What Makes a Good Father?

1. **Julie is an eighth grader.** Her parents got divorced when she was six years old. For seven years she spent about the same amount of time with each of them, but three years ago, her dad moved to California, all the way across the country from her. He had a great job opportunity and he said that the lifestyle there suited him. These days Julie spends every other Christmas vacation and three weeks each summer with him. He calls every week, but it's hard to talk. He has trouble keeping track of current friends and classes. A couple of times when Julie faced a really big decision she called, and her dad was really helpful. She knows he'll help her decide what college to go to. Somehow he senses what's best for her. But she wishes he were more interested in the day-to-day details of her life.

2. **Joseph is a high school junior.** He has a lot of friends, but they sometimes wonder about him. He'll never do anything that might get him in trouble with his father, a police officer. Joseph won't even go to a party where beer might be available or a concert where somebody might bring drugs. He says, "Can't. I think that kind of stuff is stupid. But more than that, you guys just don't know my dad. He'd kill me." Joseph's father has never hit him, but he's really strict. He makes Joseph do 90 minutes of schoolwork every night, whether he has homework or not.

3. **Terry is a high school sophomore.** Her dad is a biker. He makes a good living repairing motorcycles, and he's very generous with Terry. Plus, he's promised to put her through whatever college she chooses. Terry loves the time they spend together at home. Her dad is a whiz at math and he's great at helping her with her homework. He also teaches her how to fix his bikes. Terry could probably get a job as a mechanic, but she doesn't want to. She feels it's kind of a weird scene.