

Jordi

Age: 12 (looks 25)

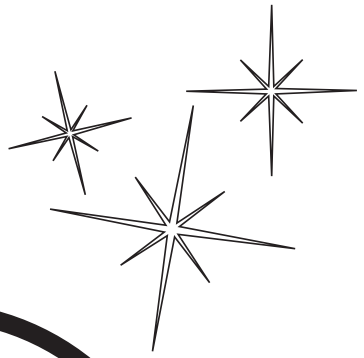
Special Skill: can spot an uneven spray tan from six blocks away

Best Sport: shopping

Future Goal: to be a TV spokesmodel

Best Quality: does what her mother says

CHARACTERS



Tracy

Age: 12 (looks 13)

Favorite Dinner: pork chops, green bean casserole, and ice-cold applesauce

Secret Wish: to spend a year in Spain

Future Goal: to be a high school PE teacher

Best Quality: is respectful of her parents

NEVER SAY NEVER

Tracy sighed as she walked into day camp. It was mid-June. School had ended two days before. She'd just finished sixth grade. She had been going to this camp every summer since she was seven years old. Her best bud Liza went there too.



After five years, the camp felt old. She knew the games. She knew the songs. She knew the staff. She knew how other kids went on big trips in the summer.



“I’ll never go on a big trip,” she said to herself. “We’re too poor.”

Tracy loved her parents. Her mom worked at a clinic. Her father helped people make gardens. They had good values. But they did not earn much money.

Liza was waiting for her by the handball wall. “Ready for summer?”

Tracy looked at Liza. She was small for her age. Her family had money. Her mom

was a doctor. But they still sent Liza to day camp. The idea was to teach her that she was no better than anyone else. It had worked. Liza was the nicest person Tracy had ever met. Everyone liked Liza.

“Ready as I’ll ever be,” Tracy joked.

“There’s a cool new girl on staff,” Liza told her. “Her name is Ashley. She’s doing waters sports. She was Miss All-State. But she isn’t stuck-up. Not at all.”

