



Evan Barnstorf, 10, doesn't mind being born in the middle between his older brother Kurt, 12 (left), and younger sister Tegan, 9, but if he had it his way, he would be the oldest. "Then I would have more power like staying up later and watching TV." Evan is in Grade 5 and, according to his mother, is the only one who gets along with both his siblings.



Nate Van Noy, 15, is the middle of three boys with his older brother Mitchell, 17 (front right), and his younger brother Daniel, 13. "I wish I was the oldest because I don't think Mitchell fully does his best," says Nate, who is set to turn 16 in October and ready to get behind the wheel.

Meet Me in the Middle

By Shannon Storey



Ellie Dales, 8, says she feels "squished" between her older sister Charlotte, 9 (right), and younger sister Lily, 6. As the middle child, she likes that she gets her own classroom at school but doesn't like having to share a room at home.

It's a hard knock life in the eyes of most middle children. They don't get the honour of being the first-born and aren't coddled like the last-born. Therefore, they often feel overlooked, ignored, and overshadowed.

Studies on birth order and personality have shown that typically the middle-born sibling portrays certain characteristics and thought patterns that have come to be labelled as 'middle child syndrome.'

Often feeling cast out of the spotlight by their older and younger siblings, the middle child can struggle with a sense of belonging. They have been shown to be more peer-oriented, socializing more outside the family, and the most likely to live farther away from home.

They are also typically the most agreeable, the peacemakers of the family who can get along with everyone.

But the trials and tribulations of being

the unnoticed seems to propel these forlorn souls to becoming truly unique. Not ones to go with the status quo, they are often innovators and thinkers. So it's not a lost cause being stuck in the middle. Just ask Donald Trump, Barbara Walters, or Bill Gates. And what would America be like if George Washington or John F. Kennedy weren't shoved out of the family limelight by their siblings?

So maybe the middle isn't so bad after all.



"I was always wrong because my siblings were always right. I never did anything right," says Ben Allen, 21, the middle child between his older brother James, 23 (right), and younger sister Madelyn, 17. Ben has recently moved to Toronto from his family's house in Belleville and has aspirations of becoming a police officer.



Jacob Martin, 8, doesn't mind being the middle child because "he gets a lot of stuff" from his big brother Jared, 12. He would rather be the youngest like his little sister Gillian, 5, because she gets days off school as she is in senior kindergarten. Jacob is currently in Grade 4 and is looking forward to his next birthday.