

Extra! Extra!

Read each “news article” and answer the questions.

“Hot Potatoes!” by Mary Whethers

On Monday afternoon, A Lotta Foods grocery store reported a 20-pound sack of potatoes had been stolen. There was a hole in the sack, so the police were able to follow a trail of potatoes to the home of Ineda Spud at 1234 County Road P. When the local police interviewed Ms. Spud, she commented that she really needed the potatoes to make her children’s favorite dinner. During the interview, Ms. Spud told investigators she had been taking small items from A Lotta Foods for years and that “it’s not a big deal.”

1. Do you agree with Ms. Spud that her actions are not a big deal? Why or why not?
2. Is Ms. Spud giving scandal? Why or why not? (Think about who Ms. Spud is influencing and “scandalizing.” Now that the incident has been published in the newspaper, who is she influencing? If this article is uploaded to the Internet, who is Ms. Spud influencing?)
3. If Ms. Spud had no money to pay for food and no way of getting money to pay for food, how would this change your opinion about the situation?
4. If Ms. Spud had no money to pay for food and no way of getting money to pay for food, what options would be available for the Spud family?



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5. If Ms. Spud is stealing out of habit and not true need, how can she change?

“Matinee Mayhem,” by Ida Know

Four teens will appear before Judge Slim A. Book for sneaking into the movie theater last Saturday afternoon. One young lady purchased a ticket for *Cats Gone Crazy*, the new thriller by Steven Mouseburg. She proceeded to let her three friends into the movie theater at the exit door. A theater employee spotted the cheating teens and reported them to the theater manager, who notified the police. One of the teens stated: “I just wanted to see the movie. I knew it was wrong, but I hoped we wouldn’t get caught.”

1. Are the teens giving scandal? Explain your answer. (Who would the teens influence if they were seen sneaking into the movie theater by other teens or younger children? Who will the teens influence now that this incident has been reported in the paper? Who will the teens influence if this article is uploaded to the Internet?)

2. If the teens wanted to see the movie without breaking the law, what options did they have?

“Real Life” Question: *Think about your use of social media. Who influences you in social media? How far do your own words and photos spread? Who are you influencing? What is the potential for “giving scandal” when using social media?*

