

# SEPTEMBER 2024 PARENT GUIDE



**ARTICLE SUMMARIES &  
FAMILY DINNER CONVERSATION STARTERS**

# LETTER TO PARENTS

Dear Parents,

We want our *Tuttle Times* Parent Guide to be a valuable resource for you. Parents play a crucial role in shaping their children's minds and helping them understand the big ideas that lay the foundation for a bright future. We want to empower you to confidently guide your children in learning these principles.

Our mission is to equip you with knowledge and resources to make learning engaging and meaningful for your children. By encouraging curiosity, critical thinking, and a love for learning, your children can apply their knowledge in real-life situations and nurture their problem-solving skills and creativity.

We have included dinner table conversation starters in this Parent Guide. We firmly believe that changing the world begins at the dinner table. We hope these conversation starters will spark meaningful discussions and provide opportunities for bonding as a family.

—The Tuttle Twins team



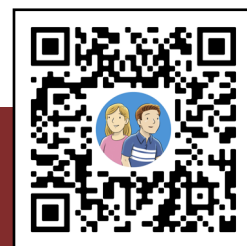
Be sure to check out our [September Issue Resources](#), which has links to the challenge badges, activity solutions, and more!

We would love for you (and your child!) to share your thoughts on this month's issue with us. Find the survey links on the Issue Resources page!

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## Article Overviews and Dinner Table Conversations

We encourage you to read the *Tuttle Times* articles with your children, and we hope that the topics and big ideas bring about conversations that expand their knowledge and understanding of how the world works.

For each article, we give an overview or explain our reasoning for including it in this month's issue along with dinner table conversation starters. Bon appétit!

### Rising Above the Media (Issue pages 3-7)

The Tuttle family joins the Miners for a relaxing camping trip. Their relaxation is interrupted when they discover a troubling newspaper article that accuses Mr. Miner—who is running for state representative—of removing a competitor's campaign sign. The truth is that Mr. Miner did remove the campaign sign, but the media "forgot" to mention that the sign was in his own yard!

The Tuttle twins learn a valuable lesson about the power of media framing and disinformation as they help Mr. Miner set the record straight. They realize how easily facts can be twisted to mislead the public, emphasizing the importance of always seeking the full truth rather than just accepting headlines at face value.



### Dinner Table Conversation Starters

- Mr. Tuttle said, "Stories can be framed by the media in a way that gives you the wrong idea." Can you think of any examples where you've seen this happen?
- What lessons can we learn from this story about honesty, integrity, and the role of the media in presenting news to society?

### What's The Scoop? (Issue pages 8-10)

This article describes how we should always be skeptical of news stories. We want to stay on the path of finding truth—and not go down a "rocky road" of our own biases. We share ways that the media adds "flavor" when presenting the news. They don't just present the facts—pay attention to tone, motive, misinformation, and disinformation.

### Dinner Table Conversation Starters

- How can we make sure our biases don't keep us from seeing the truth?
- Why is it just as bad for the media to present misinformation as it is for them to present disinformation?
- How can the way a story is told, or the tone used, influence our opinion? Can you think of a recent news story where this happened?



## Framing Effect (Issue pages 11-12)

Children are introduced to the framing effect, a cognitive bias where only part of the story is presented in order to influence how it is perceived. This article explains that it's important to think critically about the information you're given but don't forget to think about what information might be missing.

### Dinner Table Conversation Starters

- Have you ever heard part of a story and later found out there was more to it? How did that change your perspective?
- Which do you believe is better? Supporting a food bank or supporting a government food program?



## Latest Buzz: The Democratic Party Convention (Issue pages 13-14)

Readers learn about the Democratic National Convention in Chicago, where they officially nominated Kamala Harris as their presidential candidate. We explain that typically the nomination process involves counting delegate votes from state primaries and caucuses.

However, this year was different because President Joe Biden withdrew from the race in July 2024 and endorsed Harris. And everyone else who had earned delegates dropped out of the race before the convention.

One key point of discussion around Harris's campaign is her role as the Border Czar. Many in the media are reporting she was never the Border Czar, even though they reported that she was in 2021. This situation is an example of how disinformation can spread through the media.



### Dinner Table Conversation Starters

- Why do you think some media outlets are now reporting that Kamala Harris was not the Border Czar even though they reported that she was in 2021?
- Do you think it matters that Kamala Harris didn't earn delegates in the primaries but still became the Democratic Party nominee?

## Is Biased News Even News?

When you watch the news, do you critically examine what is being reported?

There seem to be three types of people:

- Those that do.
- Those that don't bother because they don't believe any of it.
- Those who still believe most of what they hear.

A [Statista.com](https://www.statista.com) survey showed that 32 percent of people in the United States still believe most of what is reported by the news media. That's pretty hard to believe (no pun intended), but these people probably believe what "their news channel" says.

When you think about it, it is concerning that some people align themselves with specific news organizations at all. Ideally, news should be unbiased, factual, and not have an agenda. The very concept of aligning with a news source implies that the "news" is subjective based on ideology. News should be a window into reality, not a mirror of our biases.

How people interpret the news will differ depending on their beliefs, values, and experiences—but it doesn't change the facts of the story.

Watching the "news" only from organizations we align with makes us more susceptible to confirmation bias. This bias doesn't necessarily mean the information we receive is false, but it doesn't mean it is true either.

There's a natural tendency to accept information that we want to believe without much scrutiny. It makes it easier to overlook misinformation or disinformation when it aligns with our beliefs. Between 24/7 news channels and social media, misinformation spreads rapidly. This causes a lot of people to believe a lot of incorrect things—without considering that they aren't getting the whole story.

Critical examination of news stories involves questioning the sources and verifying the facts. It means being aware of the language used—whether it's emotionally charged or neutral—and considering whether the story presents all sides. News organizations are made up of humans who have motives, make mistakes, or present information in a way that supports a particular narrative.

We must always be skeptical as we search for truth.

# EXTRA RESOURCES

## Podcasts

[Should We Always Believe What We Hear on The News?](#) - Episode 30

[Why Are Words and Their Meanings So Important?](#) - Episode 561

## Tuttle Twins Books & eBooks

[15 Questions To Help Kids Develop Critical Thinking](#) (PDF)

