

Read Between the Lines

Excerpt from Chapter 3

Excerpted with permission from *Read Between the Lines*

Parental 411

**Mom, Im goin 2 *\$s w/Marina,
thn 2 the movies, k?**

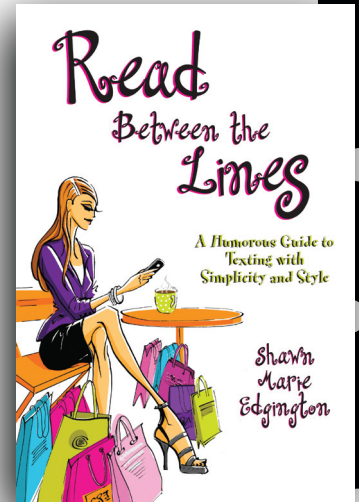
Your daughter sends you this text message on Friday afternoon because she knows you're at work, busy with clients. You excuse yourself for a quick second, pick up your phone, and read the message. You smile because you're really happy your daughter keeps you in her social loop. You send her a quick text to say, **thx for the update, have a gr8 time, b home by 11.** Your daughter texts back and says, **kk...c ya @ home!** All of this was done in less than one minute, without having to hear a phone ring, answer it, or bark out orders to your daughter so everyone can hear. Nice job.

Text to the Rescue

Teenage communication between the ages of thirteen and seventeen is a lot like trench warfare. Teens typically want more and more independence from their parents, and parents want to stay in control and remain a positive influence on the decisions they're making. Can you feel the pain? Here's a few ways you'll benefit from text messaging, to help reduce your virtual scrapes and bruises:

- You'll get a response to your text message, even when they're with their friends.
- Teens are more likely to provide quick check-ins and updates.
- You can strengthen your parent/teen bonds with communication they prefer.
- Tone of voice and facial expressions become invisible.
- Texting allows for teens' independence, without your losing parental control.

Knowledge is power, especially for parents. With the ability to text, you can stay connected without helicoptering over their every move.



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