

## Table of Contents

My Secret Love, <i>Anonymous</i> .....	11
<i>Fearing ridicule, the writer keeps his musical tastes a secret.</i>	
Losing My Friends to Weed, <i>Jamel A. Salter</i> .....	15
<i>When Jamel turns 14, his childhood friends start smoking marijuana and pressure him to join them.</i>	
Why Do So Many Teens Cheat?, <i>Fan Yi Mok</i> .....	19
<i>When Fan Yi enters a prestigious high school, she's astounded to find widespread cheating.</i>	
Can't Afford to Follow, <i>Charlene George</i> .....	24
<i>Charlene gives into peer pressure from her friends to cut school, drink, and smoke. When they are arrested, she has a change of heart.</i>	
Hiding My Talent No More, <i>Jesselin Rodriguez</i> .....	29
<i>To fit in, Jesselin does poorly in junior high—until she realizes she's jeopardizing her chance to go to college.</i>	
Why I Speak My Mind, <i>Desiree Bailey</i> .....	35
<i>When someone close to her is doing dangerous things, Desiree speaks up.</i>	
Sex Doesn't Make You a Man, <i>Damon Washington</i> .....	39
<i>It doesn't matter what the guys around his way have to say—Damon's going to wait until he's married.</i>	

## Contents

- My So-Called Friends, *Sharon Feder* ..... 43  
*Sharon has a close group of friends when she starts high school, but when she confronts one member, the whole group deserts her.*
- Making Me Dance, *Jill Feigelman*..... 52  
*Positive peer pressure convinces Jill to audition for her school's dance company.*
- Peer Pressure Ended Our Relationship, *Lenny Jones*..... 55  
*Negative reactions from Lenny's family, friends, and even people in the street pressure him to break up with his white girlfriend.*
- My Bad, *V.P.*..... 61  
*The writer turns to robbery to fit in with the "cool" kids in his neighborhood.*
- The Pastor's Daughter, *Natalia Tavarez*..... 66  
*Natalia turns to her religious faith to resist friends' pressure to smoke, drink, and use drugs.*
- I Wanted to Be Pretty and Popular, *Sabrina Rencher*..... 69  
*When she comes to the U.S. from Haiti, Sabrina feels pressure to look and act like the girls in her school.*
- The Trouble with Being a Virgin, *Anonymous*..... 75  
*The writer is tempted to lie and say she's sexually active to maintain friendships with her girlfriends.*

## Contents

Doing the Opposite, <i>Donald Moore</i> .....	83
<i>Donald has a stubborn, independent streak that resists peer pressure.</i>	
Trying Femininity on for Size, <i>Debbie Seraphin</i> .....	86
<i>Debbie always dressed and acted like a tomboy, but when she gets to high school she develops her own way of being feminine.</i>	
Thinking for Myself, <i>Anonymous</i> .....	92
<i>The writer rejects the religion she grew up with and the consumerism that surrounds her.</i>	
Hear No Evil, See No Evil...Do No Evil, <i>Curtis Holmes</i> .....	99
<i>Curtis views his parents' rules as a blessing that helps him avoid peer pressure.</i>	
FICTION SPECIAL: Lost and Found, <i>Anne Schraff</i> .....	103
<b>Teens: How to Get More Out of This Book</b> .....	<b>112</b>
<b>How to Use This Book in Staff Training</b> .....	<b>113</b>
<b>Teachers and Staff: How to Use This Book In Groups</b> .....	<b>114</b>
<b>Credits</b> .....	<b>116</b>
<b>About Youth Communication</b> .....	<b>117</b>
<b>About the Editors</b> .....	<b>120</b>
<b>More Helpful Books from Youth Communication</b> .....	<b>122</b>