



Help kids understand that their choices affect more than themselves. They may think their choice to skip out on the soccer game only affects themselves, but it affects their entire team as well.

Consequences

Small Choices Can Lead to Big Results

It's hard to believe the decisions Horatio Holsom made over forty years ago affects the people of Holsom today. And the decisions Lucy, Shelby, Mouse, and the others make will affect the townspeople for years to come.

Is real life like that? Do the choices your kids make affect more than just themselves? Of course they do! Sometimes it's the big choices: a child chooses to run away from home, another chooses not to cheat on a test. Their choices can affect their current surroundings as well as their future lives.

A great example from the Bible is the story of the little boy with five loaves and two fishes. (See John 6:1–14.) The little boy with his lunch stops to listen to Jesus speak. You know the story. Because he made the decision to stop, listen to Jesus, and give his lunch to Andrew, five thousand people were fed. This amazing miracle happened because of decisions a little boy made.

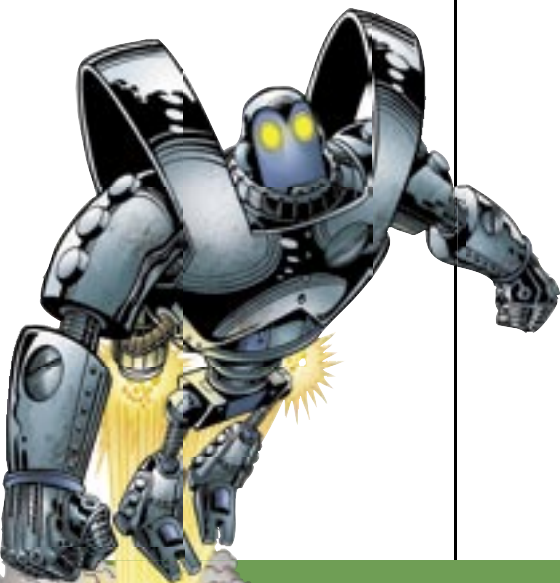
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Holsom Comics Discussion Questions

After kids have read [Welcome to Holsom, Issue 17](#), begin a discussion about choices by asking these questions:

1. What do you think Otto Farless will do to stop the “alien invasion” of robots? *(Answers will vary.)*
2. The Sheriff makes a conscious decision to leave other law enforcement officials out of the current mess in Holsom and decides to search for Jorge and Mouse on his own. Do you think he'll find the boys? If so, do you think it will be easy to locate them on his own? Why or why not? *(Answers will vary.)*
3. In her journal, Constance said Horatio used his money to make up for past mistakes. Do you think using money to get out of mistakes is a good idea? Why or why not? *(Answers will vary.)*
4. Lucy has tried hard to do the right thing throughout the series. But everything seems to be going wrong. If you were her, would you continue to try and do the right things, or would you get frustrated and choose an easier route? Why? *(Answers will vary.)*
5. In the flashbacks, Horatio Holsom realized his dream of a peaceful society wasn't shared by his partners, so he decided to undo his life's work. Do you think his decision was a wise one? Why or why not? *(Answers will vary.)*



Activity

My Choices Affect Others

Help your child learn that choices don't affect just themselves. Role play the following scenarios and get kids thinking about the long-term choices they may make. Sometimes neither choice is better, and either outcome works just fine. Allow the kids to come up with their own outcomes, or create their own situations.

1. The final soccer game of the season is this Saturday afternoon. Your best friend has invited you to go with his (or her) family to the lake (or some other fun locale) for the day. What choice do you make?

Choose to go with your friend: Without enough players your soccer team either defaults, or plays and loses—making a disappointing end to the season. Everybody on your team is mad at you.

Choose the soccer game: You tell your friend you need to finish the season. He or she says it's no problem, and will ask you the next time they go. At the game, you score the winning goal! Congratulations!

2. Maiko, your friend who sits next to you in social studies steals the answers to the upcoming test. You see him do it. The teacher knows someone stole the answers and she asks you if you know who did. Do you tell her you know, or lie?

Choose the truth: Maiko is sent to the principal's office and receives in-school suspension. He's not happy with your choice, and you are no longer friends.

Choose to lie: You and Maiko are still friends, but the teacher changes the test to an essay test.

