## You Choose: Being too smart

**Directions:** Read the Story. Then, following the example below, pick a question to answer. Print this page and create a story that tells about the outcome.

Grant is a sophomore in high school. He is taking senior level classes and will start taking college classes next fall. Grant also has some tendencies that set him apart from others. He has a habit of keeping all of his pencils very sharp and likes to make sure his handwriting is perfect. If Grant makes a mistake, he will take as long as necessary to make it look like new. He also comes prepared for discussion in class so he is able to participate and ask questions.

A group of his senior classmates make fun of him by focusing on his habits. They mock the way he sharpens his pencils, tell him they see mistakes and call him a nerd. They knock down his books in the hallway, call him names and mimic him when he is around.



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## WHAT SHOULD GRANT DO?

**Example Question:** What might happen if Grant chooses to ignore the other students? **Outcome:** Grant is frustrated by the other kids teasing him. He is reluctant to burden his mom with this information because she is already distressed with the death of his father a year earlier from a car accident. He knows that the kids who are bullying him will graduate at the end of the year and his college classes will probably have other kids who are also more interested in learning and less interested in bullying others. He wishes that he could overcome his need for perfection and wonders about talking with someone about this.

## **Other Questions:**

What might happen if Grant tells his mom about the situation?

What might happen if Grant tries to talk with the other kids about their behavior?

What might happen if Grant talks to some of the other kids he sees getting bullied at school in the same way he is bullied?

What might happen if Grant seeks out the teacher or another school official to help him confront the situation?

What might happen if Grant stops trying to do well in order to fit in?

How do you think this outcome would affect the student, their self-esteem and their future?