

"A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A DROPOUT"



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Contents

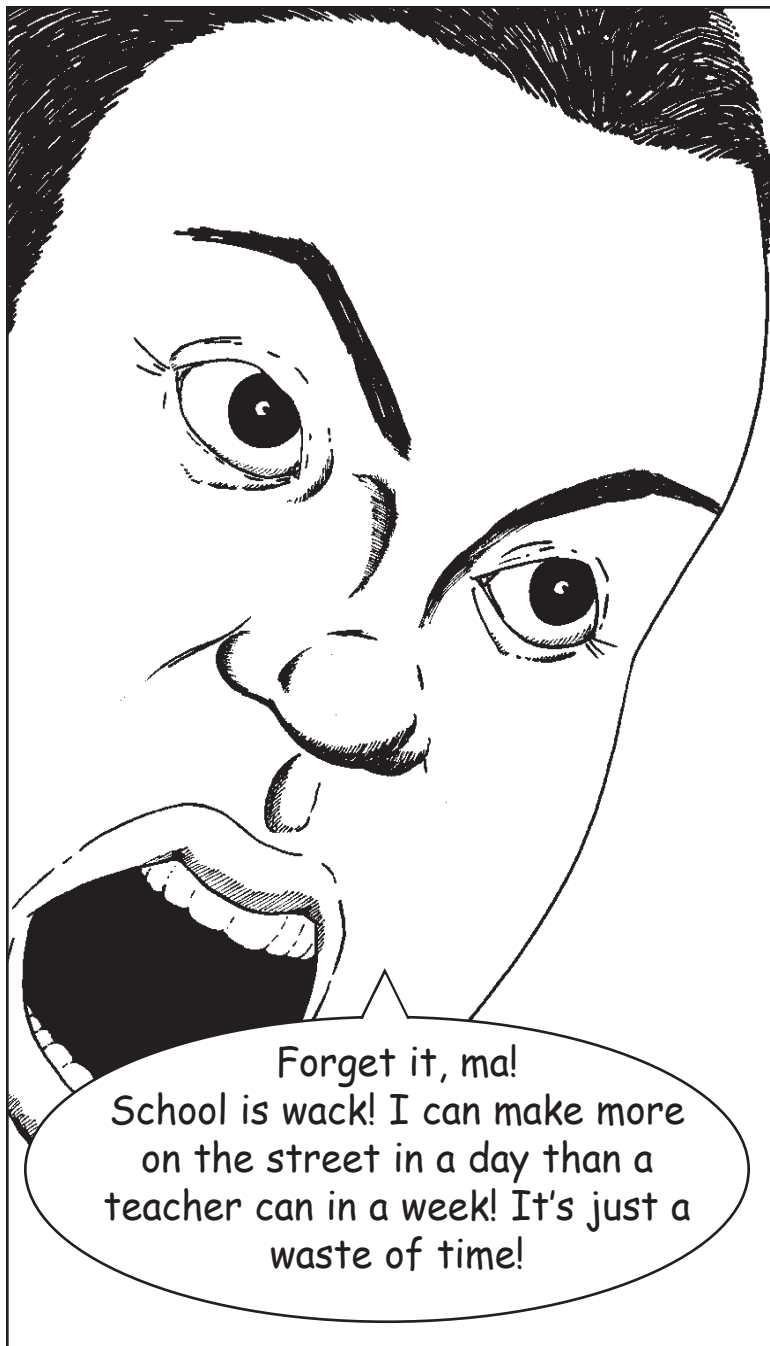
A Day in the Life of a Dropout.....	3
A Day in the Life of a Teenage Mom.....	40
A Day in a Life Behind Bars.....	72
Do What You Do Best.....	88
SOS Quotes: Guaranteed for Life.....	104











Forget it, ma!
School is wack! I can make more
on the street in a day than a
teacher can in a week! It's just a
waste of time!



A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A TEENAGE MOM



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It's time for me and my son, Jacob, to start getting ready for the day. Mom is still asleep. I don't think I slept more than a couple of hours. Now, I have to face the day.



Man, last night was tough. I hunted down Jacob's father, Raul, trying to get some money to help mom with the rent. He was nowhere to be found. I have to face it, Raul is out of the picture for good. I asked my mother for a couple of bucks again and I hate it. Every day, she gives me that you've-thrown-your-life-away look.



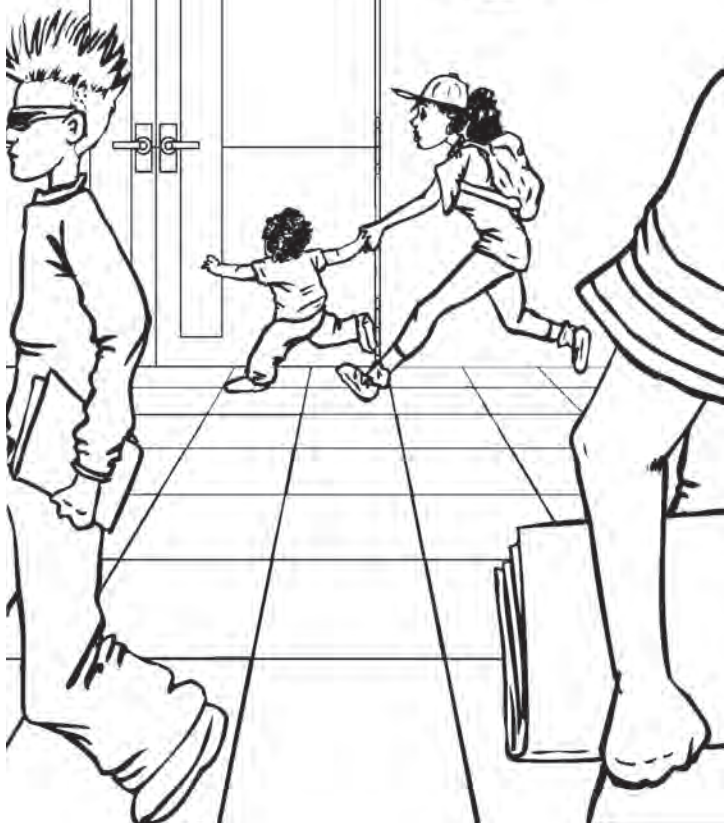
It's getting late and I'm still not ready. There's nothing to eat for breakfast here, so I hope Mrs. Franklin at the day care will feed Jacob. If I don't get on that bus, I'm going to be late for school again. Yeah, I'm a freshman. What? This surprises you? Well, it shouldn't... I mean, I'm only 16 years old. I'm supposed to be in high school, right?



My mind was all wrapped up in how much my man loved me. I wasn't sure I wanted to sleep with Raul, but he told me making love would bring us together forever. I needed him to love me. That's all I thought about. Now, look at my life.

DAY CARE

207



Finally, I get to school. Late as usual. I should have been here an hour ago. I still have to drop Jacob at the school's day care and get him fed before I start class. I'm hungry, too.



I'm in the middle of math class and the only thing on my mind is worrying about money. I can't concentrate on my studies, and my grades are getting worse. Man, that's just great! How can I make a better life for my son if I can't get through school?



She starts in with all this stuff about me making the same mistake she did. How I didn't think about waiting for sex. What a rotten guy Jacob's father is. How she's too sick to care for my son. It never ends! By the time I leave, all three of us are crying. Now, I'm going to be late for work again! Surprised?

SLIBS



6:45 pm. My boss reminds me I'm 15 minutes late. Then I start hearing it from him about how he's doing me a big favor letting me work here. He says he's trying to help me, "cause of my kid." He says I need to get my act together. I hate him and my job.



Jacob is asleep. Sometimes I just stand there and look at him. I keep thinking about what the future will bring. I believe it is possible to guide your future in the right direction, but I didn't do that. My future was more of a gamble. I sent it out of control. When I slept with Raul, I didn't think about what would happen. So now I'm alone, dealing with stuff I'm not ready for.



I don't know what to do. What will become of my son? There's just so much to think and worry about. I hate this world, my life, and everything in it! Nothing is good anymore.

I'm so tired right now, but I still have chores to do. Jacob and I have no clean clothes for tomorrow, so I've got to do laundry. At least mom can watch my boy 'til I get back. I'll need to borrow some quarters from her anyway.





I look into his eyes, and can't help wondering what our future will bring. How am I going to provide for him? School is getting harder. There's no way I can give Jacob what he deserves, working in a sub shop for six bucks an hour.

A DAY IN A LIFE BEHIND BARS



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BZZZZ!

EVERYONE UP AND READY FOR SHOWERS!



EVERYONE UP AND READY FOR SHOWERS!

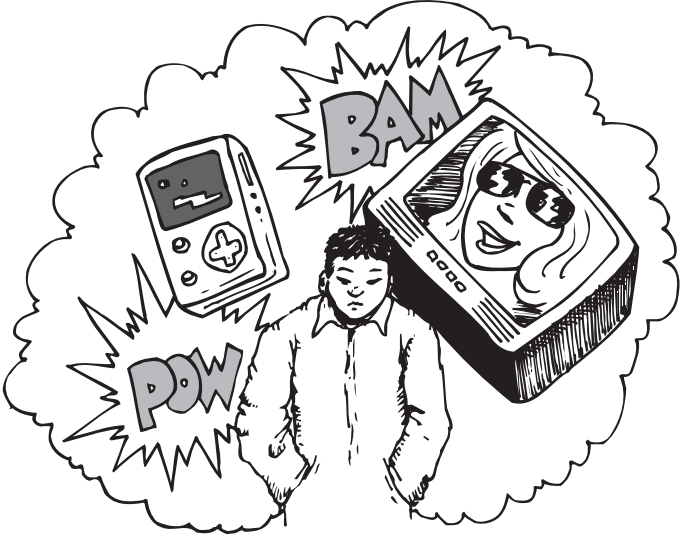


They keep us busy. No time for relaxing, sleeping in, or hanging out.



Oh yeah, don't even think about cutting school because that's not even possible.

Some of the things we hate most about being here is having no TV or video games...

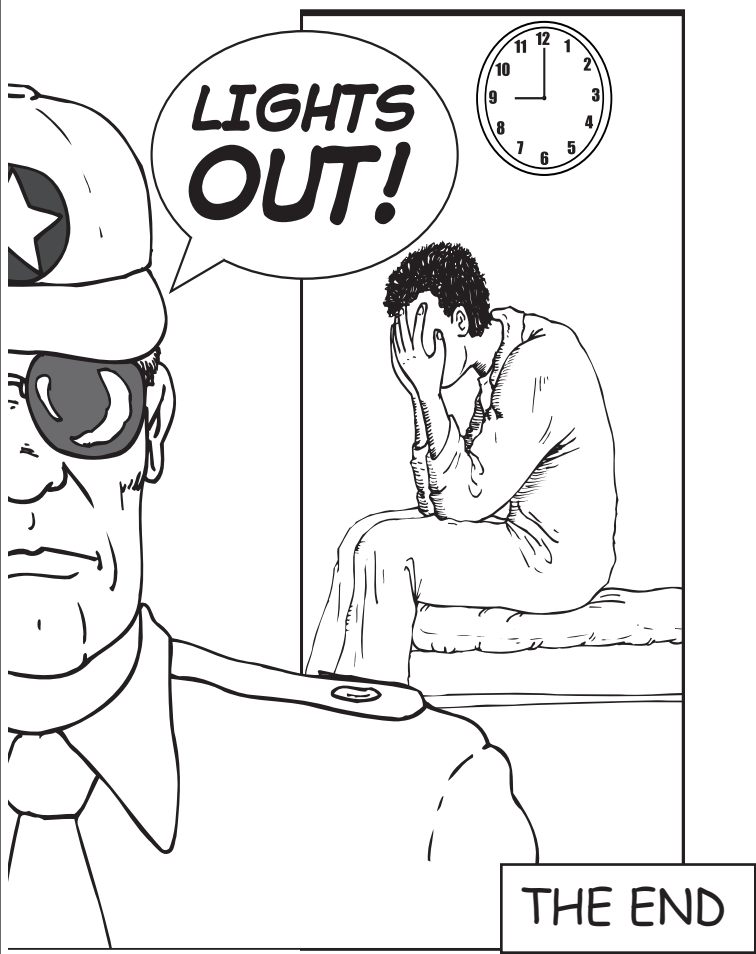


Not having enough free time to ourselves...



Well, it's the end of another wasted day. You want some free advice? Clean up your act and never put yourself in a spot where you end up caged and without

your freedom!



**DO WHAT
YOU DO
BEST**

INTRODUCTION

One doesn't need a crystal ball to figure out who succeeds or fails. It's rather simple. Young men and women, who early on, set their internal guidance systems to educate themselves in a chosen field, find it quite amazing how far ahead they are from their peers.

Use this career sampling to motivate yourself in selecting your life's work.

This book is dedicated to Red Auerbach, one of the greatest basketball coaches of all time, who said, "Without goals, you become what you were; with goals, you become whatever you want."

—Susan and Edmund Benson

Source: 1998-99 Occupational Outlook Handbook.
Bureau of Labor and Statistics.

*We can do anything we want as long as
we stick to it long enough.*

— *Helen Keller*

FIREFIGHTER

REQUIREMENTS:

- ◆ Have at least a high school diploma or GED.
- ◆ Courage, strength, and self-discipline.
- ◆ Must pass a written exam and a physical test, which includes walking up seven flights of stairs, dragging a 160-pound dummy while wearing 20 pounds of fire equipment.
- ◆ Classes in writing, public speaking, and advanced knowledge of firefighting techniques can lead to promotions.
- ◆ Since this is a very dangerous job, it requires organization and teamwork.
- ◆ Training as a paramedic in a two-year college will increase chances of being hired.
- ◆ The average firefighter earns \$34,600 a year; however, most do work more than 40 hours a week, so they are paid overtime.

MUSICIAN

REQUIREMENTS:

- ◆ Begin by studying an instrument or taking voice lessons at an early age.
- ◆ Many years of instruction with a professional musician or at a college or university program.
- ◆ Must have musical talent, creativity, and ability to perform in front of large groups.
- ◆ Constant studying and hours of practicing.
- ◆ Because of the competitive world of music, most will never achieve fame and may end up working low-paying jobs to make ends meet.
- ◆ The salary of musicians is different, depending on what their specialty is. If he or she is working with an orchestra they may get from \$20,000 to \$90,000. If the person is recording for a movie production, he may earn \$250 for three hours of work.

PROFESSIONAL ATHLETE

REQUIREMENTS:

- ◆ Since very few athletes make it professionally, it's always good to have another job in mind — just in case.
- ◆ This kind of work is very demanding, both physically and mentally. They may have other duties like going to meetings or watching films about the other teams.
- ◆ Most teams have curfews and other restrictions about what they can and can't do in their personal lives.
- ◆ A large part of a professional athlete's life is spent practicing his or her sport. Many play in high school and college, as well as for fun.
- ◆ Schools usually require students to maintain good grades to play on their sports team, so anyone wanting this career should keep up with their studies.
- ◆ Athletes in the minor leagues get paid very little. Only the superstars earn millions of dollars a year.