Codey likes playing video games...

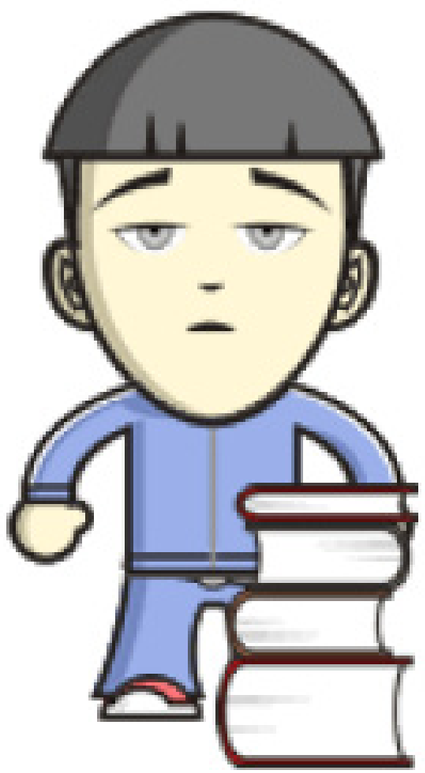
Codey likes playing video games and usually is playing under her desk instead of paying attention in class. She doesn't understand the point of the math worksheet and the series of math problems, her teacher hands out. Who cares?!? They are so random.

Last week, her friend introduced her to Scratch, a web-based environment for making games. It was cool because she figured out how to accelerate the speed and number of astriods players had to shoot down to make each game level harder. It would be even cooler if...

Visualy's eyes glaze over when she looks at...

Visualy's eyes glaze over when she looks at static data tables. She's the queen of Youtube search and twitter. It's fun to spot what's trending. She doesn't care so much about Justin Bieber's new haircut and updates, but what other better data is there to spend her time scanning and playing with?

Parser thinks Mark Zuckerberg is a rockstar...



Parser thinks Mark Zuckerberg is a rockstar, but he has a better idea for what a social network could be for high schoolers. There's no programming or computer science classes at his school. He's signed up for a few online coding courses, like Code Academy, but its confusing when he gets stuck, especially when its just a syntax mistake.

Most helpful is when he sees different ways peers attacked the problem. Going through the community board, sometimes he sees how other people tried to write their code blocks a different way -- sometime with lots more code, sometimes a lot less. It's hard to keep going and be persistant.

EDesign Lab

Texty's girlfriend thinks he has no attention span...

Texty's girlfriend thinks he has no attention span. He's always losing on their arguments about where to go after school, she says it's his fault for not backing up why his ideas are better. He's not looking forward to tonight, he has to write a 20 page history paper about world war ii. That happened so long ago, why is it that schools keep repeating this assignment? Remembering the dates when things happen and names of people who have died isn't gonna help me. What else are they wanting me to get out of it. Would prefer to watch Game of Thrones.

Herminy thinks Minecraft is about the coolest thing ever...

Herminy thinks Minecraft is about the coolest thing ever. Like the best thing since Legos. She created her own server and plays with her friends all the time. Right now they are working on a mini city. Luckily, one of her friends likes making screen captures of how he builds things, so she can follow along when she can't figure it out. She likes learning new things from her friends more than from her teachers. They usually just talk at her. Yesterday, her friend posted a new video that shows how to write a program inside Minecraft to make something completely new! She's also really interested in 3-D printing after going to the NY Hall of Science. She lives pretty close to there and wants to sign up for a class in it.

Darrel loves music and likes to talk...

Darrel loves music and likes to talk, even better. He likes to entertain. Sometimes he really just can't make it through class without commenting. He know's school is important (kind of) but nothing feels accessible to him. Accept one teacher who introduced him to improv comedy. One night last week, his older brother came home upset about a stop and frisk run-in with the police. He was so mad that he couldn't concentrate on his homework. So he dove into GarageBand and kept working on one of his new songs instead.

Harry love the Hunger Games...

Harry loves the Hunger Games. So much that he joined a fanfiction site and started writing short stories about the characters and their backgrounds. Over spring break, him and his friend made a movie based loosely on one of his stories. In this one the kids rise up against the Capitol. This is so much more interesting than reading The Great Gatsby! He already has plans to film his next short and has even recruited 15 of his fellow students through Facebook.

Datta is searching for stuff on the internet all the time...

Datta is searching stuff on the internet all the time. She's likes to sew and recently got into conductive fabrics. Makerfaire is this coming month, and she's thinking about submitting something. She has an idea for inventing a shirt that signals when the wearer is in a very polluted area, but isn't sure where she'd get that information or how to go about getting the sensors to work.

Chris recently started working at a community garden...

Chris recently started working at a community garden to fulfill some community service hours he hadn't finished. He likes helping out and working with his hands. He even successfully grew a tomato plant last summer! He likes science, but doesn't really think the small experiments are fun or helpful. After a field trip to the Museum of National History for the Global Kitchen exhibit, he became really interested in window gardens. After doing some more research on where food comes from, he decided he wants to make one. Maybe even for his school. Lunch there is so gross.

Appy loves finding things to do with her friends...

Appy loves finding things to do with her friends – and she's good at it. She has a great memory and has developed her own systems for charting new hangout territory. Her friends told her she should make an app so they can use her brain when she's not around. She never really considered doing this, but wants something awesome and unique to include in her college application. She tried to learn programming once online, but it just didn't stick and felt over-whelming. Kinda like her last trig exam.