

Second-grader is all alone facing schoolyard bullies

DEAR ABBY: I'm 8 years old and in second grade. I'm writing because I'm being bullied at school. I'm really smart, and at my school that's a really bad thing. I try hard to be nice, but here that's worse than being smart.

The teachers didn't help me with the bullies, so I stopped telling them. My mom told everyone she could about the bullies, but nobody helps. It keeps getting worse over time. Every day someone picks on me, pushes me or makes fun of me. Please help me. — **FEELING TORN IN TEXAS**

DEAR FEELING TORN: Because you haven't told your teachers that the bullying hasn't stopped, they may think that it's no longer going on. Tell them again what you are experiencing, and be sure your mother knows. She should discuss this with your teacher. If things don't get better, she needs to talk to the principal and, if necessary, the school board. Many schools offer programs that discourage bullying and train students who can help.

As a last resort, your mother should consult a lawyer. You have a right to an education that's free from this kind of pressure. Lawsuits have been filed and won because school districts didn't give it the attention they should have. Be sure to show this to your mother and tell her you



DEAR ABBY

wrote it.

DEAR ABBY: I am agoraphobic. Although I have managed to make accommodations for special occasions like birthday parties and dinners with my family, I am not comfortable at extremely large gatherings.

My parents understand this, but my sister and brother-in-law think that if I'd just "try harder," everything would work out. Abby, I must take a mild tranquilizer to go to small gatherings, and I have told them this. Would people tell someone who is allergic to something to just "try harder"? How can I explain this better? — **AFRAID IN TAYLORSVILLE, UTAH**

DEAR AFRAID: I'm sorry to say this, but individuals have been known to give people with severe food allergies items containing their "trigger foods" because they are convinced "just a little" won't hurt them -- or worse, that the problem is imaginary.

Your sister and brother-in-law do not understand phobias. A medical pro-

fessional might be able to explain it to them, but until they're ready to consult one and really listen, it would be healthier for you to ignore them and limit your time with them.

DEAR ABBY: My wife and I disagree about when and where it is acceptable to yawn. I believe a public yawn during dinner or conversation is not appropriate. She sees no reason why a natural human trait such as yawning should be stifled.

Again, my assertion is that yawning denotes boredom or lack of interest in what people are conversing about or doing. What are your thoughts? — **NOT A YAWNER IN FLAG-STAFF, ARIZ.**

DEAR NOT A YAWN-ER: My thoughts are similar to an observation made by English writer G.K. Chesterton (1874-1936), who said, "A yawn is a silent shout." I have never seen anyone who is intensely interested in something yawn, and to do it in the presence of others implies that the yawner is tired, bored or otherwise not fully engaged.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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3		7	8	5			9
	8		9	1		3	
		1			2		5
1	2		3		6		5 8
				9			
9	5		1		2		6 7
8		2				5	
	3		6		7		4
4			2		8	1	3

Instructions for play: Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9.

That's all there is to it. There's no math involved. The grid has numbers, but nothing has to add up to anything else. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic. It's fun. It's challenging. It's addictive!

Solving time is typically from 10 to 30 minutes, depending on your skill and experience. The solution for today's puzzle will be published in Saturday's paper. Or you can go to www.sudoku.com to find the solution.

4	9	6	5	1	8	2	7	3
3	2	5	9	4	7	8	1	6
8	7	1	2	6	3	5	9	4
5	8	3	6	7	9	1	4	2
9	4	2	1	8	5	6	3	7
6	1	7	4	3	2	9	8	5
7	6	4	8	2	1	3	5	9
2	5	8	3	9	4	7	6	1
1	3	9	7	5	6	4	2	8

HOROSCOPES

ARIES - Mar 21/Apr 20

Aries, the week ahead is looking pretty good, as you will find people are more sensitive to your needs. Work with those willing to work with you.

TAURUS - Apr 21/May 21

Taurus, your visions of how things should be might differ from how things really are. Work toward improving those things that need some work, and things will turn out just fine.

GEMINI - May 22/Jun 21

Some surprises come your way this week, Gemini. But things will soon begin to fall into place. Just be patient before you make important decisions.

CANCER - Jun 22/Jul 22

Things may seem a bit strained this week, Cancer. But all it takes is a little co-operation and an increased focus on teamwork, and things will quickly return to normal.

LEO - Jul 23/Aug 23

Leo, stay prepared and well organized and this week should fly by without a hitch. Feel free to try some things that go against the grain.

VIRGO - Aug 24/Sept 22

Virgo, don't feel badly about the things over which you have little control. Go out and have a good time this week, and eventually things will run their course.

LIBRA - Sept 23/Oct 23

Libra, it may prove challenging to sit still the next few days. People may be pulling at you from many different directions, and you will not know which way to lean.

SCORPIO - Oct 24/Nov 22

Scorpio, try not to be overly protective of your secrets this week. A friend or family member is offering their help and guidance, and such insight will prove invaluable.

SAGITTARIUS - Nov 23/Dec 21

Sagittarius, a seemingly insurmountable obstacle presents itself this week. Some creativity and quick thinking will be necessary, but you will enjoy the challenge.

CAPRICORN - Dec 22/Jan 20

Keep your feet on the ground this week, Capricorn. Even if you prefer to have your head in the clouds, keeping your cool will pay dividends in the long run.

AQUARIUS - Jan 21/Feb 18

Aquarius, enjoy some quiet time so you can regroup after a hectic couple of weeks. You earned some rest and relaxation, and this time away will recharge your batteries.

PISCES - Feb 19/Mar 20

Pisces, you have a lot of good ideas, and it's time to share those ideas at the office. Your star will soon start to rise.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

SEPTEMBER 15
Tom Hardy, Actor (36)

SEPTEMBER 16
Nick Jonas, Singer (21)

SEPTEMBER 17
Jimmie Johnson, Race car driver (38)

SEPTEMBER 18
Ronaldo, Athlete (37)

SEPTEMBER 19
Ramin Karimloo, Actor (35)

SEPTEMBER 20
Phillip Phillips, Singer (23)

SEPTEMBER 21
Bill Murray, Actor (63)

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 "Buenos

—"

5 Singing

voice

9 Canary,

for one

10 College

bigwigs

12 Use a

soapbox

13 Chop up

14 François

has one

16 Interstice

17 Patriotic

letters

18 Cream

soda

flavor

20 Fashions

22 Con's

confines

23 Sun Val-

ley setting

25 Milky

stone

28 Soup

legume

32 Zoo

denizen

34 Swearing-

in vow

35 Whole

bunch

36 City of

España

38 Writer

Jong

40 Writer

Glasgow

41 Stopwatch

button

42 Will

names

DOWN

1 Most

dreadful

2 How

Rome

wasn't

built

3 Play start

4 Put on

hold

5 Jingle

writer

6 Floral ring

7 Snarl

8 Available

9 Concen-

trate

11 Flower

part

27 Monet or

Manet

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
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17							19	
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35				36			37	
38			39				40	
41							42	
	43						44	

9-14

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Takes a

breather

6 Do news-

paper

work

10 Outdo

11 Sheet

material

13 Influence

14 Baghdad

native

15 Flightless

bird

16 Idaho's

— Percé

Indians

18 Take to

court

19 Like some

errors

22 Narc's org.

23 Part to play

24 Patron

saint of

young girls

27 Moreno

and Hay-

worth

28 "Dog-

gone!"

29 Jewel

30 Population-

related

35 Neptune's

realm

36 Make

mistakes

37 First

numero

38 Indy

winner Al

40 Painter

Degas

42 Piper of

rhyme

43 Nary a

soul

DOWN

1 Thesau-

rus

creator

2 Foe

3 Prepara-

tion

4 Chiding

sound

5 Counter

cleaners

6 "My Fair

Lady"

heroine

7 WSW, for

one

8 Without

hesitating

9 Margarita

base

12 Sister's

daughters

26 Yoga

greeting

17 Important

time

20 Beetho-

ven's

"— Joy"

21 Monopo-

lize the

mirror

24 Makes

sense

25 Less

experi-

enced

26 Yoga

greeting

27 Hit from

behind

29 Dog

warning

31 Leader of

the Pace-

makers

32 Sci-fi

awards

33 Ridiculous

34 Centers

39 Snaky

fish

41 "Da —

Ron Ron"

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
								12
10								
13						14		
15				16	17		18	
19			20				21	
			22				23	
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28					29			
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35				36			37	
38			39				40	41
42							43	
	44						45	

9-16