

Hunter Clegg - Story Behind the Story for Middle School Presentations

Hunter was charismatic and vibrant, with a spirit that drew people of all ages to him. Hunter was very adventurous and loved the outdoors. He was gentle and kind, freely giving his time to support others. At 14 years old, Hunter was getting ready to become a high school freshman.



The Day of the Crash:

Hunter had a close group of friends that he had grown up with and been friends with for years. One weekend, Hunter and his group of friends decided to go on an overnight camping trip together. They had a great time hiking, fishing, and hanging out. When it was time to go back home, the boys got into the car with Hunter's friend's older brother who was going to drive. The driver was 17 years-old, inexperienced, and had an Intermediate License (e.g. Provisional, Junior, Learner License) that he had only held for 2 months.

As they were driving **through the mountain roads*, the passengers started egging on the young driver to drift around a corner. He managed to drift around the first corner, and wanting to be the cool friend, decided to go even faster and to drift around the next corner. Unfortunately, the next corner came up too quickly. The inexperienced driver overcorrected the steering wheel, shot across the road, and hit a tree directly where Hunter was sitting, taking Hunter's life. The others walked away physically unharmed, but mentally devastated by the loss of their close friend.

Choices That Could Have Prevented the Crash:

Passengers:

- The passengers could have chosen not to put peer pressure on the driver to drift around the corner.
- Instead, the passengers could have spoken up when the car ride became unsafe. They could have said that they felt uncomfortable and unsafe.
- The passengers could have encouraged the driver to stay focused on the road and drive at an appropriate speed.
- The passengers could have chosen not to get into the car since the driver had an Intermediate License (it was not legal for driver to drive with teen passengers without an adult in the car).

Driver:

- The driver could have spoken up about the driving restrictions of his Intermediate License and refused to drive the boys.
- The driver could have chosen not to cave into peer pressure.
- The driver could have asked the boys to settle down and be good passengers.
- The driver could have chosen to drive safely.

Message:

This crash and Hunter's death were both 100% preventable. As a driver, it is your responsibility to get your passengers to where you are going safely. As a passenger, it is important that you do not distract the driver or encourage them to make poor choices. You have the power to speak up and use your voice to keep the car ride safe. It is important that you know your driver and only ride with drivers who have plenty of driving experience and who hold a valid license with no restrictions.

**optional to share depending on the audience (ex: if you are presenting in an urban area, sharing this information may not relate to the audience and can be excluded).*