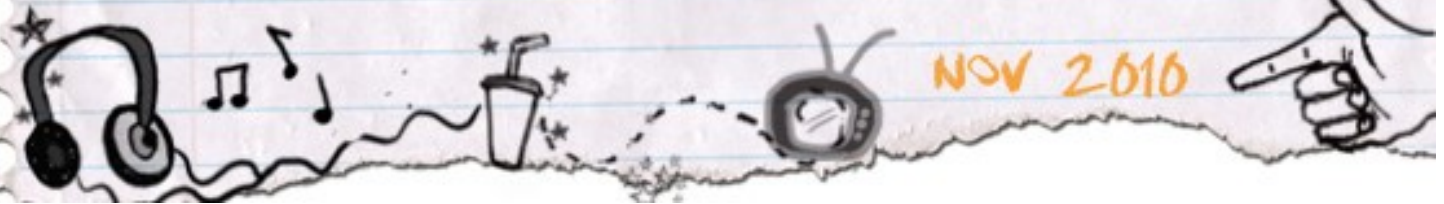


THE PARENT SOURCE

YOUR CULTURAL CONNECTION

NOV 2010



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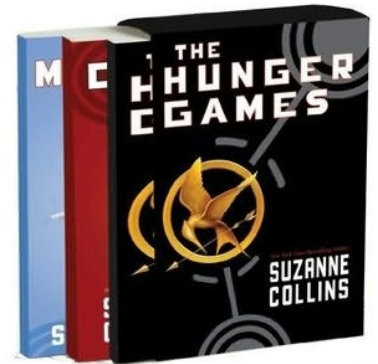
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WHAT'S TRENDING???

IS THIS THE NEXT TWILIGHT???

The Hunger Games is the newest young-adult book series that is taking the culture by storm. The Hunger Games takes place in a dreary post apocalyptic world where, every year, 24 children are randomly selected and forced to battle to the death on television. The 3rd series of this trilogy (*Mockingjay*) was released this summer and sold **450,000 copies in its first week**. It already has a huge teenage fan base and it continues to grow. Lionsgate has purchased rights to this trilogy and they are expected to start filming next spring. **The content of this trilogy is pretty grim.** Its been said that the book is intended for readers 12 and up. It is science fiction but it does contain details of torturous deaths. For a review of all the content contained in the series go to commosensemedia.org.



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TEXT LINGO

A recent Good Morning America segment focused on "Text Lingo" They revealed that many of the familiar acronyms are still present like lol, jk, omg, etc... However, a newer brand of communication that is being compared to ancient **hieroglyphics** is emerging. This is called "**lead speak**" a combination of using numbers and symbols to create things. Here are a few of these phrases de-coded.



- Cu46** See you for sex
- WTG 4 a /% ** want to go for a drink (the slashes and percent sign look like a cocktail)
- GNOC** Get naked on camera
- LM 4 a ~-#zzzzzz>** Lets meet for a joint
- RU/18** Are you over 18?
- 53x** Sex
- DOC** Drug of Choice
- 1 W45 50 ;}~ 1457 n16h7** I was so drunk last night



GLEE AND GOD

In October Glee aired an episode that covered their most controversial topic yet, "Jesus". The tone of this episode was vastly different from that of past shows. There was the familiar element of humor and sarcasm however there were many thought provoking moments that's raised questions about God and his concern for

mankind. Not all of the characters agreed on their view of God, and many of them shared why they felt the way they did.

Phen (the quarterback) made a grilled cheese sandwich that appeared to have the image of Jesus on its bun. Therefore he called it "grilled cheesus". This divine encounter caused him to approach God almost like a genie in a bottle. He told "grilled cheesus" if Jesus let the football team win their first game he would make sure the glee club sang songs that honored Him the following week. Sure enough his team wins which sparks him to ask "grilled cheesus" for other things he wants, like becoming the starting quarterback again and going to second base with his girlfriend. Each of these requests come true but he loses faith when he is told by the school counselor that God did not make those things happen and that God was probably not too worried about those kind of things.

Kirk (the homosexual student) is struggling with how to handle the recent hospitalization of his father. With his dad in a coma many of his friends offer to pray for him and his father. He meets their offer for prayer with this response " **I don't believe in God. He makes me gay and has his followers going around telling me its something that I chose. As if someone would choose to be mocked every single day of their life. And right now I don't want a heavenly father I want my real one back.**" There were plenty of other conversations on this topic through out this episode.

More than any other show in recent memory this episode provided a very real portrait of where many teens are at concerning their thoughts on God. Each teen and adult for that matter seemed to want to believe in something bigger than themselves. But for many of them life circumstances had caused them to believe that if there is a God he doesn't really care. At the end of the day the characters seemed to like the idea of someone who is looking out for all of us. However, they also seemed to feel each person is entitled to their own opinion and in the end no one is really right or wrong.

WHAT IS A GLEEK???

A popular term to refer to someone who loves watching the show "Glee"

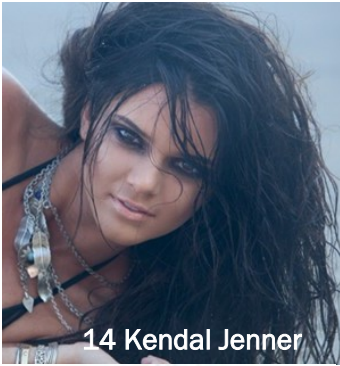
How popular is Glee's Music???

The Glee cast has surpassed the Beatles for the most appearances on the Billboard Hot 100 chart by a non-solo act. That gives Glee a total of 75 songs on the chart to the Beatles 71. In one year four months and 2 weeks the cast of Glee broke a record that took the Beatles 30 plus years to build.



Magazine Controversy

Recent sexually provocative pictures taken for November's GQ magazine of two female glee cast members has many fans and parents offended. Tim Wheeler president of The parents TV Council said "Its disturbing that GQ, which is explicitly written for adult men, is sexualizing the actresses who play high school-aged characters on 'Glee' in this way. It borders on Pedophilia. Sadly, this is just the latest example of the overt sexualization of young girls in entertainment."



14 Kendall Jenner



16 Dakota Fanning



17 Miley Cyrus

Teen stars are pushing the boundaries on sexuality

and young girls every where are watching their every move. *The New Haven Advocate* states that their image-handlers are manufacturing and exploiting sex at an increasingly younger age. Then, virtually overnight, the little girl comes of age and goes “bad,” ostensibly as a result of her own “creative” choices, the article asserts. Miley Cyrus, Britney Spears, Dakota Fanning, Kendal Jenner, Ali Lohan and Taylor Momsen are all young celebrity teens that are in the media spotlight for the racy choices they have made. Kendal Jenner is a 14 year old whose handlers turned to racy bikini shots to ramp up her profile. Dakota Fanning, 16, posed for Marie Claire in sexually provocative clothes and also shared a passionate on-screen kiss with actress Kristen Stewart earlier this year. Miley Cyrus, 17, has posed for Vanity Fair topless with only a sheet covering her and both of her most recent music videos are sexually charged. She recently told reporters that she can’t base her career off of 6 year olds. “It’s the 16 year olds, the 26 year olds I’m trying to reach now. I have to move on.” After building her career on those 6 year olds, they will be watching everything that she does in order to be just like her. Even in their Halloween costume choices this year, teens and preteens were being bombarded with the pressure to be sexy with options such as bondage clothes, chrome stripper poles, and sexy French maid costumes being marketed to them. This trend to dress, act, and flaunt their body will have far reaching effects on the behavior and mindset of teens everywhere. Teens will model what they see and with the racy, sexy clothes, and the attitude to go with it, it will be hard to stay young and innocent. It will be a challenge to not let the actions, attitudes, and behaviors of the celebrities they see color and affect their behavior.

Article By Deanna Cornelius

JAY-Z REGRETS LYRICS TO POPULAR SONG YEARS LATER

Sure we are all attracted to a song that sounds good musically but we all know that whether we like it or not we do absorb the lyrics that accompany the music. That’s why it is so important to look beyond the sound of a song and listen to the heart of it. We have to encourage our children and teens to do the same. If the lyrics of the song are degrading or untruthful then perhaps it shouldn't make our playlist. In all reality you are the only one who is responsible for filtering the things you get entertained by. Do not leave this choice up to the artist who produce it, because they could feel differently about it years later.

A recent interview with popular hip-hop artist Jay-z revealed that years later he regrets the lyrics that were in his #1 mega hit “Big Pimpin’”. Jay-Z has notoriously said that since his first album he has never written out the lyrics to his songs. He keeps them all in his head. So for a forthcoming book he was asked to examine his lyrics and reflect. In a recent interview with The Wall Street Journal this is what he said “ Some {lyrics} become really profound when you see them in writing. Not “Big Pimpin.” That’s the exception it was like, I can’t believe I said that. And kept saying it. What kind of animal would say this sort of thing? Reading it is really harsh.” Later on in the interview he went on to say “Love is the only thing that stands the test of time.” Obviously as his position in life has changed his view on life has changed as well. This interview would be a great discussion starter with a teen to point out why it is important to seek Gods truth.



GRAPHIC NOVEL BIOGRAPHIES

Blue Water Comics is bringing popular stars to life like never before. This company specializes in biographical comics. Most recently they have enjoyed the success of their Fame Series. This series focuses on telling the stories of famous young superstars like: Robert Pattinson, Justin Bieber, Lady GaGA, Taylor Swift, Taylor Lautner, Kristen Stewart, The cast of Glee, etc... This form of biography easily connects younger fans with their favorite star. Each of these comics features the story of how these beloved superstars got their big break. It also covers how their life has changed since. Parents should definitely be aware of this new type of biography. It is marketed directly at tweens and children. The content of each of these comics depends solely on its subject. For instance The Lady GaGa issue shows her dressed very seductively and definitely draws attention to her bizarre behavior. The Taylor Lautner issue features drawings of him with his shirt off showing off his abs, while the Justin Bieber edition shows his rise to success on the internet and swoons of screaming girls. Kids may not be into reading old school biographies but they will definitely have an interest in these especially if their favorite star is the topic of discussion.

Kid's Culture



This television show flew onto the scene late last year and hasn't looked back since. In only one year of production this Nickelodeon show has been nominated for a Kids Choice Award and has become Nickelodeon's second highest rated sitcom behind iCarly.

WHATS IT ABOUT?

Four teenage friends leave their roots behind to follow their dreams of becoming a big time band. They are discovered at an open casting call for a new band, then head to LA to live the dream. So far the content of this show has been family friendly. Commonsensemedia.org rates this appropriate for kids 7 and up.

A BAND IN REAL LIFE:

Big Time Rush has used their wild popularity to launch a legitimate boy band. The characters from this show are a band in real life and they have recently released their debut album. Their lyrics are clean and cover relationships, going out, and making the most of your life. Look for tweens to eat up this pop heavy album. Keep your eyes open for how this recent success determines the bands direction as they attempt to appeal to older audiences as well.



The questions below are designed for you to ask your teen. Use these questions as conversation starters about these topics.

Text Lingo– Have you seen any of these text phrases?
What are some other text phrases you or your friends use?

Glee– What do you think about Kirk’s quote about God?
What type of view of God do your friends have?

Teen Stars pushing boundaries- Why do you think most child stars eventually change to a sexy image?
Do you approve or disapprove of these particular stars choices? Why or why not?

JayZ’s lyrics– What does it say about popular music when an artist later regrets their lyric choices?