



QUICK QUIZ!



- | | Yes | No |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Is your schoolwork mostly easy for you to do? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Do you usually finish ahead of others in your class? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Do you hate it when you're not allowed to work ahead? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Are you in a special class or program at your school? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. Do you ever get teased or picked on for being smart, weird, or nerdy? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. Are you good at a lot of different things? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7. Do you like being challenged at school? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8. When you think about things no one else thinks of, do you wonder why your brain works the way it does? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 9. Do your parents and teachers expect you to get straight A's? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 10. Has anyone ever said "If you're so smart, why didn't you ... (ace the test, know the answer, get everything right, etc.)?" | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

8 Great Things About Being GT

According to surveys, letters, and GTs I've talked to, here are the eight *best* things about being gifted:

1. Our schoolwork in GT classes is more challenging and we learn more.
2. We get to do special things—activities, field trips, and projects.
3. Schoolwork is easy for us to understand.
4. When we're in special programs and classes, we meet new people and get to be with friends who understand us.
5. We can help others.
6. Our friends and other kids look up to us.
7. We like being smart. It feels good.
8. We look forward to a better future.

Do you know great things that aren't on this list? Write them here:

What's Your Definition?



What does "gifted" mean to you?

Even more important.... How can you use your giftedness to make life more fun, interesting, and meaningful? What will you do with your HIGH POTENTIAL?

Take Ten

.....

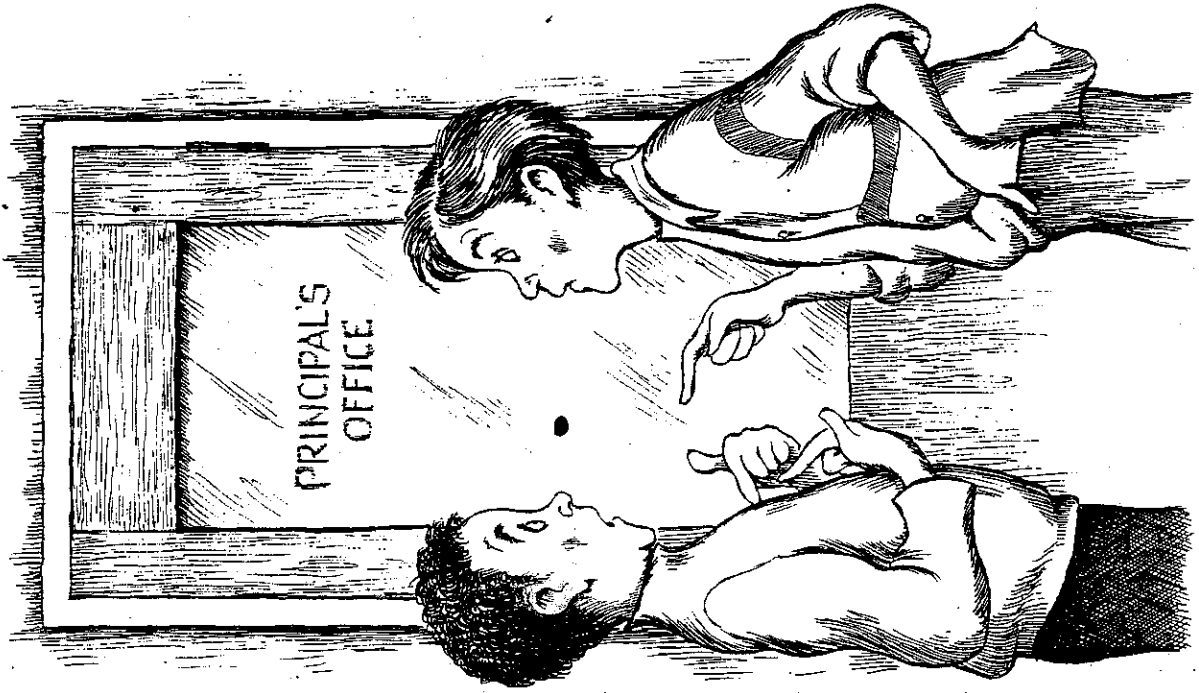
Junior, Dr. J. L. Quicksolve's son, was in the principal's office with his friend, Steve Swift, a younger boy whose ten-speed bike had been stolen from the bike rack behind school. Steve said he saw an older boy, Ted Theever, ride off on his bike. Ted was there too, telling his story.

"Steve saw me ride off in a hurry on my own ten-speed. It looks a lot like his. I wasn't stealing his bike. I was trying to help him get his bike back! I saw some kid who doesn't go to school here messing with Steve's bike. I said, 'Hey! That's not yours!' He jumped on the bike and rode off. I unlocked my bike and chased after him. He was way ahead, but I still almost caught him. I shifted into high to go up that steep hill on Maple, and I almost caught him there. Then he turned at the top of the hill. When I got to the top, he was out of sight. He must have turned into a driveway or gone behind a house there on Maple. I couldn't find him. I tried my best, but I just couldn't catch up with him."

"Is your bike new?" Junior asked Ted.

"No, I've had it for a couple years, but, like I said, it looks just like Steve's," Ted explained.

"I don't think your bike is like Steve's. I think it *is* Steve's!" Junior said.



Why is Junior so sure Ted stole the bike?

Take Ten page 72.—Ted said he has had a ten-speed bike for two years, yet he doesn't know that you switch to a lower gear to climb steep hills!

10. Use your powers of persuasion to convince your teachers that you need an "any-time-of-the-day" library pass. *Be a regular customer of the media center* and learn as much as you can on your own. While teachers try to do their best, they're not going to be able to teach you everything you want to know.

"The next best thing to knowing something is knowing where to find it."

—Samuel Johnson

What If Your Teacher Says No?

OR

- "Nope."
- "No way."
- "Sorry."
- "Forget it."
- "You can't do that."
- "Nobody has ever done that before."
- "If I let you do that, everyone else will want to do it, too."
- "There's no time."
- "I'm too busy."
- "You already have enough to do."
- "It's against the rules."

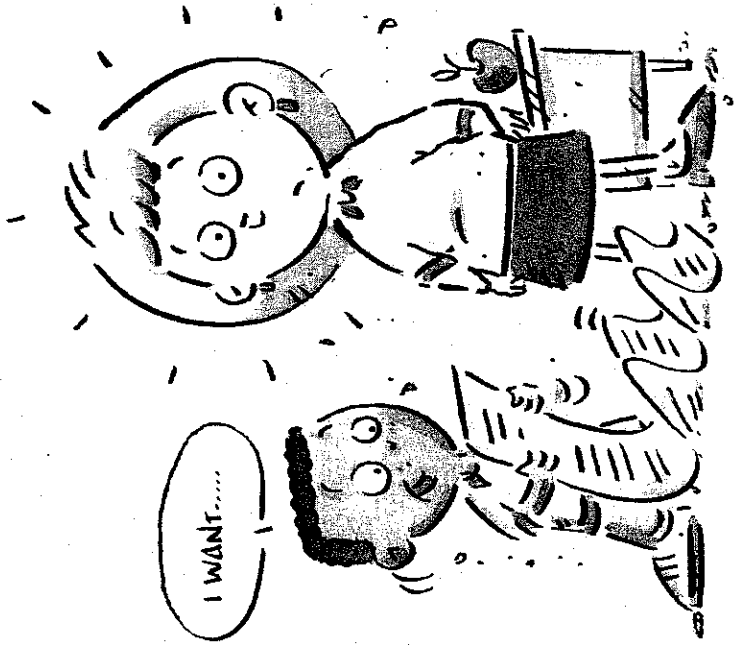
OR

"We can't make any more exceptions for you—you're already in the GT program."

Anyone who questions why things are done a certain way risks being resented by people who feel threatened by those questions. Anyone who suggests a different way of doing things risks rejection. As a GT, you need to recognize and accept that parents make mistakes, teachers make mistakes...and *you* make mistakes.

Teachers don't always know what's best for you. They may say no to your ideas. Or...they may say YES!!!!

The point is: You won't know if you don't ask.



10 Ways to Make School More Cool*

1. Talk with your teachers about skipping over work you already know. This will free up time for more challenging projects. *Example:* Some kids take a pretest at the start of a spelling unit. If they score well on the pretest, they don't have to do the work for learning those words. (Why should they? They already know them.) You might apply this idea to other subjects, too.

2. Talk with your teachers about working independently. This is a great way to study subjects in more depth than regular classes usually allow. By working on your own thing, at your own speed, there's no limit to what you can learn. Ask your teacher to help you plan your study. Keep in mind that working *independently* doesn't necessarily mean working alone. GTs need help from others in learning the how-tos of independent study:

✓ What will you study and how?

"Deciding on a project is hard
'cause you don't want to get bored
with it—then you're stuck."

—Jeff, 9

- ✓ Who can help you? A librarian? Someone from the community?
- ✓ How long will it take?
- ✓ In what ways will you show what you've learned?

(*Tip:* See # 9 on page 50.)

3. Talk with the special teachers in your school—those who teach art, music, dance, drama, creative writing, computers, and other subjects. Would they be willing to accept your help in planning activities and events?

4. Talk with your teachers about creating unique displays for your classroom or school. You could work on them alone or with other students. You might design a new display each month, and you'd be in charge of putting it up and taking it down. Here are two examples of displays produced by GTs I've talked to:

INVENTIONS AND INVENTORS. Entertaining and innovative GTs participated in an inventors' fair and made a display to coincide with the event. They included information about famous inventors as well as their own inventions.

COLLECTIONS. Collections make great displays, and most GTs I've known have had at least one. (The most unusual? Hundreds of different sugar packets from restaurants around the country!) Each display might include a brief description of the collection and information about how the collector got involved with it.



THINK ABOUT IT: If you could start a collection that piqued your interest, what would it be? What would it look like? How would you tell others about your collection?

* Talk with your parents and ask for their support. Tell them what's happening in school... and what's not happening for you. Share these 10 ideas with them and see if they're willing to back you up.

5. Talk with your teachers and principal about starting mini-classes for subjects not taught in your school.

Example: If you'd like to learn a foreign language, find a few others who share your interest. Tell your teachers and principal about your idea. Ask them to help you figure out how, when, and where you could have your class. They might also be able to help you find a tutor. Borrow language tapes from the media center, add books and you're off. *C'est une bonne idée!*

6. Talk with your teachers about opting out of work you already know how to do. Doing double duty is a drag and a common glitch of gifted programs. GTs in special classes often get stuck doing all of the regular class assignments *and* the work for their gifted class. For some GTs, this isn't a problem. But for many others, the whole thing seems very unfair.

"For me, the main disadvantage of being GT is having to make up work that I miss when I go to my gifted class. Especially when I already know the stuff."

—Tara, 9

GTs shouldn't have to do more work or **MOTS*** work just because they're gifted. They should be allowed to do *different kinds of work*. Like some of the projects described here.

7. Volunteer to help your teachers in creative and productive ways. (Cleaning chalkboards or being the class gofer doesn't count.) Can you help plan units? Media centers and special teachers may welcome your energy and skills. Could you be a computer aid, a tutor, or a cable TV operator?

8. Start a journal. Write your thoughts, poetry, stories, doodles, movie reviews, new ideas, or other creative jottings in your spare time. According to the young author of *Totally Private & Personal: Journaling Ideas for Girls and Young Women*:

"There are only two rules for journal-keeping:

- 1. Date every entry.*
- 2. Don't make any more rules."*

—Jessica Wilber, 14

9. Ask your teachers if you can show what you learn in new and unusual ways. Instead of writing a report (if this is a big yawn for you), how about...

- making a diorama?
- giving an oral presentation?
- creating a slide show or photo essay?
- making a mobile?
- writing a play?
- composing a song?
- making a video?
- designing a Web page?
- _____?

What's your idea?