

Everybody likes to feel that she or he is special. Sadly, many of us grow up believing that we're not special at all. We wish that we could be more attractive or better at sports. We wish we had more money or more beautiful clothes. Like the Tin Man, the Scarecrow, or the Cowardly Lion from The Wizard of Oz, we think we're not good enough just as we are. In the film, The Tin Man wishes he had a heart. The Scarecrow wishes that he had a brain, and the Lion wants courage. Eventually, each of them realizes that he already has what he wants.

Nearly all parents want us to be the best we can be. They occasionally attempt to encourage us to do better by comparing us to others. They mean well, but the message we usually get is that we're not good enough. We start to believe that the only way we can be special is by being better than somebody else, but we are frequently disappointed. There will always be somebody out there that is better than we are at something. There are a lot of people around who may not be as intelligent as we are but who are better at sports. Or they may not be as handsome, but they have more money. It is unthinkable for us to be better than everybody else all the time. Like the Tin Man, the Scarecrow, and the Cowardly Lion, we all need what we believe will make us better people.

What we don't understand is that often we already have inside us the very things that we look for in life. Our parents often forget to tell us that we are special, that we are good enough just as we are. Perhaps no one told them when they were growing up, or maybe they just forgot. Either way, it's up to us to remind them sometimes that each of us, in our own way, is special. What we are is enough!

4. The author of this essay believes that ...

- we are all good enough just the way we are
- the richer you are, the better you are
- intelligent people are more special than others
- not everyone can be special

5. Which of the following would be the best title for this passage?

- What Makes You Laugh?
- What Makes You Happy?
- What Makes You Special?
- What Makes You Stronger?

1. What is the writer's main aim in writing the text?

- to talk about your family problems
- to explain the importance of being yourself
- to describe how intelligent we are
- to suggest how people can change their way of life

2. This essay was most likely written by ...

- a young person
- a coach
- a teacher
- a parent

3. What does the writer say about our parents?

- They always tell us that we are good enough.
- They never forget to tell us that we are special.
- They always tell us that we are special.
- They frequently forget to tell us that we are special.

A month ago I had no idea that on Sunday afternoon in July I'd be 50 metres above the ground and enjoying it. Now I looked down at the river far below me, and realised why people love rock climbing.

My friend Will and I had arrived at the Activity Centre on Saturday evening. The accommodation wasn't great, but we had everything we need; beds, blankets and some food plus we were pleased to be out of the city and in the fresh air.

On Sunday morning we met the other ten members of our groups. James had come along with two friends, Harry and George, while sisters Maria and Sara had come with Isabella. We had come from many different places, so none of us knew the area.

We knew we were going to spend some time outdoors, but none of us was sure exactly how. Half of us spent the morning caving while the others went rock-climbing and then we changed at lunchtime. Will and I went to the caves first. Climbing out was harder than going in, but after a good deal of pushing, we went out at last - covered in mud, but pleased and excited by what I'd done.

4. What do we learn about the group?

- C Some of them had been there before.
- C They had already chosen their preferred activities.
- C Some of them already knew each other.
- C They came from the same city.

5. Which of the following advertisements describe the Activity Centre?

A **ACTIVITY CENTRE**
Set in beautiful countryside.
Make up your own timetable - choose from a variety of activities (horse-riding, fishing, hill-walking, sailing, mountain biking)

B **ACTIVITY CENTRE**
Set in beautiful countryside.
Accommodation provided. Work with a group - we show you a range of outdoor activities that you didn't realise you could do!

C **ACTIVITY CENTRE**
Set in beautiful countryside. Enjoy the luxury of our accommodation - each room has its own bathroom. Work with a group, or have individual teaching.

D **ACTIVITY CENTRE**
Set in beautiful countryside. You can spend the day doing outdoor activities and we will find you accommodation with a local family.

1. What is the writer trying to do in the text?

- C advertise the Activity Centre
- C describe some people she met
- C explain how to do certain outdoor sports
- C say how she spent some free time

2. What can the reader learn from the text?

- C when to depend on other people at the Centre
- C how to apply for a place at the Centre
- C what sort of activities you can experience at the Centre
- C which time of year is best to attend the Centre

3. How do you think the writer might describe the weekend?

- C interesting
- C relaxing
- C frightening
- C unpleasant