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## Vocabulary

There are TK tricky vocabulary words throughout this issue in **bold**. Can you find them all? Go to Choices Online for activities to help you master these words.

## Get in Touch!

### BY EMAIL

CHOICESMAG@SCHOLASTIC.COM

### BY MAIL

CHOICES, 557 BROADWAY  
NEW YORK, NY 10012

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# Is Fortnite Ruining Your Life?



THAT GUY IS ONE SHOT.

I'M DOWN. SOMEONE SAVE ME!

RIDE THE STORM!

WHERE WE DROPPIN', BOYS?

Teachers complain that the craze is a classroom distraction, and parents worry that their kids are addicted to the game—but here's what teens have to say.

## YES

"Fortnite brings people—even siblings—together."

Anne Hoffman,  
a high school junior  
in Pennsylvania



## NO

"You're better off catching up with friends in person."

Thomas Cush,  
a high school freshman  
in Florida



If you play *Fortnite*, you're familiar with the phrase "Victory Royale," which **signifies** a win in the hit survival game. But for many players, the **triumph** doesn't end there. *Fortnite* brings lasting social "victories" to its players as well.

First, there's the **camaraderie**. People may argue that video-game-based friendships aren't "real," but I disagree. The interactive experience allows teens to bond with each other, →

It's true that you and a friend can play *Fortnite* "together," but it lacks something important: face-to-face interaction. This is problematic for teens, since we're still **honing** our social interaction skills, and it's possible that too much time spent playing the game could weaken these abilities.

It's no secret that *Fortnite* can be addictive. I have peers who play four hours a week, and some teens devote *much* more time to the game. →



**YES** (continued) and several of my own friendships were actually strengthened by playing together in multiplayer “squad” mode. Laughing about our struggles and successes once the game is over brings us together—and many other kids feel the same way. Nearly 8 out of 10 teens who play online games with real-life friends say gaming helps them feel closer to their pals.

If *Fortnite* players don’t unite and cooperate with each other while in squad mode, other teams can easily eliminate each individual. This means that it encourages teamwork. When my brother and I play, we have fun **strategizing** how we will win rather than fighting with each other like we often do when we’re not gaming. This is one of the reasons our parents don’t mind that we play *Fortnite*!

To top this all off, knowing that I’ll be able to relax by playing the game when I get home helps keep me motivated during long, stressful days. For me, that extra **incentive** to push through the school day makes *Fortnite* well worth my time.

**NO** (continued) Those are lost hours that could have been spent hanging out with friends and family, something that’s good for mental health. In fact, research has found that the happiest teens get more than the average amount of face-to-face time and less than the average amount of screen time.

Of course, doing things in **moderation** is always advisable, and if teens can set limits, that’s great. The problem is that some kids can’t control themselves when it comes to *Fortnite*. It’s as if the game is the only thing they can think about!

Another problem is that players often throw down cash for in-game purchases. One of my friends recently spent \$400 on *Fortnite* “skins,” or costumes. The purchases may seem necessary in the moment, but you might regret them the next time you go shopping with friends or if you’re saving up for bigger investments, like college.

Personally, I’d rather not waste my time—or my money—on *Fortnite*. Instead, I’ll use those hours to spend quality time with people I care about.

# Fortnite in the News: From Wacky to Wow

FORTNITE HAS MADE HEADLINES FOR SOME, UM, INTERESTING REASONS.

## WACKIEST



### ● A tornado didn’t stop Anton Williams of North Carolina from playing *Fortnite*.

The teen continued the game as the storm touched down, even as he saw parts of his neighbor’s roof blow away. He did finally seek shelter in the bathroom when the tornado worsened. Thankfully, he didn’t get hurt.

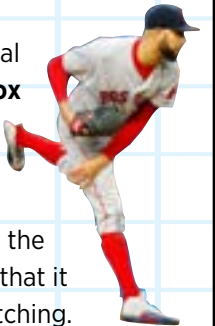
Last year, **the creators of *Fortnite* sued two people**—including a 14-year-old—for allegedly using cheat software to gain an advantage over others.

If convicted, **they may have to pay up to \$150,000 each!**



After being diagnosed with carpal tunnel syndrome, **Boston Red Sox pitcher David Price** denied that his *Fortnite* obsession caused the painful wrist condition. But

he did promise to stop playing the game in the team clubhouse so that it doesn’t distract him from his pitching.



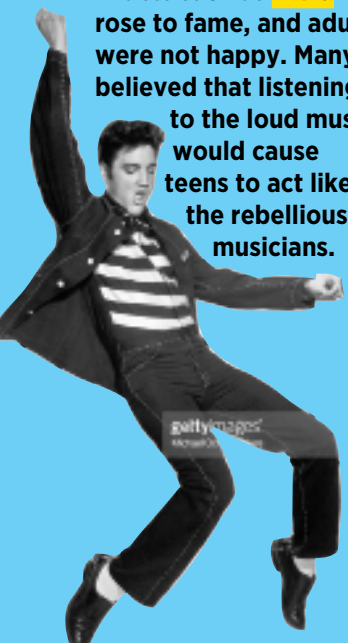
## Teen Crazes Throughout the Years

FORTNITE MAY GET A BAD RAP, BUT IT ISN’T THE FIRST FAD TEENS HAVE LATCHED ONTO—OR THAT PARENTS HAVE WORRIED ABOUT.

### 1950s

#### Rock and Roll

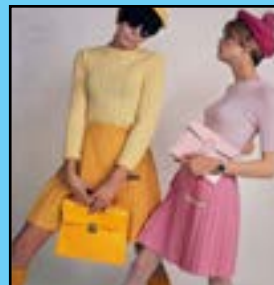
Artists such as **Elvis** rose to fame, and adults were not happy. Many believed that listening to the loud music would cause teens to act like the rebellious musicians.



### 1960s

#### The miniskirt

Teens loved the **raised hemline**, a trend born in London. Parents, however, saw the fashion statement as a symbol of a wayward youth movement.



### 1970s

#### Dungeons & Dragons

Critics argued that the fantasy **role-playing game** would drive teens to self-harm, but research found no link between the game and poor emotional health.



### 1990s

#### Harry Potter

Not everyone was enchanted by the **wizard**: Many argued that the books would encourage witchcraft, and some churches even held book burnings.



—Jessica Brown

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## WOW-WORTHY



A chemistry teacher in Ohio promised his students that **he’d make their class exam about *Fortnite* if they got 6,700 retweets** on Twitter about the topic switch. He probably should have aimed higher: The tweet received more than 30,000 retweets.

### ● Kyle Jackson, a 13-year-old from the U.K. became the youngest professional *Fortnite* player.

He isn’t paid to play, but he does have the potential to win tens of thousands of dollars in prize money.



—Jessica Brown

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