English for children

Brandon's New Beginning

Brandon is 15 years old. He lives with his mother Kelly, his younger brother Ian, and his grandfather Leonard. Brandon often argues with Kelly because he feels that she does not understand him. Ian and Leonard try to help, but Brandon feels alone.

One morning, Brandon wakes up early. Kelly is cooking breakfast in the kitchen. "Good morning, Brandon," she says. Brandon answers with a quiet "Hi." He sits at the table and starts eating his toast. Ian appears and sits next to him.

"Mom, can I go to the park with Ian today?" Brandon asks.
Kelly looks at him and says, "Yes, but you need to finish your homework first."

Brandon sighs. He feels that nothing ever changes. But today, something different happens. Leonard walks in with a big smile. "Brandon, come with me," he says.

Brandon follows his grandfather to the garage. Leonard shows him a dusty old box. "This box belonged to your father," Leonard explains. Brandon opens the box and discovers an old notebook and some photos.

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Brandon begins to read the notebook. He learns that his father faced many problems when he was young. His father wrote about how he accepted challenges and worked hard to achieve his goals.

"I never knew this," Brandon says.

Leonard smiles. "Your father believed in himself. You can do the same." Brandon feels a new strength inside him. He decides to change his attitude. He finishes his homework and calls Ian to go to the park. They climb the big hill and sit under a tree.

"I think I'm ready to try harder," Brandon tells Ian. "I want to believe in myself."

Ian smiles. "I believe in you too, Brandon."

That night, Brandon talks to Kelly. "Mom, I'm sorry for arguing with you. I want to do better."

Kelly hugs him. "I believe in you, Brandon."

Brandon smiles. He knows that with his family's support, he can achieve anything.

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Comprehension Questions

1. Who lives with Brandon?
- a) His father, mother, and brother
- b) His mother, brother, and grandfather
- c) His aunt and grandmother

2. Why does Brandon argue with Kelly?
- a) Because he feels she does not understand him
- b) Because he wants to go to the park
- c) Because he does not like his brother

3. What does Brandon discover in the box?
- a) A new phone
- b) A notebook and photos
- c) A toy

4. How does Brandon decide to change?
- a) He promises to stop talking to Ian
- b) He decides to try harder and believe in himself
- c) He decides to ignore his mother

5. What does Kelly say to Brandon at the end?
- a) "I am disappointed in you."
- b) "I believe in you, Brandon."
- c) "You should try harder."

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Listen to the audio and fill in the blanks.

1. I the invitation.
2. She doesn't her goals easily.
3. Do they pets in the house?
4. He very tired.
5. She always quickly.
6. The magician doesn't on stage.
7. I am from a strange dream.
8. She is cookies.
9. He isn't the drum.
10. I am more confident.
11. Does she a lot of questions?
12. I early every morning.
13. My mom a cake every Sunday.
14. Bears don't cubs in summer.
15. He the drum loudly.
16. She a teacher next year.
17. He doesn't his homework on time.
18. Do you in ghosts?
19. A solution is from the discussion.
20. He is at the airport now.

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First listen to the audio, then on the red line write the verb you heard in English, finally on the blue line write its translation into Spanish.

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