

PROBLEMS OF TEENAGERS



There are many problems that young people have to face when they stop being children. At this age all feelings and emotions are very strong, all problems seem very important.

There are two types of problems – personal problems and the problems the whole generation has to face.

Personal problems can look silly and unimportant to the grown-ups. The first and terrible thing is misunderstanding from the dearest people – from the parents. They do not understand why you need to buy certain things, listen to certain music or spend most of your spare time with your friends. You do not want to hurt their feelings, but they should try to understand you.

The same misunderstanding we face sometimes from the side of the teachers. They think that youth is given for studying. But a person who only studies is dull. Some teachers do not understand that youth is the time for us to learn about people and about ourselves, to play and try things. They try to keep us away from all «dangers» which make up life. But we need to be taken seriously and to meet a friendly hand.

As long as parents and teachers can't take teenagers seriously, they form their own social groups, which are called subcultures. Teens' subculture is a part of culture and it reveals itself in many features – clothes, styles of favorite music, way of life, opinions about life, future and education, the choice of friends and other aspects. Many groups of teenagers follow a certain fashion which requires wearing a certain piece of clothes (like jeans, army boots, bandanas), jewellery (like earrings for boys), certain hairdos (ponytail, shaved heads, coloured or dyed hair), sometimes certain colours.

The problem of homework is also very serious. It takes much time and I am always busy doing it. I have no time for my hobbies.





The problem of money is important as well. I think, young people need to have pocket money for buying books, pens, ice-cream and so on. But I do not think it is a good idea to beg parents to give me some money. If I find a part-time job during the academic year, they will say it distracts me from studies. If I ask for money they say they spend too much on my school, clothes and other things.

Sometimes the problem of fashion appears. My parents try to buy me clothes according to their taste. Sometimes that's all right, but sometimes I want something more fashionable, especially for summer. Then we can argue for hours. It is interesting that in the question of clothes my mother is on my side, on the contrary, in the question of books and music my father supports me against mommy.

Questions:

1. What are the two types of problems mentioned in the text?
 - a) Personal and social problems
 - b) Personal and academic problems
 - c) Personal and financial problems
 - d) Personal and fashion problems

2. How do personal problems sometimes appear to grown-ups?
 - a) Silly and unimportant
 - b) Serious and significant
 - c) Confusing and complex
 - d) Logical and rational

3. Who often misunderstands young people's personal problems?
 - a) Friends
 - b) Parents
 - c) Teachers
 - d) Siblings

4. Why do young people sometimes form their own subcultures?
 - a) To rebel against their parents
 - b) To fit in with their friends
 - c) To gain attention from teachers
 - d) To escape personal problems

5. What are some features of teens' subculture?
- a) Choice of friends and opinions about life
 - b) Choice of friends and favorite music
 - c) Choice of friends and way of life
 - d) Choice of friends and future plans
6. Why do some teachers not understand young people's need for free time?
- a) They think studying is more important
 - b) They don't care about their students' happiness
 - c) They want to control their students' lives
 - d) They have personal problems of their own
7. What is a common issue young people face regarding homework?
- a) It takes too much time
 - b) They don't have enough homework
 - c) They don't understand the assignments
 - d) They don't have any hobbies
8. Why do young people sometimes want pocket money?
- a) To buy necessities like books and pens
 - b) To save for future expenses
 - c) To show off to their friends
 - d) To bribe their parents
9. What is the author's opinion on asking parents for money?
- a) It is a good idea to ask for money
 - b) It is not a good idea to ask for money
 - c) It is better to find a part-time job
 - d) It depends on the situation
10. What is the main idea of the text?
- a) Young people face various problems as they grow up
 - b) Parents and teachers don't understand young people's needs
 - c) Subcultures are a way for young people to rebel
 - d) Personal problems are more important than academic problems