

PEER PRESSURE AND HEALTHY CHOICES

JIM'S BIRTHDAY

Jim's birthday is October 16. This year, Jim will be turning 11 years old. He is excited about this birthday because his mother promised him that she would throw him a party. Jim was allowed to invite his whole class, including his teacher and two friends from another class.

Jim had been waiting for this party for weeks. Despite the sometimes chilly weather in October, Jim and his mother decided to hold the party outside. There was plenty of room in the back yard, and Jim's friends could play games.

On the morning of the party, the weather turned very cold, and it began to snow. Light flakes fell at first, then the snowfall became heavy, blanketing the entire neighborhood under eight inches of snow. Because the snow fell so early in the season, the town's snow trucks were not prepared for so much snow. Jim watched as the snow continued to fall. He knew that such a great deal of snow would have surely closed school, and he knew that the roads were probably not safe.

When his mother walked up to him, he knew what she was going to say. Angry and frustrated, Jim blurted out, "You're going to cancel my party aren't you?" Jim's mother calmly replied, "I know that you have been excited about this party Jim, but it is too dangerous for people to drive here right now." Jim lashed out, "I knew you didn't want me to have a party! Nothing ever goes right for me! It's all your fault! You never wanted this party anyway!" With that, Jim ran upstairs to his room and slammed the door crying.

Student Discussion Questions

- ✓ Why did Jim get so angry with his mother?
- ✓ Was Jim's mother in control of the weather?
- ✓ Is it okay for Jim to feel frustrated and upset?
- ✓ Is it okay for Jim to blame his mother?
- ✓ Could this problem have been controlled in any way?

