### **1) ABE**

Abe's dad is trying to teach him to play baseball on a hot summer day.

Dad, I'm sick of this. The mosquitoes are eating me alive. Can't we go inside now? I don't really have to learn to play baseball. It's OK. I think I get it now. Eyes on the ball. Right.

Maybe I'm just not any good at this. Maybe I never will be. But a guy can only be hit in the head with a baseball so many times. I'm kinda sick of this game. I don't think I want to play any more. I'll just quit the team. Can't I just quit, Dad?

## 2) LOUIS

Louis is a picky eater. He only eats hot dogs. He's over at his friend Jack's house, and Jack's mom, Mrs. Jones, doesn't have any hot dogs.

No, I'm sorry, Mrs. Jones, I don't eat that. I only eat hot dogs. You don't have hot dogs? Oh. Well, maybe I should go home then. That's all I eat. Hot dogs for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Sometimes I eat to or three instead of just one.

My mom says I'll grow out of it someday. I doubt it. I love hot dogs. My little sister is worse. She only eats chicken soup. She sticks her pigtails in the soup and sucks it out of her hair. It's disgusting. Well, tell Jack I'll see him later. I've got to go home and have a few hot dogs. I think it's a three-hot-dog day. See you later, Mrs. Jones!

# 3) Aladdin

Aladdin:But I do like Jasmine. I mean, "The Princess!" Ugh! I must've sounded so silly! Then again, what does it matter? I'm never going to see her again. Me, the "street rat!" Besides, she deserves a prince. Or at least someone better than me. Oh, why did I ever meet her? Boy, I'm glad I met her! Look at this junk! I bet no one's been in here for years. Something's written on this thing. Let's see here.....

#### 4) Kid Hero (Boy or Girl)

I've always dreamed of being a hero. I've tried everything to become super. I let a spider bite me... no spider powers; just lots of itching. I tried standing too close to the microwave oven hoping the radiation would change me. Nothing. And I got in trouble for making so many bags of popcorn. But I took it all to school and had a popcorn party. I was a hero that day. So I guess it kinda worked.

I love being a hero. I love helping people. I love making them happy. And I hate bad guys. I hate creeps who hurt people.

There's this kid at school... he is always hurting everyone. I am sick of him hurting us. I just need those super powers. I need something that will make him stop!

Maybe if I eat more of the school lunches. They look radioactive. If I get enough green hotdogs and brown ketchup in me... something is bound to happen. (excited)

And I need a catch phrase like "gonna smoosh me a baddie"... and a cool costume... actually last time I was in the bathroom, I saw the perfect superhero name. Protecto! Instead of a telephone booth like superman, I could use a bathroom stall and those Protecto seat covers could be a cape... and make a toilet paper mask. Nothing scares bad guys more than bathroom stuff. (thinks then frowns) Or maybe it will really make them want to give me a swirly. I better rethink this.

#### 5) BEAN

Bean is playing hide and seek with a bunch of boys. She can't find anybody.

Hey, where did everybody go? I give up! I counted to a hundred, like you said. It took a really long time. Where is everybody? I said I give up! I can't find you!

I've been looking for ages. Can anybody hear me? This isn't funny any more, you guys. Come out, come out, wherever you are! Come on, guys. Let's play a different game! We could play tag outside. Or maybe we could have a snack and play video games. I'll let you guys play first! I promise! Just come out. I can't find you, OK? I give up. What more do you want from me? Guys? Hey, guys?

## 6) TIMMY

Timmy tries to convince his mom that his messy room is not his fault.

Mom, it's not my fault my room's a mess! Me and Anthony were playing with his new racecars. Only four of them. And we heard a weird noise out- side, so we opened the window. This huge spaceship landed and a slimy, green alien with three heads came out and jumped in the window. Anthony tried to shoot him with my zapper gun, but it didn't even hurt him — he just got real mad. So he knocked all the books off my shelf and picked up my toy box with his long, purple antennas and dumped it all over my room. So I threw a Frisbee at him and it bonked him on his third head and he slimed out the window and the spaceship disappeared into the sky. Geez, Mom, you should be happy I'm still alive!

#### **HUCK (From adventures of Huckleberry Finn)**

Miss Watson told me to pray every day, and whatever I asked for I would get it. But it warn't so. I tried it. Once I got a fish-line, but no hooks. It warn't any good to me without hooks. I tried for the hooks three or four times, but somehow I couldn't make it work. By and by, one day, I asked Miss Watson to try for me, but she said I was a fool. She never told me why, and I couldn't make it out no way. I set down one time back in the woods, and had a long think about it. I says to myself, if a body can get anything they pray for, why don't Deacon Winn get back the money he lost on pork? Why can't the widow get back her silver snuffbox that was stole? Why can't Miss Watson fat up? No, says I to my self, there ain't nothing in it. I went and told the widow about it, and she said the thing a body could get by praying for it was "spiritual gifts." This was too many for me, but she told me what she meant—I must help other people, and do everything I could for other people, and look out for them all the time, and never think about myself. This was including Miss Watson, as I took it. I went out in the woods and turned it over in my mind a long time, but I couldn't see no advantage about it—except for the other people; so at last I reckoned I wouldn't worry about it any more, but just let it go.

# 7) ALICIA

Alicia is a princess who doesn't like boys. She is talking to her father, the king.

Daddy, I don't want to be a princess anymore. I like the pretty dresses and I sort of like the dancing, but ... why do I have to dance with boys? I really don't like boys. The last boy I danced with told me about all the worms he ate. How he'd get his servants to search far and wide for the fattest, juiciest worms in the kingdom. I almost puked on my pretty slippers, Daddy! It was gross. I could just dance by myself from now on. And you, of course, because you're my dad and not a boy. But I just cannot stand another day of dancing with worm-eaters!