

AFTER THE STORM[®]

A Parent/Caregiver's Guide

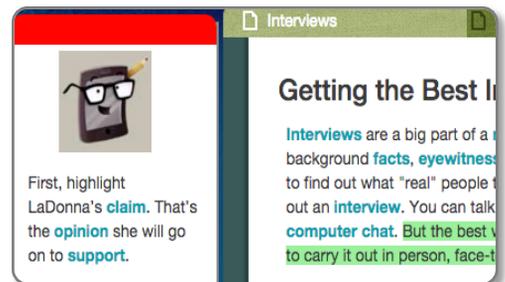


WHAT IS AFTER THE STORM?

Your child is using an exciting digital literacy game, one that takes place at an online news organization serving the mid-sized city of Port Douglas in the days after a hurricane has hit. Your child is Editor-in-Chief of *The Daily Byte*. Working closely with staff and community members, he or she must report the daily news while also providing the community with vital updates related to storm recovery—no easy task when *The Daily Byte* office

has also suffered damage in the hurricane. To keep current, reliable news flowing, the Editor-in-Chief directs staff to gather information from multiple sources and then analyzes that information towards providing the most relevant and accurate news. Your child must make important decisions, including whether to publish a developing story about corruption in the mayor's office and how to handle new budgetary concerns at *The Daily Byte*.

Reading *After the Storm* is designed to help students read closely for deeper understanding. The conversations and messages they read in the game are the equivalent to over two middle school books. Students see reading as not just important in school, but vital to success in any future career.



College & Workplace Your child also builds “people skills” needed to be successful in college and career. As Editor-in-Chief at a news organization, s/he is constantly using 21st-century skills that prepare them to innovate, collaborate, think flexibly, and lead others in an increasingly global economy. Acting as leaders in a workplace, students begin to understand how to think like professionals as they work to solve realistic problems.

Ethics & Judgment *After the Storm* also gives your child the opportunity to make tough decisions about colleagues and community members featured in the game. For example, the Editor-in-Chief must decide whether a colleague's mysterious disappearance justifies logging into his Facebook account.

Help your child get the most out of the game! →

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At Home There are things you can do at home to find out more about what your child is doing in *After the Storm* and to help him or her get more out of the game.

- **Discuss** These questions should help you start a conversation about the purpose of a local news organization:
 1. What newspaper, magazine, or news website in our community is most like *The Daily Byte*? What are some reasons people read it?
 2. What tasks do you have at *The Daily Byte* that you probably would not have had before Hurricane Dante struck Port Douglas?
- **Try** In the game, your child is introduced to the various functions of a news organization. You can help extend this knowledge:
 1. The six sections of *The Daily Byte* website are: Politics, Opinion, Business, Technology, Arts, and a blog. Sit down together with a copy of your local newspaper or go online to a local news site. Create a two-column table (one for *TDB* and one for your choice news source), listing the main sections in each news source. Discuss how the lists compare, and ask what conclusions your child can draw about “must have” sections.
 2. On paper or digitally, work with your child to redesign the front page (or home page) of your local news organization. Have your child include the sections he or she thinks are most important and explain why people need those sections. Sketch out one page from each section, saying what will go there. For example, On the Opinion page, an editorial about school safety.

In Your Community In *After the Storm*, your child experiences not only how a local news source serves the community, but how the community participates in making and shaping the news. In the game, community members write editorials, participate in a photo contest, and respond to a call for volunteers. Be on the lookout for ways your child could make his or her voice heard at your local news source. Write a letter to the editor, take a picture or video to be used with a news story, be interviewed about a community matter affecting young people.

Online If your child is interested in writing—and being published—sit down together to explore *Teen Ink* (teenink.org), the national online magazine featuring fiction, poetry, nonfiction, reviews, and more, all written *by teens for teens*. *Teen Ink* also publishes a monthly print magazine.