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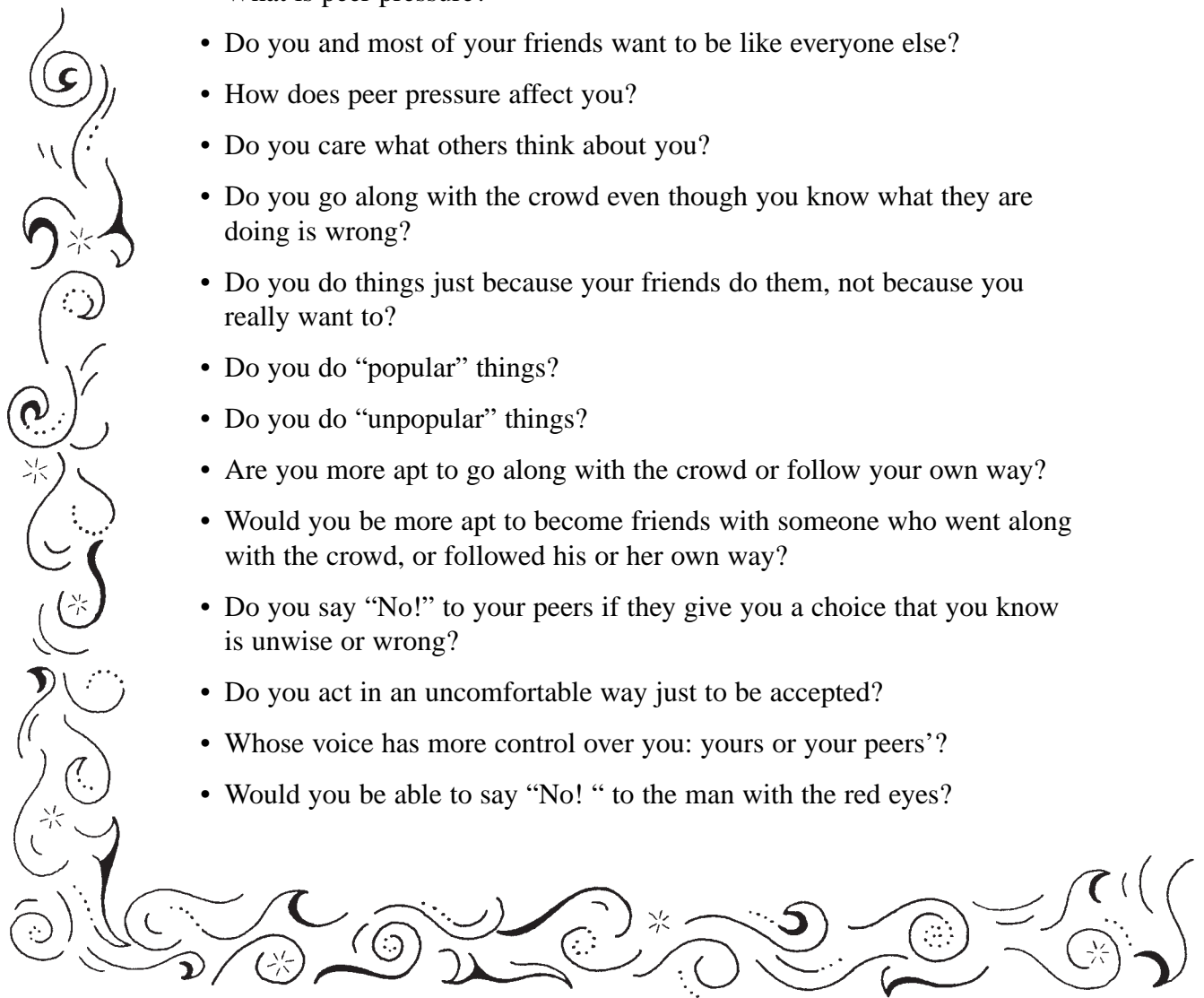
The Pressure To Conform

Meg, Calvin, and Charles Wallace all feel that they need to conform to what is “normal” to be accepted by those around them. Meg struggles with being an “oddball,” and agonizes about not fitting in with her schoolmates. Calvin plays basketball to be normal, mostly because he is tall. Charles Wallace decides he should not talk much around others who might perceive him as strange because of the sophistication of his language and thought. He also holds off learning to read because his success at reading would be another indication of his brilliance. They all want to fit in.

But when Charles Wallace is “dissolved” into IT, he tries to convince Meg and Calvin that finally they can have a way to “fit in” and not be different. Their “oddball” days are over if they can just “submit” and lose their individuality in IT. There is an overpowering pressure to conform on Camazotz.

Use your journal to respond to these questions about the pressure to conform.

- What is peer pressure?
- Do you and most of your friends want to be like everyone else?
- How does peer pressure affect you?
- Do you care what others think about you?
- Do you go along with the crowd even though you know what they are doing is wrong?
- Do you do things just because your friends do them, not because you really want to?
- Do you do “popular” things?
- Do you do “unpopular” things?
- Are you more apt to go along with the crowd or follow your own way?
- Would you be more apt to become friends with someone who went along with the crowd, or followed his or her own way?
- Do you say “No!” to your peers if they give you a choice that you know is unwise or wrong?
- Do you act in an uncomfortable way just to be accepted?
- Whose voice has more control over you: yours or your peers’?
- Would you be able to say “No!” to the man with the red eyes?



Tesseract Adventure!

You have been chosen to cross into the fifth dimension, to travel by tesseract to times and worlds unknown!

For this culminating activity, you will share your tesseract adventure with the class. Here are some projects for you to complete.

- Create a cover sheet for your tesseract adventure presentation. You may use the cover design on page 39.
- Briefly describe the moment you realized that you had been chosen to tesser.
- List the qualities about you that made you the candidate to tesser to an unknown place and time.
- Draw a picture of your guide. At the bottom of the drawing, give a written description of any special characteristics this guide possesses.
- Explain the purpose of your adventure.
- Create the dialogue that occurs between you and your guide as your adventure is planned.
- Describe your thoughts and feelings as you are about to begin your trip into the unknown.
- Describe your journey through the tesseract in detail.
- Write about or illustrate your landing.
- Draw a picture of the setting in which you landed.
- Complete a Personality Profile Sheet for one of the inhabitants of this world. (See page 40.)
- Write your first dialogue with a character from this time and place.
- Explain, and give examples of, the method of communication that is most successful for your use in this world.
- Chart the similarities and differences between your world and this world.
- Explain the success or failure of your mission.
- Explain the reasons you should stay.
- Explain the reasons you should go.
- Describe your re-entry into your time period.
- Construct a collage of experiences you had while tesserating that will intrigue and interest your audience. Make them want to find out what happened to you! A sample collage page can be found on page 41.
- Describe the reactions of those to whom you told your story.
- Decide if you would be willing to tesser again. Support your decision clearly.

