



*Kyle, almost 14*

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**What have you been doing this week?**

Well, in school we're having a lot of new math and stuff,\* and we took a couple of tests this week also.

**What's happening outside of school?**

Baseball is about to start and I'm really ready for that. I'm in a PONY League\* and it's recreational. It's not a very big league. What you do is your parents sign you up and pay a little money for you to play, and it doesn't cost very much. Basketball season just ended, and I was playing that. There are a lot of other teams in that league. And my birthday is in four days and I'll be fourteen.

**How will you celebrate?**

Oh I don't know. I'll probably go play laser tag\* or something.

**I think your parents are divorced. Is that right?**

Yeah. I live with my mom normally, and every Thursday I go to my dad's for the evening, from 6:00 to 9:00. Every other weekend I go to my dad's house and stay from Friday to Sunday, and then I go back to my mom's.

**What are you looking forward to?**

Baseball. And I'm kind of excited to go into high school this fall. I'm probably going to take a class called Scientific Visualization and Graphics. It's really cool. You can learn how to make video games and stuff.

## Will you do anything special this summer?

Probably go on a couple of camping\* trips with my family, my mom's family most of the time. We like camping a lot. At the end of the school year we have a camping trip where there is a thirteen-mile\* trail down the mountain. We camp for like\* three days and then go hike down the trail. It's pretty cool.

## Do you know what you'd like to do after high school?

Not really. I have a faint idea.\* I'd like to go into science or engineering. We did a career finder thing on the computer at school, and it suggested science or engineering for me. The first four careers were all kinds of engineering. The fourth was nuclear engineering. Right. As if\* I'm going to handle nuclear bombs or something.

## Is there anything you'd like to say to kids in other countries?

Just "Hi," I guess.

## A Few Words

**Stuff:** An informal word for "things." Young people often use *stuff* when they aren't sure of the best way to explain something.

**PONY League:** An organization which began in the U.S. and is now in 21 countries. It organizes baseball programs to help young people "grow into healthier and happier adults."

**Laser tag:** A game where friends chase and shoot each other with light-beam guns. No one gets hurt.

**Go camping:** When people go camping, they live outdoors for a few days, usually in a forest or near a lake. They sleep, cook, and eat outdoors.

**Thirteen miles:** About 21 kilometers.

**Like:** Many young people use the word *like* when they mean "approximately" or when they are trying to think of the next word to say. Their parents and teachers tell them that this is a bad habit.

**Faint idea:** This means "my idea is not clear or strong and I'm not sure about it."

**Right. As if...:** This is informal English and it really means "No!" Kyle means, "No, I don't want to study nuclear engineering because I don't want to learn how to make bombs." Here's another example:

First person: You could buy a car.

Second person: Right. As if I had enough money.

In this example, the second person means, "No, I couldn't. I don't have enough money."

## Discussion Questions

1. Do families (or other groups of people) in your country go camping for fun? Does camping seem interesting or unpleasant to you? What kinds of outdoor activities do you like? Why?
2. Because his parents are divorced, Kyle must move frequently from his mom's house to his dad's house and then back again to his mom's house. What do you think about this way of living?