

Freak

By Nick Grubinger

Dummerston School, Grade 7

He could fit in if he wanted to (he thinks).
He could be normal if he wanted to (he thinks).
He could just be another kid with another life if he wanted to (he thinks).
But why would he want to?
"Freakism," a non-legitimate word, a freakish word, a word meant for wanting to be different.
He doesn't have as many close friends as others, but why would he want to?
He doesn't see everything in a normal way, but why would he want to?
He doesn't understand the guidelines of a normal person, but why would he want to?
This is a freak.

The silver button

By Grace Powers

Shrewsbury Mountain School, Grade 6

I could have avoided the whole thing if only I had not touched the silver button on the TV.
There was a problem with our TV, the sound wouldn't come on. I had to help because my parents don't know anything about electronics. I was behind the TV and I thought I had fixed the problem when I touched the silver button. Suddenly, all of the upstairs lights went out!

It turned out the silver button had a cord that ran to the electricity box in the basement. This box can shut off all the power in my house, so I got in a lot of trouble.

The Accident

By Alysha Chesser

Shrewsbury Mountain School, Grade 6

"Time to line up," called Mrs. M. The whole class lined up to play soccer. The teams were made by homerooms. The ball was coming my way. Someone took a shot and I blocked the ball with my thigh before it got to the goal.

Later in the game a boy came my way with the ball, stopped and said, "Move or I will hit you with the ball."

I didn't listen because I thought he wouldn't kick the ball. But he did kick it and it hit me in the head. Even though I blocked the shot for my team, it hurt! I needed to get an ice pack. I could have avoided the whole thing if I had only ducked.

Reason I wake

By Kyle Champney

Brattleboro Union High School, Grade 9

You're the reason I wake,
Wake up in the morning
And face the world we both hate.
My only relief is
To stare in your eyes
Till the spark ignites
As we burst into flames
And crumble to ashes.
Then you wake in my arms
In the dawning of morning.

Should have kept my mouth shut

By Megan Potter

Hartford Memorial Middle School, Grade 8

I could have avoided the whole thing
If only I had kept my mouth shut.
I knew I shouldn't have said it
I knew I was going to get in trouble.
But
I couldn't help it.
She just kept talking and talking,
She wouldn't stop.
It was like she was telling me about her whole life!
A girl's got to do what a girl's got to do,
So I said it.

Too distracting

By Ella Banker

Shrewsbury Mountain School, Grade 5

I don't have a TV so obviously I can't turn one off. However, I can tell you what not having a TV is like.

I don't mind not having a TV. One reason is that I get outside more for exercise. Also when I'm doing homework I might be distracted by a TV. My friend has a TV and once I slept over at her house and did my homework while watching TV. I didn't get a very good grade on that paper.

Unplugged world

By Nina McCarthy

Woodstock Union High School, Grade 12

The TV is off
The door is open to the outside
No cell phones are on
The birds are the only ringing
The world is unplugged, enjoy!

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The Reunion

By Peter Sylvester | *Rice Memorial High School, Grade 9*

I could have avoided the whole situation if only I had decided not to attend the trip. I had made the questionable decision to attend a family reunion, and, five minutes into our journey, I completely regretted it. Originally, I had been told that we were going on vacation, but after the family was loaded into the car my parents told me that we were actually going to a family reunion. Thinking about Aunt Helga, my annoying twin cousins Emily and Henry, and my infamously crazy great-uncle James convinced me that I needed to find a way to disappear the moment my family's car stopped at Helga's house.

Last time I had been there, Helga had tried to convince me that I would benefit from taking my 4-year-old nephew, Jack, to the zoo. The moment Jack and I were alone he bolted away from me, and led me on a high speed chase through the zoo. My two cousins, Henry and Emily, are aspiring kick boxers and love to use me as a punching bag.

As our car arrived, I swung the door open and sprinted away, but was immediately

tackled and dragged into the house by my dad, Henry and Crazy James (who happened to think they were about to interrogate a member of the Viet Cong). Upon entering the house, I suddenly realized that I was trapped in an insane asylum. Little cousins were running around screaming and having a grape juice fight, while Aunt Helga immediately tried to lasso me into trying some of her famous (because it had been investigated by the health department) tuna casserole. We then stumbled upon Crazy James, who was trying to torture Henry for spilling nonexistent government secrets. Helga and I arrived in the kitchen to find that her tuna casserole had been wrestled to the ground by the dog, Rover, and at that moment I decided to escape. I ran away from the madness and, a few blocks later, realized that I was sixty miles from home and that the only way to return home was to go back to Aunt Helga's and try to survive the weekend. And to think, I could have avoided the whole situation by saying "no" to the trip.



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The pictures

By Molly Burke

Browns River Middle School, Grade 7

Movement flutters across the screen in bright, vivid colors. Just think of all the millions of people staring at the same pictures as you, at the exact same moment. Instinctively you understand the scene that has been built in front of you, but what is it really trying to portray? What is the hidden message, the true moral of the story? You love this box of moving pictures. What would you do without it? Would life be the same? What would be different if you became unplugged?

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