

Youth Culture Lesson
Finding Teachable Moments in Culture
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Shot to the Heart

Dad Guns Down Daughter's Laptop on YouTube

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What Happened:

When 15-year-old Hannah Jordan posted a profane rant on Facebook complaining about her parents' habit of making her do after-school chores, she figured her father would never see it. However, as he told her later—via a YouTube video viewed about 28 million times—that's not altogether possible when your father works in IT.

Tommy Jordan of Albemarle, N.C., responded to his daughter's Facebook post with an 8-minute, 23-second rebuttal that culminated in him shooting the girl's laptop nine times with a handgun. "I hope it was all worth this," he says.

The YouTube post struck a nerve with many viewers. Some were horrified that a father would take such an extreme step to communicate with his child—and wonder exactly what sort of values he's communicating. Others reacted with something akin to joy.

"It is both disturbing and so deeply satisfying that you can't watch it without reliving every fantasy you've ever had about hurling one of your teen's gadgets out a window or under a car after they've used it to ignore you or deceive you, or distract themselves from something they're supposed to do," wrote Susanna Schrobsdorff of *Time*.

The episode brings into stark focus how trying the teen years can be for teens and their parents—and how tricky it can be for either actually to talk through any problems with the other.

Talk About It:

Hannah originally vented on Facebook because her parents made her do chores without getting paid for them. "I'm tired of picking up after you," she wrote. "I'm gonna hate to see the day when you get too old to wipe your (butt), and you call me asking for help. I won't be there." Most of us probably would agree Hannah could've been nicer, but juggling chores with other responsibilities can be tricky. Did she have a point?

Hannah's dad was obviously furious at his daughter during his YouTube response. "Pay for chores? Seriously?" he says. "If you have any laundry of your own, do it. And if your bed is unmade, do it. You don't have to do my laundry. You don't have to make my bed." Was Hannah's dad right to get upset? Was it right of him to shoot his daughter's laptop?

When arguments get really bad, sometimes both parties could've done things a little better. Could Hannah have handled her issues with chores differently? Should Hannah's dad responded differently?

Growing up is often hard on families—on the kids and the parents. What sort of relationship do you have with your parents? Do you respect them? Do you feel they love and respect you? Is it hard to get along with them sometimes?

What's the worst argument you've ever had with your parents? How did it turn out? What are the biggest conflicts you deal with at home? How do you and your parents usually try to hash out any differences? What could you do better?

What the Bible Says:

“My son, keep your father's commands and do not forsake your mother's teaching. Bind them upon your heart forever; fasten them around your neck. When you walk, they will guide you; when you sleep, they will watch over you; when you awake, they will speak to you. For these commands are a lamp, this teaching is a light, and the corrections of discipline are the way to life” (Prov. 6:20-23).

“Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you” (Ex. 20:12).

“May your father and mother be glad; may she who gave you birth rejoice” (Prov. 23:25).

“A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger” (Prov. 15:1).

“He who loves a quarrel loves sin; he who builds a high gate invites destruction” (Prov. 17:19).

“Don't have anything to do with foolish and stupid arguments, because you know they produce quarrels. The Lord's servant must not quarrel; instead, he must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful” (2 Tim. 2:23-24).