

UNIT 1 | FAMILY TIES

Form 4 English • CEFR B1 (Intermediate) • Student Worksheet

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Part A — Simplified Reading Text

A Stepmother Who Brought Us Together

Cancer took my mother's life when I was ten years old. She had been ill for a long time, and my father had done everything he could to care for her. During her final years, Dad took Mum to the Middle East and London, where she stayed for some time. Because of this, we spent our school holidays in London.

My two oldest siblings were already studying at a boarding school in England. After Mum died, only my older sister, Hani, Dad and I lived at home. While Dad was working, Hani and I often spent time doing our own activities. Fortunately, it was safe for children to walk around our neighbourhood with friends. Our uncles and aunts also visited regularly and brought our cousins to play with us. I never felt bored as a child.

One day, we found out that Dad had met another woman. Soon, he asked whether we agreed to him getting married again. I happily gave my permission, although I cannot remember how my siblings responded. We met our future stepmother at her hill resort, about an hour's drive from Kuala Lumpur. She had a young daughter, Ira, from her earlier marriage. I was excited because my older siblings had bullied me for years, and I thought I could finally be the older sibling who teased someone else! I even told a relative this when asked about the coming wedding.

The marriage was a major change for everyone, including my stepmother. She probably had worries of her own. Some relatives welcomed our blended family, but others avoided my stepmother and spread unpleasant stories about her. However, she remained calm and never spoke angrily to our relatives. She trusted Ira, Hani and me, and we became as close as sisters. During my teenage years, I often shared my frustrations with her. She would gently persuade my father to listen to my opinions. She encouraged me to be curious, independent and, most importantly, brave.

She also taught me to understand other people's feelings and to consider their needs before my own. When she had my little brother, she showed me how to care for a baby, including feeding, bathing and changing nappies. She also taught me how to cook. We often spent weekends baking cakes and brownies, making bread and even preparing pizza.

Almost 30 years later, my stepmother is still the person who keeps our family connected. She also continues to help me communicate messages to my father.

Part B — Essential Vocabulary

Word / Phrase	Meaning
vented	To share unhappy feelings(Meluahkan perasaan yang tak gembira)
boarding school	a school where students live(sekolah asrama)
siblings	brothers and sisters
neighbourhood	the area where you live
Permission (persetujuan)	agreement to allow something
previous	happening before the present one
blended family	a family formed when partners bring children from earlier relationships
Supportive (sokongan)	giving help and encouragement
Shunned	deliberately avoided or rejected
resilient	able to stay strong during difficulties
vent	express strong or unhappy feelings
persuade	make someone agree through discussion
independent	able to do things without relying on others
empathy	the ability to understand another person's feelings
development	the process of growing and learning

Part C — Vocabulary Activities

Activity 1: Match the words to their meanings

Write the correct letter beside each word. (Padankan dan Tulis huruf diruang bergaris)

1. resilient _	A. brothers and sisters
2. empathy _	B. a family with children from earlier relationships
3. permission _	C. able to manage without depending on others
4. siblings _	D. to express unhappy feelings
5. shunned _	E. being avoided or rejected
6. independent _	F. understanding how others feel
7. vent _	G. agreement to do something
8. blended family _	H. able to recover from difficulties

Activity 2: Complete the sentences using words in the word bank

Word bank: **supportive • persuade • neighbourhood • previous • development • boarding school • claimed • independent**

1. My cousins live in the same _____ as my family.
2. Her _____ marriage ended several years earlier.
3. The illness _____ her mother's life.
4. His sister studies and lives at a _____.
5. A _____ family member helps during difficult times.
6. Parents support their children's growth and _____.
7. She tried to _____ her father to listen to her opinion.
8. Learning to cook helped her become more _____.

Activity 3: Vocabulary in context

1. Why was the stepmother described as resilient?

2. How did the stepmother show empathy towards others?

3. Give one example of how the stepmother supported the writer's independence.

Part D — Reading Comprehension

Write **T** (True), **F** (False)

1. It took the writer some time to adjust to her blended family. _____
2. The writer's father accompanied their mother to the Middle East and London before she died. _____
3. The writer, her stepmother and stepsister developed a supportive relationship. _____
4. The writer's two oldest siblings attended a boarding school in England. _____
5. All relatives welcomed the stepmother warmly. _____
6. The stepmother taught the writer to cook and care for a baby. _____

