

Name:

Class:

Unit 1: It's Personal

Extended task

Ref: Modul Tuntas A English Workbook

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Reading Checkpoint

Read the article below and answer the questions that follow.

Cindy's Blended Family

Cindy had a very happy family where she lived with her parents in a quaint cottage. Life was great as a traditional family as she had very doting parents who loved her immensely. However, her life changed when her father passed away due to colon cancer. Cindy was distraught as it was the end of the world for her. However, her mother was a strong shoulder for her to lean on. With her mother's support, she accepted her father's untimely demise and looked forward to a single-parent family.

Life was blissful with her mother as both mother and daughter got on well together. She worked hard at school while her mother kept her nose to the grindstone. They would have their dinner together and spend the night watching movies and eating popcorn. The weekends would be spent going to the movies or shopping or simply having a lazy day at home. The bottom line was they were happy together. Cindy was contented with life and did not wish for anything more.

However, a year later, things began to change as her mother would come home late very day on the pretext of working late. Cindy began to fend for herself as she would make her own meals and watch television on her own. She began to miss the good times she had with her mother. One Saturday, Cindy's mother told her that she had to work on a project, and she would be home very late. Cindy decided to meet up with her friends to watch *Trolls World Tour*, the latest Universal Pictures' animated film. After having a scrumptious dinner at Pizza Hut, the girls went to see a film. They took their seats near the entrance, chatting merrily as they wolfed down the caramel popcorn and washed them down with chilled Pepsi.

Just then, Cindy saw a silhouette of a very familiar woman. She peered intently and she had goosebumps. It was her mother! She was with a man whom Cindy had never met. Her popcorn seemed to have choked her! Warm, bitter tears rolled down her cheeks as she saw her mother has been lying to her for almost a year! She was not working late but she had a new love interest! Cindy was annoyed with herself for being so gullible! While her friends were laughing at the antics of the characters, Cindy was watching her mother and the man intently with tears flowing freely from her eyes. She could not believe that her mother would lie to her.

After the show, Cindy went home and called her grandparents who lived in the same town. In between sobs, she narrated the incidents. Her grandparents, two aunts, an uncle and a few cousins were in her house within twenty minutes. Cindy hugged them and cried. She was glad that she had the support of her extended family. Her grandmother consoled her and spoke gently to her. She reminded Cindy that everyone deserved happiness, including her mother. Cindy sat quietly and pondered about what her grandmother said. She realised she was selfish. She looked at her extended family who were chatting happily and she went to join them.

At midnight, her mother came. She was puzzled to see her relatives at home. She ran and hugged Cindy, asking her if she was okay. Both mother and daughter hugged each other and cried. When they were calmer, Cindy told her mother that she saw her mother with a man at the cinema. Her mother was shocked. She told Cindy that the man was her colleague, Jamie, and that she loved him and wanted to marry him. Cindy nodded her head and said that she wanted her mother to be happy. That night, her relatives spent the night at her home.

The next day, her mother invited Jamie and his daughter for lunch. Cindy was introduced to Jamie and his daughter, Karen, who was three years younger to her. They ate and chat. Cindy realised her mother was happy. She had never seen her mother this happy ever since her father died. She wanted her mother to be happy. She liked Karen, too. Karen is a cheerful girl and soon the girls got on well. Cindy learnt that Karen is not Jamie's biological daughter. She adopted her from an orphanage when she was a baby. Cindy realised that Jamie is a kind man and would make them all happy.

Later in the evening, Cindy's mother and Jamie announced that they would be getting married soon. Cindy would now have a blended family where she would live with her stepfather and stepsister. She was glad that everything turned out well.

1. In paragraph 1, Cindy loved her mother immensely because she was ...

- A substituting Cindy's father.
- B affectionate towards Cindy.
- C a single parent whom Cindy shunned.
- D indifferent towards Cindy's love for her father.

2. Which phrase in paragraph 2 tells us that Cindy and her mother were contented with their lives?

- A *She worked hard at school ...*
- B *Life was blissful with her mother ...*
- C *They would have their dinner together ...*
- D *... her mother kept her nose to the grindstone.*

3. Why did Cindy call her grandparents?

- A She wanted to complain about her mother.
- B She needed someone to talk about her mother's hypocrisy.
- C She desired her family to be with as she was feeling miserable.
- D She required her loved ones to be around to forget her mother's deceit.

4. From the last paragraph, we know that Cindy

- A was genuinely elated for her mother.
- B regretted her mother's rash decision.
- C hoped that her mother's marriage to Jamie would shatter.
- D was dumbfounded when her mother and Jamie announced their marriage.

5. The purpose of the writer writing this article is to remind us that we have to

- A be cruel to be kind
- B make the best of what life offers.
- C think about other people's happiness as well.
- D sacrifice ourselves for other people's happiness.

6. Fill in the blanks with suitable words or phrases from the article.

adopted

blended-family

traditional family

stepfather

extended-family

stepsister

single-parent family

- (a) Cindy was happy living in a _____ with her biological parents as they cared deeply for her.
- (b) After losing her father, Cindy and her mother shared a deep bond as they relied on each other. Although she missed her father, she enjoyed a _____ led by her mother.
- (c) Whenever Cindy was depressed, she would call her grandparents, uncles, aunts and cousins. Normally, her _____ would give her the emotional support she needed.
- (d) Karen is an orphan, who was _____ by Jamie.
- (e) After her mother's marriage, Jamie would be her _____ and Karen her _____. They would live happily as a _____.

HOTS corner:

7. Do you think Cindy has a right to be upset when she saw her mother with another man? Give one reason for your response.

Response : _____

Reason : _____

8. Do you think a single parent should get married?

Provide a reason to support your answer.

Opinion : _____

Reason : _____

Vocabulary Checkpoint

A. Match the words in A with their synonyms in B.

A
1. quaint
2. doting
3. immensely
4. distraught
5. untimely
6. demise
7. blissful
8. contented
9. pretext
10. scrumptious
11. silhouette
12. gullible
13. consoled
14. pondered
15. puzzled

B
a. death
b. upset
c. joyful
d. loving
e. excuse
f. outline
g. greatly
h. confused
i. comforted
j. innocent
k. satisfied
l. delicious
m. premature
n. thought
o. old-fashioned

B. Complete the text with the words in Activity A. You need **not** use all the words given.

Sons are superior to daughters, and so I would never let my son do household chores. Well, that is a (1) _____ belief. In today's era, boys and girls are equal and thus, they have an equal responsibility of doing household chores. You may love your son (2) _____, but you have a responsibility to prepare him to be independent. The right place is the home.

Teach your son to prepare (3) _____ meals for himself as he will have to cook when he is studying or working away from the parents. You do not want him to fall ill. Many youngsters have (4) _____ (5) _____ due to poor dietary habits that lead to fatal diseases such as coronary diseases, hypertension and diabetes. If you don't want to be (6) _____ over this, place an apron around your son and teach him to cook simple yet nutritious food.

Doing household chores teaches your son to be responsible. If he learns to share the household duties. Draw out a duty roster for the household chores and on this (8) _____ and you will be (9) _____ that you are making your son a responsible man.

It is every parent's duty to instil good values in their children, so they grow up to become responsible to themselves, their families and the society. In this way, they can lead a (10) _____ life.