English 11

# Unit 2: Relationships

Reading comprehension

## Teenage relationships

Romantic relationships are a major developmental milestone. They come with all the other changes going on during adolescence - physical, social and emotional. And they're linked to a teenager's growing interest in body image and looks, independence and privacy.

Romantic relationships can bring lots of emotional ups and downs for a teenager- and sometimes for the whole family. The idea that the teenager might have these kinds of feelings can sometimes be a bit confronting for his or her parents. But **these feelings** are leading your child towards a deeper capacity to care, share and develop intimate relationships.

There isn't a 'right age' to start having relationships - every child is different. But here are some averages of when teenage relationships start. From 9-11 years, your child might start to show more independence from the family and more interest in friends. From 10-14 years, your child might want to spend more time in mixed gender groups, which might **eventually** end up in a romantic relationship. From 15-19 years, romantic relationships can become central to social life. Friendships might become deeper and more stable.

Many teenagers spend a lot of time thinking and talking about being in a relationship. In these years, teenage relationships might last only a few weeks or months. It's also normal for children to have no interest in romantic relationships until their late teens. Some choose to focus on schoolwork, sport, or other interests.

Before starting having relationships, a teenager might have one or more first crushes. An identity **crush** is when a teenager finds someone he or she admires and wants to be like. A romantic crush is the beginning of romantic feelings. It is about a teenager imagining another person as perfect or ideal, which can tell a lot about what he or she finds attractive in people. Romantic crushes tend not to last very long because ideas of perfection often break down when he or she gets to know the other person better. These intense feelings are real, so it's best to take crushes seriously and not make fun of them.

*(Adapted from http://raisingchildren. net. au/articles/relationships_teenagers. html)*

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Question 1: According to the passage, romantic relationships among teenagers signal _____.

A. the most serious emotional challenges.

B. B. an important stage of their development.

C. feelings of independence and privacy.

D. the physical, social and emotional changes.

Question 2: What do the phrase **'these feelings'** in the paragraph 2 refer to?

A. a teenager's feelings about their parents

B. A teenager's intimate relationships

C. parents' arguments against a teenager's romantic relationships

D. good and bad emotional feelings

Question 3: According to the passage, in what way do romantic relationships do good to a teenager?

A. helping him or her grow physically

B. helping him/her grow up as a caring, sharing and friendly person

C. confronting with his or her parents' objections

D. developing their family relationship

Question 4: The word **'crush'** in paragraph 5 most closely means _____.

A. crowd or mass B. love or passion

C. interaction D. friendship

Question 5: Why are romantic crushes among teenagers unlikely to last for a long time?

A. Teenagers may have had an identity crush.

B. Teenagers may change their image of a perfect person.

C. Teenagers are attractive people.

D. The other people make fun of their romantic crushes.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

***Read the passage again and try to guess the meaning of the following words from the context, then match the words with their definitions.***

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|---|---|
| 1. milestone /ˈmaɪl.stəʊn/ (n)<br><br>2. adolescence /ˌæd.əˈles.əns/ (n)<br><br>3. confronting /kənˈfrʌn.tɪŋ/ (adj)<br><br>4. independence /ˌɪn.dɪˈpen.dəns/ (n)<br><br>5. stable /ˈsteɪ.bəl/ (adj)<br><br>6. intense /ɪnˈtens/ (adj) | A. extreme and forceful or (of a feeling) very strong<br><br>B. the ability to live your life without being helped or influenced by other people<br><br>C. an important event<br><br>D. causing strong or difficult feelings<br><br>E. the period of time in a person's life when they are developing into an adult<br><br>F. firmly fixed or not likely to move or change |

LIVEWORKSHEETS