

## TEENAGERS' PROBLEMS\*

**Read the problems of American teenagers and try to find the best advice you can:**

I'm from Pakistan, and in my country girls aren't allowed to go out with boys – even in groups. My parents want to keep this tradition, even though we're in the U.S. I really want to go to my prom and go out with groups of friends. How can I change my parents' minds?

My mother never lets me go alone with any of my friends. Every time I want to go out, she gives me a long speech. When I try to state my case, we end up arguing. I'm 14. I think I'm old enough to go out alone with my friends. What should I do?

I have two friends who are fighting. I think one of them is going to ask me to drop the other and I don't want to do that. I want to keep my friendships with both of them.

My former friend's boyfriend is mistreating her. If we were still talking, I would tell her she should dump him. I want to give her advice, but I don't know if she will be upset with me. Should I try to help her? How?

I have a friend who always borrows stuff from me and never gives it back. First, it was just pencils and little things, but recently she borrowed a CD and a Walkman and refuses to return them. I don't know if she's using me for my stuff. How can I get my things back without losing her as a friend?

My friend Kacey and I have been best friends since last year. Kacey's ex-friend Lauren is still my friend, but I tell both of them what each says behind the other's back. Should I fess up to them?

Last Saturday, my best friend told her parents that she slept over my house. In reality, she spent the night out with kids who I know do drugs. When her mom called to check, I lied and said my friend was asleep. She wants to do the same thing this weekend. I'm worried. What should I do?

My mom and I just moved to a rich town, but I'm not rich. I'm afraid to invite school friends over to our apartment because I'm embarrassed that it will seem lame compared to their huge houses. What should I do?

---

\* Adapted by Anna Pławecka from *Choices*, Wyd. Scholastic (Mary Glasgow Magazines) 2001