

SKINS FOR FRIENDSHIP

Greg goes to a boarding school. Greg isn't his real name, but he goes by Greg at school because no one can say his Chinese name. He has been at the boarding school for about three years. He isn't very good at sports even though he tries. What he is fantastic at is Fortnite; quite frankly, at anything related to gaming he simply blows the other kids away. Being the best at the school in the game is what gives him connection with the other boys. Otherwise, they would ignore him for sure and he knows this.

Greg is invited to play on different teams every night, and he loves it. He is a bit loud when he plays, but all of the boys put up with it. William and Hank are two of the most athletic boys and want to win at everything, including at Fortnite. They also want to have better skins, and they know that Greg can get the skins for them. Greg not only has impressive skins but he also has access to his mom's credit card.

William and Hank started inviting Greg to sit with them at lunch and hang out and play in their room in exchange for some of his skins. He loves this new attention, and his teachers notice that he seems to be having fun with the boys because of his success with Fortnite. The tech teacher chides, "All this negative talk about gaming. Look at how fantastic gaming is for Greg."

Then a call comes to the school. Greg's parents want to know why Greg is spending so much money. The parents and the school have a long conversation and conclude that Greg has spent \$100 on skins in the last four weeks.

All of the boys are called to the head of their dorms for teatime and some discussion. They have no idea Greg's parents have called the school, but they have been asked to bring their computers.

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Guiding Questions:

- What do you think they talked about over tea time?
- Is it okay to ask someone to buy you skins in trade of friendships?
- Do you ever give your friends generous gifts? Why? What would be your limit?
- Greg is excellent at Fortnite, and that helps him socially, which is a good thing. What are some of the other positives about playing games like Fortnite?
- What are some of the negatives?
- How can you manage the negatives and enjoy the positives?

Topic: Gaming, Relationships and Communication

Age: Primary and Middle school