

1. Newton Newman worries that his parents named him after a cookie -- a fig newton. His father insists that they actually named him after Sir Isaac Newton, the great scientist who discovered gravity. Do you ever wish that your parents had named you something different? If you could pick your own name now, what would you call yourself? Why?
2. Newt first taught himself to draw cartoons by tracing the pictures in his older brother's collection of comic books. Do you have a skill that you have taught yourself? If you could acquire any new ability -- artistic, athletic, scholastic, whatever! -- what would that be?
3. Newt's brother Chris is a very busy guy. So are his mom and his dad. His entire family always seems to be running circles around Newt, and he winds up feeling forgotten. Do the members of your family ever get so busy and distracted that that you wind up feeling neglected?
4. Cecil and JJ, Newt's best friends, have very different interests. Do you remember what they are?
5. Newt seems to be as curious about Cecil's and JJ's interests as they are about his. Have you got friends with hobbies or skills that you find especially interesting?
6. When Newt gets tossed out of the stadium, he watches the second half of the Big Game from behind a fence at one end of the field; that gives him a brand new perspective on the game and enables him to experience it in much the same way as his older brother, Chris. Do you ever watch a sport -- in person or on television -- and imagine what it would be like to be actually doing it? Which sport -- when you watch it -- makes you want to take part in it? And remember: the sport doesn't only have to be a game; it could be a sport like autoracing or snow-skiing or parachuting.
7. Cecil, JJ and Newt decide that they're going to build their own Halloween costumes so that they can celebrate their *inner other*. If you could wear anything and be anyone - anyone at all! - how would *you* dress for Halloween?
8. After Chris is taken to the hospital, Newt tries to help out around the house by making breakfast and taking phone messages. When someone in your family gets sick, what can you do -- or what *have*

*you done* -- to help out while they got better?

9. The first day that Newt shows up at school dressed as Captain Nobody, he gets a lot of different reactions. If one of your classmates came to school tomorrow looking and dressing differently, how do you think you would react? How would your classmates and your teacher react?

10. When Newt watches the little video on his dad's phone of Chris in his hospital bed, he says that, "my eyes stung and I couldn't think of anything to say." What do you imagine Newt was feeling at that moment?

11. It's pretty obvious that Chris is a hero in Newt's eyes, and, by the time the story is over, Chris feels the same way about Newt. Is there anyone you know -- within or outside your family -- who you look up to? Why?

12. Newt is afraid of heights; JJ is scared of spiders; and Cecil gets creeped out by plastic garbage bags. Is there anything unusual that frightens you?