

50+ Conversation Starters

*FOR USE WITH HENRY KNOWS BEST:
A STORY ABOUT LEARNING FROM MISTAKES AND LISTENING TO OTHERS
BY EMILY LEARING*

- Why do you think that Henry thinks that only he knows best?
- Do you think Henry knows how to solve EVERY problem he is faced with? Why or why not?
- Why do you think that his mom, dad and teacher try to teach Henry to listen and learn to be fair?
- What does it mean to have “listening ears?”
- Why do you think that some days, Henry listens and gets through the day without getting into trouble or hurt, but other days he forgets his listening ears?
- How can forgetting to use listening ears cause hurt feelings and tears?
- Does forgetting to use listening ears just hurt you? Or can it also hurt those around you?
- Why do you think Henry’s mom said, “Henry, that’s not where that toy goes!”
- Why do you think Henry chose not to listen to his mom when she warned him not to put the toy on the shelf?
- What happened when Henry did not listen to what his mom had to say?
- How do you think Henry felt when he saw his broken toys sitting on the ground?
- What do you think Henry’s mom is thinking when she sees his toys have fallen onto the ground and broken?
- How do you think it makes Henry’s mom feel to see how Henry was feeling after his toys fell onto the ground and broke?
- What could Henry have done differently to keep his toys safe?
- When you look at how Henry’s dad is teaching him about how to make friends, what can you see on Henry’s dad’s face and body that helps you to know how he feels about Henry?
- Why do you think Henry’s dad told him to let his friends talk, too?
- Why do you think Henry chose not to listen to his dad when he suggested that Henry should let his friends talk too?
- What did Henry’s friends think when Henry chose to talk EXTRA LOUD? What do you see on their faces and bodies that help you to see what they are thinking and feeling?
- What did Henry’s friends do after Henry made the choice to talk instead of letting them talk, too?
- How did Henry feel when his friends left him at the park?
- What could Henry do differently next time when he is with a group of friends?
- Should we always do what makes other people happy? Why or why not?
- Why do you think Henry decided not to listen to his brother’s idea?
- Why did Henry think that his idea was better?

- How did Henry's brother feel when Henry decided that his idea was better than his brother's idea?
- What do you see on his brother's face and body that helps you to know how he was feeling?
- What was Henry thinking about when he decided to take over his brother's block project?
- Did Henry seem to notice how his brother was feeling when he took over the block tower? Why or why not?
- What does it mean when it says that Henry was "puffing his chest?"
- Why do you think someone who thinks that he knows best would "puff his chest?"
- Why do you think Henry thought that his idea was better than his brother's idea?
- What happened to the block tower when Henry took over?
- How did his brother feel when the tower fell over? How can you tell that his brother is feeling this way?
- How did Henry feel when he accidentally destroyed his brother's tower project? How can you tell that Henry is feeling this way?
- What are some other ways that Henry could share his idea without taking over his brother's entire block tower project?
- What do you think would have happened if Henry helped his brother, instead of taking over the entire project? Which way do you think would help Henry's brother to enjoy spending time playing with his brother? What way do you think would make Henry's brother not want to spend time playing with his brother?
- Before Henry's mom talks to him, she gives him a kiss. Why do you think she did that? Do moms and dads still love their kids when they are talking about their choices?
- What is the job of a parent? Why does Henry's mom say that it is her job to teach him?
- Why do you think Henry's mom felt worried when she watched him play today?
- What lessons was Henry's mom hoping that Henry would have learned today?
- What does it mean that Henry "paid the price?" for not taking others' advice? What are examples of this from the story?
- Who are the people in Henry's life who have value to share? Who are the people in your life who have value to share with you?
- Should we listen to the advice of everyone? Why or why not? How do we know whose advice to listen to and whose advice to ignore?
- Why does Henry feel like anyone who shares advice with him just wants to boss him around or tell him what to do? How can he know when someone is saying it to help him?
- What does it mean to be a good friend? What did Henry do to show that he is a good friend today? What did he do that might make his friends think that he is not a good friend?
- Why is it a good thing for us to be able to admit when we are wrong?
- Can you share an example of a time that you did not want to admit that you were wrong?
- Why does Henry find it so hard to admit that he is wrong?
- Do moms, dads, grandparents and teachers have a hard time admitting that they have done something wrong too?
- Do you think Henry will be able to someday admit that he does not know everything? What might he need to do for this to happen?
- What can you learn from Henry's day?