

# Skaters – are they really to blame?

This task is about making inferences to identify the main idea in different points of view.

Read the four posts from an online forum and answer the questions that follow.

Why isn't something done about skateboarders and rollerbladers? If they are not trying to run you down on the footpath you'll find them weaving in and out of cars on the road. If they keep riding in public places, someone will get hurt. We shouldn't have to put up with their 'sport' taking over our town! Wherever they are there will be trouble – they are a bad influence on our younger children.

*C. P. Griffiths*

Older people are always moaning – don't skate here, don't skate there. People yell at us and swear, even when we try to be nice and don't give them cheek. It seems we can't do anything without annoying someone or breaking some rule – and that's not fair. Skaties should just keep on skating wherever we like because there is nothing else to do in this town.

*Huey Kaine*



It seems to me that the adults in this town are making things impossible for the youngsters of our town. The tough stand on skateboards and where the kids can use them is forcing some kids to commit crimes. Is this really necessary?

Perhaps we need to think about another solution for this problem and not just keep dumping it on the kids.

*Tina Moriarty*

I'm a skatie and I just want to say that skateboarders don't set out to cause trouble. It's not fair to blame us. We have nowhere to go. We're banned from malls and it's not safe on the streets, and now we can't even go to the park. It's like no-one wants us to enjoy ourselves. We just need somewhere that's ours where we can go and have fun.

*Hemi Waerea*

a) Select the person who explains what skaties want.

C. P. Griffiths

Hemi Waerea

Huey Kaine

Tina Moriarty

b) For each of the posts, select the **main idea** for their post.

C. P. Griffiths

*Adults need to be fairer to the kids. | Skaties are a menace.*

*| Skaties want somewhere to ride their boards. | Skaties should take no notice of adults or the rules.*

Hemi Waerea

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*| Skaties want somewhere to ride their boards. | Skaties should take no notice of adults or the rules.*

c) Imagine you have to give a talk to your class about the four posts from the online forum.

*Select the best title for your talk.*

- Why skateboards should be banned.
- Rules should be broken.
- Different views of the skateboarding debate.
- Adults are unfair to skateboarders.

I suppose my son is a skatie. He is not a criminal. He is just an ordinary kid who wants to have some fun riding his board. In this town he and his friends have been banned from riding their boards from just about everywhere. These are good kids who just want an area that they can skate in and be left to have fun in their own way - let's give them a fair go!

*Fair-minded*

d) The letter above was written to the local newspaper by a parent of one of the online posts.

It is most likely to be the parent of ... *(Select the name)*

- C. P. Griffiths
- Hemi Waerea
- Huey Kaine
- Tina Moriarty

ii) Highlight the words in the letter above by 'Fair-minded' to support your answer for d) i).

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He is just an ordinary kid who wants to have some fun riding his board.

In this town he and his friends have been banned from riding their boards from just about everywhere.

These are good kids who just want an area that they can skate in and be left to have fun in their own way – let's give them a fair go!

Published on *Assessment Resource Banks* (<https://arbs.nzcer.org.nz>)