

Unit 8: Exercise 8

Answer the questions. Choose TRUE if the statement agrees with the information in bold in the text, choose FALSE if the statement contradicts the information, or choose NOT GIVEN if there is no information about this.

We would naturally expect children who were raised in the same household to have similar characteristics, but this is not the case. Dr Norman Kronstadt, another psychologist, claims that the adults that children are surrounded by as they are growing up may have a significant influence. 'In our research, we found that children are often assigned labels as they are growing up. It's the parents who do this, or sometimes the grandparents. For instance, one daughter may be labelled "the clever one" in the family. Her brother may be labelled "the difficult, naughty one". However, this has little to do, really, with how clever the girl is or how naughty the boy is. Compared with other children from other families, they might not be especially clever or naughty, but they will have been given these roles by the adults around them.'

Child therapist, Ben Williams, agrees. 'The effect this has is significant. If a child believes he or she is "the clever one", or "the naughty one", or "the one who is good at sports", then they will make different choices in life. They will spend their time differently. They will choose to do or avoid doing certain things, because of what they believe their role to be. Over a period of years, naturally, their personalities will change to fit the role that their parents have given them. So, "the sporty one" will choose sports activities and get better at them as time progresses. In contrast, "the naughty one" might believe that they aren't really good at anything, and will make little effort to try hard at anything.' This, more than anything else, might explain why two siblings from the same family go on to have such different personalities.

3. Norman Kronstadt believes that the labels children are given may fail to reflect their actual personalities.

- ☐ True
- ☐ False
- ☐ Not Given

4. Ben Williams states that children's personalities stay the same throughout their childhood.

- ☐ True
- ☐ False
- ☐ Not Given