

How to Survive Nosy Sibling

It's a fact of life: Brothers and sisters are always getting into each other's business. So, here's how to keep yours out of yours.

Lights out.

Before leaving your room, unscrew all the light bulbs and pull your shades down. Store the bulbs in a dresser drawer for safekeeping and stash a flashlight there, too. When your sibling comes in, it'll be too dark for her to see anything.

Let her know two can play the snooping game.

If Sis sneaks into your room, sneak into hers and "borrow" her favorite toy. When she demands you give it back, make her sign the "Staying Out of My Stuff" contract on page 126.

HOW TO KEEP YOUR JOURNAL SECRET

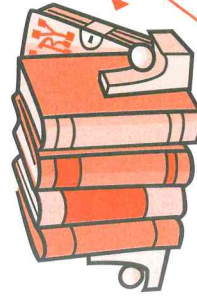
★ Use a decoy journal.

Create a fake journal to throw the snooper off track, and hide it in a place you know the snooper will look. The entries in your fake journal should be believable enough that the snooper stops looking for the real journal. Or, you could address the snooper directly, like this: "I get the feeling my little bro found my journal. He's probably reading it now, *aren't you, snoop?!*"

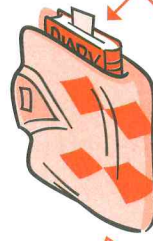
★ Hide your journal in a super-hard-to-find spot.

Snoopers search predictable spots: under your mattress, at the bottom of your desk drawer, or in your book bag. So, hide your journal behind books on your bookshelf, fold it into a sweater you keep at the bottom of your dresser drawer, or tape it under the lid of a random shoebox.

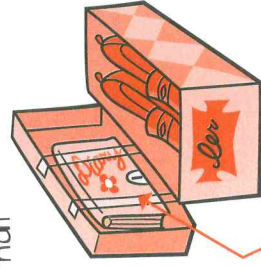
Places to Hide Your Journal



Behind books on a shelf



In a folded sweater



Taped under a shoebox lid