

Name: _____ () Class: _____ Date: _____

*You are reading the editorial in the Social Services Club's newsletter. Read the editorial.***Text 3 Editorial**

Let's be heroes!

① Some people think that teenagers nowadays only care about themselves. There is a lot of criticism of young people in the media, calling us the self-centered 'Me' generation, but I believe that this is a very narrow-minded view. Yes, we may take more selfies than previous generations, but
5 that does not mean we are not concerned about the people around us.



② Jonathan Pitre, a teenage boy from Canada, is a perfect example. Jonathan has a debilitating skin condition called epidermolysis bullosa (EB) that keeps him in constant pain. He is known as the 'Butterfly Boy' because, like a butterfly's wings, his skin is damaged with the slightest contact. This makes having a normal life impossible. Pitre has to undergo a strict regimen of
baths and bandage replacement, a process that takes four hours every two days, in order to prevent infections. Thankfully, he has his mother to help him with this arduous task, but it takes a toll on
20 her life as well. He is undergoing treatment, but there is currently no cure for the disease. If a cure is not found, he will probably die before he turns 25.

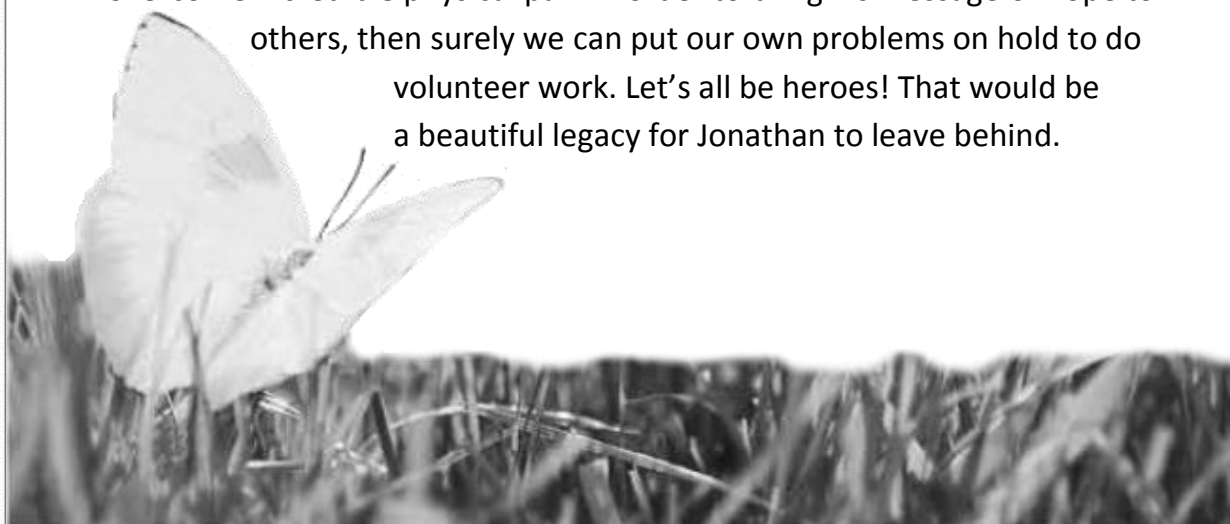


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25 **3** Pitre recently went through an experimental treatment that, if successful, could offer him a life without pain. The treatment itself, though, is agonizing and carries its own set of risks. Pitre has been in and out of hospital as he battles infections, and while the results are promising at the moment, Pitre understands better than anyone that luck can change at any moment. Yet regardless of how the treatment turns out, Pitre can take comfort in knowing any scientific discoveries made by doctors during the course of his treatment can be used to help others suffering from this rare disease.

35 **4** However, despite Jonathan's gruelling circumstances, he is selfless. He speaks at events in Canada and the US to offer hope and encouragement to others who have the same disease. Life on the road is not easy, since there are even fewer comforts and protections for him than at home, but to Jonathan, the fact that he is able to offer others hope makes everything worth it. Jonathan says, 'Every day is a battle and every day is a battle won.'

40 **5** Jonathan is a hero, and I believe anyone else can be too. Though our lives are much easier than his, I believe that we as teenagers can follow his example. Age is never an obstacle to helping others. We can assist the needy in society by volunteering at local charities, participating in sponsored runs or working on flag days. Sometimes, as a teen, it can feel like our own problems are overwhelming, but we must remember that there are those who are suffering more than us. If a teenager can overcome incredible physical pain in order to bring his message of hope to others, then surely we can put our own problems on hold to do volunteer work. Let's all be heroes! That would be a beautiful legacy for Jonathan to leave behind.



Challenging reading and comprehension

Unit 2

Name: _____ () Class: _____ Date: _____

Comprehension 3 *Your friend is asking you questions about the editorial. Answer her questions using information from the editorial. For multiple-choice questions, choose the best answer and blacken ONE circle only.*

1 According to the editorial, why are young people called the 'Me' generation?

2 What does 'this' in line 3 refer to?

3 Which of the following best matches the meaning of 'narrow-minded' (lines 3–4)?

A not accepting of others' ideas and behaviour

B not very intelligent

C extremely selfish

D having only one idea on a particular topic

A B C D

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4 How old do you think the writer is? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

5 Why is Jonathan called the 'Butterfly Boy'?

6 What does Jonathan have to do to prevent infections?

Challenging reading and comprehension

Unit 2

Name: _____ () Class: _____ Date: _____

7 How do you think Jonathan's disease 'takes a toll' (line 19) on his mother's life?

8 Find words in paragraph 2 that mean the same as the following:

- i) making weak and ill _____
- ii) continuous _____
- iii) routine _____
- iv) difficult _____

9 Use ONE word to complete each blank.

It may be possible for Jonathan to _____ without pain if his
_____ treatment is a _____.

10 Find a word in paragraph 3 that means the opposite of 'pain-free'.

11 According paragraph 3, are the following statements True (T), False (F) or Not Given (NG)?

Statements	T	F	NG
i) The experimental treatment Jonathan is going through is painful.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
ii) Jonathan has had to stay in the hospital for the entire experimental treatment.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
iii) The experimental treatment has successfully helped other teens with EB.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
iv) EB is not a common disease.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

12 Why is it challenging for Jonathan to travel in the US and Canada?

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13 Why does Jonathan insist on speaking at events in Canada and the US?

14 i) What does Jonathan compare living with his illness to?

ii) Why does he make this comparison?

15 According to paragraph 5, what are three ways teenagers can help the needy?

- i) _____
- ii) _____
- iii) _____

16 According to paragraph 5, why might some teenagers decide not to volunteer?



17 What does the writer mean by 'a beautiful legacy for Jonathan to leave behind' (line 48)?

18 What is the tone of paragraph 5?

- A encouraging
- B aggressive
- C cheerful
- D pessimistic

A B C D
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19 Match the heading to the outline for the editorial. Write A–D in the box next to the number I and IV.

Headings

- A Hope for the time being
- B A cure is found
- C Living with a challenging illness
- D Helping others despite difficulties

Outline

A, B, C, D

I	Introduction
II	
III	
IV	
V	Conclusion



20 How would you describe Jonathan's personality? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.



21 Do you think the writer will agree with the statement, 'One must have a lot of money to help the needy'? Explain your answer.
