

Teen must show her parents she's mature enough to date

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 14-year-old girl who's having a disagreement with my parents about dating. There's this guy, "Connor," who likes me, and I'm very comfortable with him. His older sister and I are good friends.

The trouble is, my parents have strict rules against dating and I think it's unfair. I think I'm mature enough to date, and I know right from wrong. My friends say I'm very mature for my age, and they approve of Connor because he's friendly and has an outgoing personality. I have tried talking to my parents about this, but I always end up in tears.

Can you tell me how I can convince them to give this guy a chance? — **GROWN UP AT 14, PRINCE GEORGE, CANADA**

DEAR GROWN UP: A sure way to show your parents you're mature enough to date would be to show them you're a responsible person. Do they know when they ask you a question that they'll get an honest answer with no evasion? Have you shown them that you respect their curfews? Do you do the chores that are expected of you without having to be reminded? Is the same true about your homework?

If the answer to these questions is yes, then do they KNOW Connor? Do they know his parents? If they do, they might feel more comfortable about your seeing



DEAR ABBY

him, IF it's in a group rather than one-on-one.

DEAR ABBY: I'm 13 years old and I recently enrolled in a new school. I have met two boys, "Jake" and "Cory," and I have been crushing on both of them.

I really like Jake for everything, but I'm not sure he likes me back. I like Cory for his looks and popularity, and I'm positive he likes me because he said so. Should I ask Jake to go with me first, and if he says no, rebound to Cory? — **CONFUSED IN RAYMOND, MISS.**

DEAR CONFUSED: The school year has just started and it's a little early to be asking someone to "go" with you. If you take your time -- say, wait a month -- Jake may find the courage to tell you he likes you, too. If he doesn't, tell Cory you're interested in him and see if he still feels the same way about you. (The odds are 50/50.) And who knows? In another month, there might be a third guy.

DEAR ABBY: My broth-

er thinks I eat too slow, and I think he eats too fast. He claims it's rude to eat slow and make others wait for you. I say eating slowly is healthy, and it's better than wolfing down your food to keep up with the people you're with. Who's right? — **AT MY OWN PACE IN EDDINGTON, MAINE**

DEAR AT YOUR OWN PACE: You're both right. If you eat so slowly that the rest of the people at your table must wait for you to finish, ask them to proceed with their dessert and coffee so they won't have to sit there and watch you masticate. And wolfing down one's food causes some people to overeat, which is why weight-loss specialists advise against it.

DEAR ABBY: What do new fathers hand out today instead of cigars? — **NON-SMOKER IN SAVANNAH**

DEAR NONSMOKER: Because so much more is now understood about the dangers of tobacco, many new fathers today hand out small gift bags of candy instead -- blue for a baby boy or pink for a daughter.

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.

su|do|ku

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

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.

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

HOROSCOPES

ARIES - Mar 21/Apr 20

A blue mood is nothing to worry about, Aries. It is just your body telling you that you may need to slow down a bit. Take heed and you'll recharge in no time.

TAURUS - Apr 21/May 21

Taurus, you are beginning a contemplative phase of life right now, but you won't have to sacrifice your social life to do so. Take a few days off from socializing and then return.

GEMINI - May 22/Jun 21

Try to avoid any deep conversations or controversial topics this week, Gemini. Right now it's best if you focus on more trivial matters and enjoy yourself.

CANCER - Jun 22/Jul 22

Cancer, give yourself more time to figure everything out if you are feeling indecisive about someone. Don't forge ahead without feeling entirely comfortable with the person.

LEO - Jul 23/Aug 23

Leo, don't drop everything you're working on to address a developing issue at home. Others can handle the situation just as well as you, so keep your focus on preexisting tasks at hand.

VIRGO - Aug 24/Sept 22

Virgo, listen to friends and family members when they encourage you to try something new this week. Trust your instincts, as they seldom turn you in the wrong direction.

LIBRA - Sept 23/Oct 23

You have no time for gossip this week, Libra. Your plate is already full at work and at home, so avoid getting caught up in anything that compromises your focus.

SCORPIO - Oct 24/Nov 22

Scorpio, though it may feel like others are flying past you while you're slowly plodding along, eventually things will even out and you'll end up where you need to be.

SAGITTARIUS - Nov 23/Dec 21

Create some plausible plans for the future this week, Sagittarius. Keep a journal to help you keep track of your ideas and make sense of your plans.

CAPRICORN - Dec 22/Jan 20

Capricorn, your generosity finds you devoting much of your time tending to the needs of others this week. Enjoy your time helping others and don't be afraid to accept their gratitude.

AQUARIUS - Jan 21/Feb 18

Don't get too hung up if your week is all work and little play. While your schedule might be hectic in the coming days, some relaxation time will arrive this weekend.

PISCES - Feb 19/Mar 20

Pisces, make the most of new opportunities that present themselves this week. The effort you put in will pay off in due time.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

SEPTEMBER 29
Kevin Durant, Athlete (25)

SEPTEMBER 30
Fran Drescher, Actress (56)

OCTOBER 1
Randy Quaid, Actor (63)

OCTOBER 2
Sting, Singer (62)

OCTOBER 3
Neve Campbell, Actress (40)

OCTOBER 4
Derrick Rose, Athlete (25)

OCTOBER 5
Jesse Eisenberg, Actor (30)

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Herring's

6 Visibly

11 Donut-

12 Derby

13 Church

14 Rings

15 Tentative

17 Second

18 Cat coat

19 Cram

22 Bond, for

23 Airships

24 Difficulty

25 Ahab

27 Cam-

bridge

sch.

30 Farm crop

31 Santa

— winds

32 Game

caller

33 Arm sup-

porters

35 "— care!"

38 Block-

head

39 Concur

40 "Blue

Chips"

star

41 Attack

42 Tumbler,

e.g.

DOWN

1 Work

groups

2 Find a

place to

hide

3 Blood line

4 Watch

part

5 Wacky

person

6 Cunning

7 Sticky

stuff

8 Out

9 Hip locale

10 German

steel city

J	O	S	E	A	Z	O	R	E	S
A	X	I	S	R	E	M	A	R	K
B	E	D	S	I	N	A	W	A	Y
S	S	E	R	E	I	N			
K	N	E	L	T		D	U	D	
I	D	I	O	M		H	O	R	N
D	U	C	T			M	O	D	E
L	A	K	E	S		V	A	P	O
E	L	S		Q	U	I	R	K	
			A	U	R	A	I	F	S
T	E	A	B	A	G		S	C	A
A	L	L	U	R	E		O	K	R
D	I	E	T	E	D		U	S	E

Previous Puzzle

NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send \$4.75 (check/m.o.) to Thomas Joseph Book 2, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11						12			
13						14			
15					16			17	
18				19		20	21		
22				23					
			24						
	25	26						27	28
30								31	
32					33		34		
35				36	37		38		
39							40		
41							42		

9-28

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 "The

Hobbit"

hero

6 Severe

11 Porpoise's

place

12 Boise's

state

13 Succotash

half

14 Jingle

writer

15 Boat part

17 Maturity

18 Laughed

gleefully

22 Valiant

person

23 City on

the Rio

Grande

27 Russian

range

29 One of

the Great

Lakes

30 Croquet

need

32 Factory

33 Without

equivoca-

tion

35 Buddy

38 Computer

"take

back"

command

39 Greatly

impressed

41 Some

singers

45 Smithy

sight

46 Move

smoothly

47 Accom-

plishments

48 Baltimore

suburb

DOWN

1 Move up

and down

2 Bar "rocks"

3 Grazing

spot

4 Funds

5 Beginning

6 Florida

racetrack

city

7 Find a sum

8 Hindu hero

9 Carpet

type

10 Sharpen

16 Building

wing

18 Buddy

19 Zeus'

wife

20 Vaccine

type

B	A	C	H		O	T	T	A	W
O	S	L	O		G	R	O	V	E
S	H	U	T		R	A	R	E	S
S	E	T	T	L	E	I	N		
			T	I	E		T	U	F
S	H	E	E	N		S	P	L	I
N	O	R					U	M	A
O	P	E	R	A		C	A	T	E
B	I	D	E	S		A	N	T	
					C	H	A	N	G
G	O	W	I	L	D		O	R	N
U	N	I	T	E	D		R	E	D
M	O	N	E	Y	S		A	D	O

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1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10
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