



James Ashcroft
Z! Writer when he was Age 7

Lessons Learned WHEN WERE WE YOU

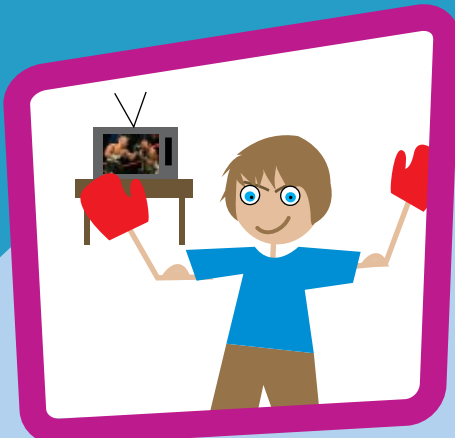
CONTROL YOUR TEMPER

Once when I was in Grade 3 or 4, I tripped and fell while playing soccer during recess. Some of the younger kids stood around and laughed. I was so mad and embarrassed that I lashed out at the closest person. That person happened to be my friend who had come over to help me. I threw the ball at him even though he was the only one not laughing. I felt like a jerk!



DON'T BELIEVE WHAT YOU SEE ON TV

When I was 8 or 9, I told my friend's younger brother I could knock him out with one punch. He didn't believe me so I hit him in the face. I thought he'd just peacefully fall asleep like they do on TV, but he cried and cried. I didn't want to hurt him, of course, but I did. I still remember the sound his jaw made when I hit him.



IF YOU DON'T HAVE ANYTHING NICE TO SAY...

In Grade 5 we made posters about ourselves. One girl put on her poster that she was pretty. For some reason, this made me really mad so I told her she was 'as ugly as a warthog.' I guess because I didn't feel good about myself, I didn't want anyone else to either. Negative comments are a lot easier to make than positive ones. It still bothers me today that I was just one more voice telling her she was no good.



DO WHAT YOU LOVE / HARD WORK PAYS OFF

In Grade 7 our teacher told us to write a short story, about ten pages long, and we'd all enter them in a local contest. But me, I wrote a story that was almost 50 handwritten pages long! It would have been a lot easier to make it shorter, but I loved writing so I just kept going and going. Anyway, I won the contest and got my picture in the local paper. It was the highlight of my elementary school career.



THE THINGS YOU OWN, END UP OWNING YOU

I can't remember how old I was, but once I saved up a couple of dollars from my allowance and bought a squirt gun. The same day I bought it, I accidentally smashed it. It seems really silly now, but I was heartbroken. I cried so much, my mom bought me a new one. It's funny how upset I was over a cheap piece of plastic. I'm sure in a week I was bored of it and wanted a new one.