

PASSAGE 17

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The Smiths are possibly the cleverest family in the country, and now the youngest member, ten-year-old Charlotte, has won a national spelling competition to add to the family's successes. Charlotte is the youngest ever winner of the National Young Spelling Bee Competition - the youngest winner before her was her older sister, Helen, who won it when she was eleven.

Charlotte and Helen's older brother, Mark, is also very clever. He finished school early and went to university at the age of fifteen, three years before most young people start their university studies. The children's parents, Charles and Vivien, are both teachers and say their children's success comes from working hard, playing hard but they have to follow **stringent** rules about homework and bedtimes. 'Other people think that Charles and I don't let the children have any time to relax and play, and that we're always making them do their homework. But it's not true!' says Vivien, 'we have lots of fun time in the family. But there's a time for fun and there's a time for work, and we make sure the children understand that work comes before play.'

When Charlotte took part in the spelling competition, the whole family, including her grandparents, went to watch her. Helen took off a day from school - the first day in her life that she missed going to school. 'I felt bad about missing school,' Helen said, 'but I think it was important to Charlotte that I was there.'

Question 1: What is the best title for the passage?

- A. The youngest winner of Spelling Bee Competition
- B. A very clever family
- C. How to raise smart kids
- D. Benefits of being clever

Question 2: According to the passage, Charlotte won her competition _____.

- A. after her sister
- B. when she was eleven
- C. when she was older than Helen
- D. although she had won it before

Question 3: According to the passage, Charles and Vivien help their children by _____.

- A. letting them relax and play any time they want.
- B. making them do their homework before they relax.
- C. not letting them have any time to relax and play.
- D. having children do housework together.

Question 4: The word "**stringent**" in paragraph 2 is closest in meaning to _____.

- A. easy
- B. comfortable
- C. flexible
- D. strict

Question 5: What special action did Helen take to support her sister Charlotte during the competition?

- A. She helped her prepare for the competition.
- B. She stayed at school to focus on her own studies.
- C. She skipped a day of school to be there for Charlotte.
- D. She took part in the competition with Charlotte.

Question 6: Which of the following is NOT mentioned in the passage as part of the children's strict routine?

- A. Doing homework
- B. Following strict bedtimes
- C. Taking part in after-school activities
- D. Balancing work and play