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DEAR ABBY: I've been without a phone for so long now. I'm a teenager living in the 21st century and being without a phone isn't easy. I've tried time and again to convince my parents, but after all this time, I've just given up hope and decided to wait until I finish school and get a job to buy myself the phone I want. But here's the problem. At school, our teachers have decided to use technology as part of the learning process, and as cool as that sounds, it inconveniences me a lot. They've made a group chat on WhatsApp for sending notes and homework, but I can't receive any of that because I'm not on that group. I've talked to my parents, but they make it seem like it isn't their problem and won't even allow me to use their phones. I've spoken to my teachers, but they tell me I just have to find a way though I have tried, and nothing works. I'm worried that I'll fall behind in school because of this issue, and no one seems to want to help me find a solution. What do I do? — *Phoneless, 15*

DEAR ABBY: I have a best friend I love like a sister. I want to keep her as a friend, but she lies a lot. I want to confront her, but I don't want to come off as mean. She continually tries to one-up me and brags about bad things like being depressed and talks about suicide, like it's a good thing. I also think she's lying about something *serious*. How do I confront her politely?

— *Thalia, 12*

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DEAR ABBY: My mom never lets me go to sleepovers. Every time one of my friends' birthdays come up, they have sleep overs, and everyone goes—except me. My mom won't allow me! She's just *so overprotective*. I mean, she's met all my friends and their parents before, more than once! But she still doesn't let me go, and I'm always the only one missing out on what I'd really love to do! It hurts a lot to be the only one to leave before the overnight. And I'm a well-behaved kid, so it's not like my mom doesn't think I'm responsible. I get perfect grades every year, I've never lost anything, and I'm always on top of my schedule. My mom just doesn't understand how much this matters to me. A little help? I'll take anything at this point! Thanks.

— *Sleepover Sadness, 11*

DEAR ABBY: I take a Mandarin class at school, and I want to learn Mandarin. I'm enthusiastic about learning the language, and I want to know more about the culture since I am Chinese. But most of the other kids in the class are so rude and loud! They are disrespectful and make fun of the language and culture of China. I have to sit next to two of these kids, and they drive me crazy! They act like huge jerks! What do I do? —*Mandarin Hopeful, 13*

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DEAR ABBY: I am a 14-year-old girl and a pretty good student. My problem: I have friends who like to drink and do drugs. While I have no interest in getting caught up in that stuff, I don't want to lose their friendship. They know I won't hang with them when they're drunk or high on something. I've told them that numerous times, and they know how I feel. Abby, I've grown up with these kids. They mean a lot to me. Can you please give me some advice, so they'll stop these bad habits before it's too late and something really tragic happens? - WORRIED IN RHODE ISLAND-16

DEAR ABBY: Hello! I have trouble getting people to notice or realize I exist, and when they do, I am simply the nerdy girl from whom you can copy. I don't need to be popular or anything, but it just would be nice to stand out in some way. I am entirely average, nothing special about me at all. I hang out with two incredible people who outshine me in basically every way, and I'm okay with that, but sometimes I worry they are only putting up with me because they feel obliged. Despite that I am in many of their classes, people have asked them if I still go to this school. I am shy and have trouble reaching out. How do I get people to notice me without stepping too far out of my comfort zone? — *Invisible*, 15

References

- **If students are unfamiliar with advice columns you can send them to the sites below to review and read some of the responses from Abby.**

Dear Abby. 2020. *Uexpress*. [online] Available at: <<https://www.uexpress.com/dearabby/2020/2/9/2/teen-resents-being-treated-like-a>> [Accessed 30 March 2020].

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