

MEET THE



Eva

Age: 12

Least Favorite Chore: dusting shelves

Career Goal: to run a charity that feeds hungry kids

Favorite Music: modern Hawaiian hip-hop

Best Quality: level-headed

CHARACTERS



Carmen

Age: 11½

Greatest Fear: being alone outside after dark

Special Talent: can say hello in twenty-eight different languages

Favorite School Subject: geography

Best Quality: cooperative

1 MONEY!

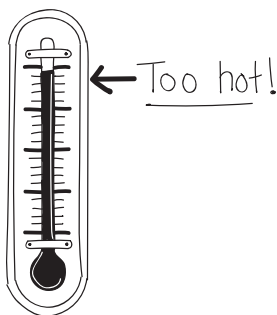
Eva White pushed her curly dark hair off her forehead. Then she looked up at her mom. “Can I have ten dollars?”

“Ten bucks?” Mrs. White frowned. “That’s a lot of money. What do you need ten dollars for?”



Eva's best friend, Carmen Flores, spoke up. Her voice was soft. "Stuff. It costs a lot to be a teen these days."

The summer sun was hot and bright. Mrs. White moved to the kitchen window to pull down the shade. Then she laughed.



"That's funny. You guys aren't teens. You're in sixth grade. Anyway, you two know the drill. Your mom and I have a deal, Carmen. If you guys want to go to the movies, we pay. If you need shoes, we pay. Books, we pay. Cell phones, we pay. You know, when I was your age—"

“We don’t know what to do,” Eva said.

“Figure it out,” Mrs. White said. “Here.” She dug into her jeans for a twenty dollar bill. Then she put it on the kitchen table. “If you can earn twenty dollars, I’ll match it.”

She left the room. The cash stayed on the table.

Carmen winked at Eva. “I say we grab it and go to Chill.”

Eva shook her head. “Nope. I want us to earn it. And I think I know how.”

What's better?



OR

