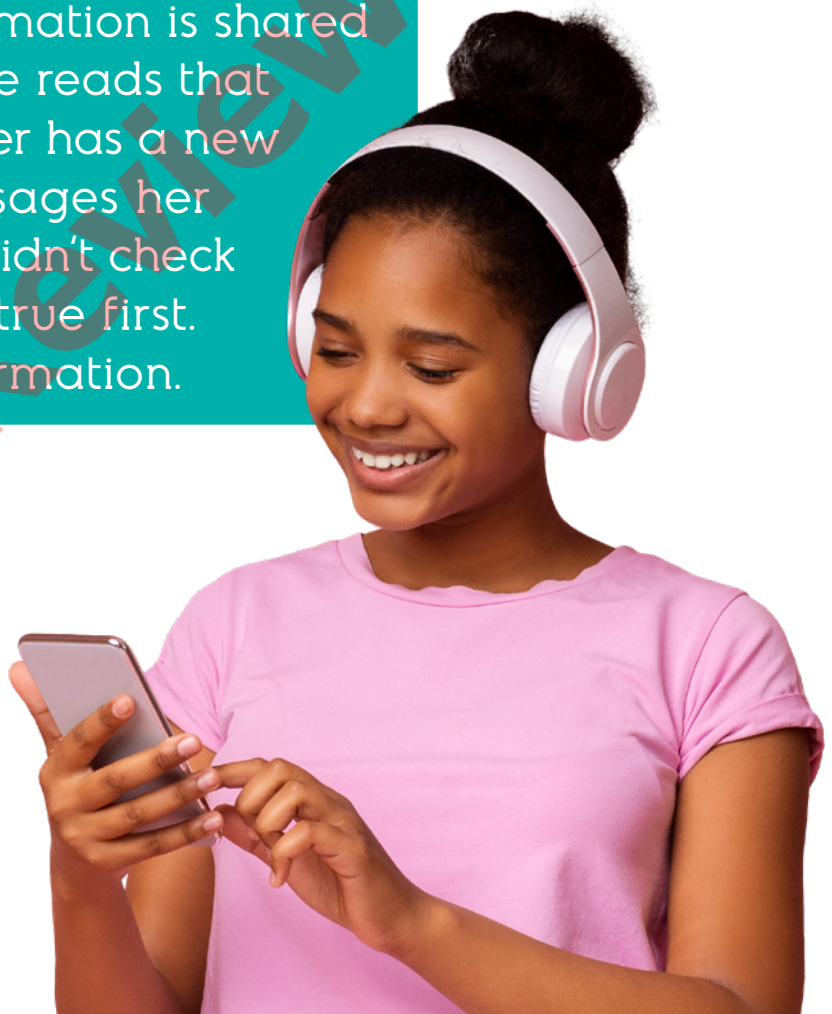


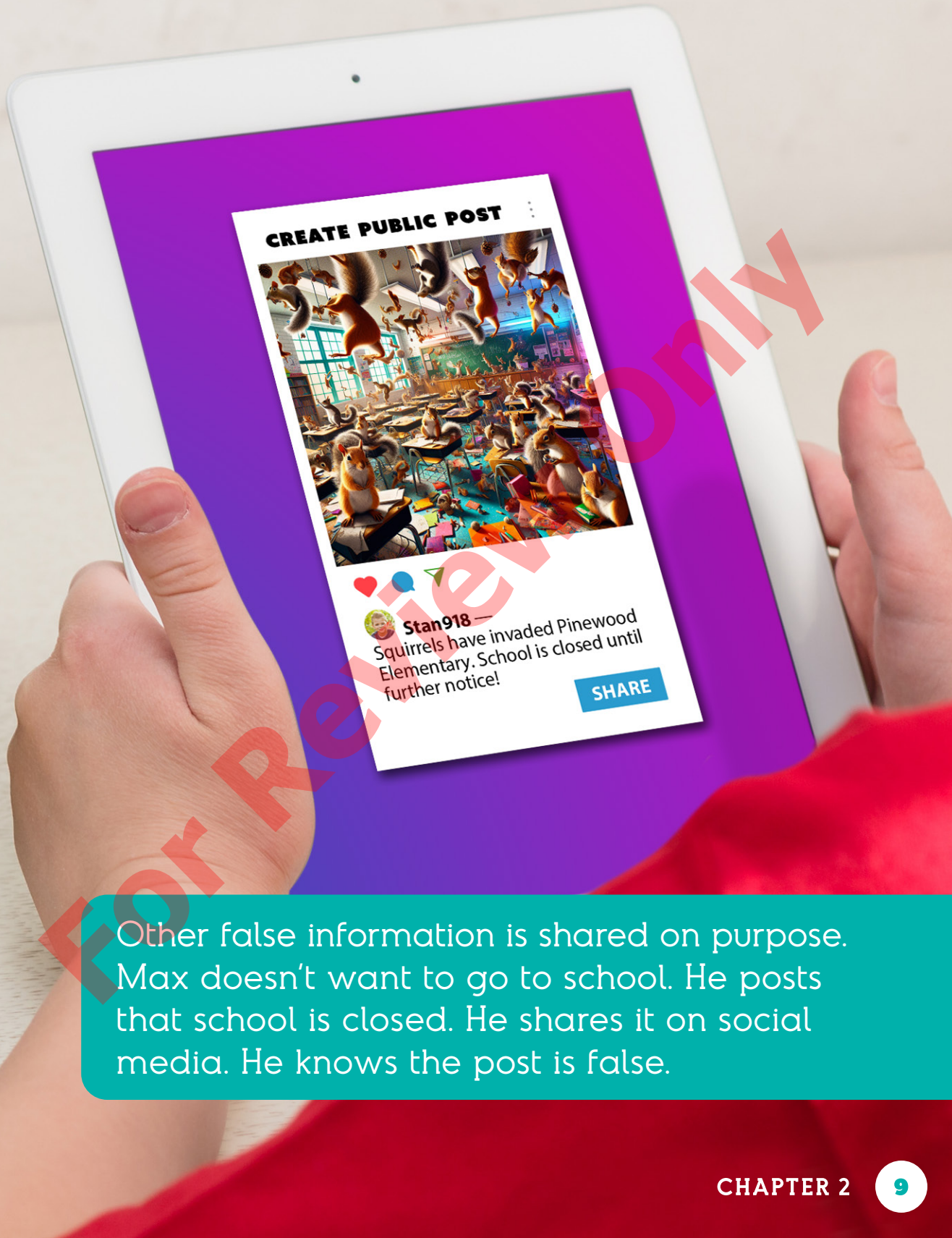


CHAPTER 2

TYPES OF FALSE INFORMATION

Some false information is shared on accident. Josie reads that her favorite singer has a new album. She messages her friends. But she didn't check if the story was true first. It was false information.





Other false information is shared on purpose. Max doesn't want to go to school. He posts that school is closed. He shares it on social media. He knows the post is false.

GOALS AND TOOLS

GROW WITH GOALS

Dealing with false information online takes practice. Try these goals:

Goal: Pay attention to how you feel after reading something online. Do you feel worried? Scared? This can be a sign something is false. The author may want to change your feelings about something. Decide if you should share it by checking the facts first.



Goal: Talk to a trusted adult about what you see online. Ask them to help you identify if something is true or false.

Goal: Learn from mistakes. Have you shared information that you later found out was false? That's OK! Let people know it was false and apologize. Double-check the information next time.

TRY THIS!

To check if information is true, ask yourself these questions:

1. When was it published? If it is old, is there newer information?
2. Is it appropriate for your age? Ask a trusted adult if you are unsure.
3. Who wrote it? Is the author an expert? If you search their name, what comes up?
4. Where does the information come from? Do trusted sources back it up?
5. What is its purpose? Is it someone's opinion? Is it an advertisement? These can be misleading.

