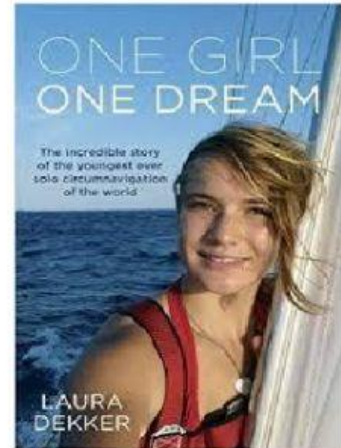


LAURA DEKKER'S SOLO ADVENTURE

Laura Dekker has been a teenager that has made a difference. Go to Google and watch the interesting documentary about her adventure and then do the activities below.

<http://www.area-documental.com/player.php?titulo=Maidentrip>



1. There are arguments for and arguments againsts letting Laura do her solo trip sailing around the world for two years. Write next to the argument if it is a FOR or AGAINST argument.

- Personally, I would say no. There is nothing wrong with dreams, but education and maturity comes first. She needs to socialize, mature and be with her peers. She will never be this age again, as the opportunity to sail around the world will not disappear. _____
- Some people are meant to do great things and almost nothing can stop them. This girl obviously lives for her passion of sailing and adventure. There are lots of kids that can continue with high school and enjoy that life and its future but it is absolutely ok to do something different. It is so hard for the world to accept those that don't want to follow the ordinary path. _____
- Those who support Laura should also consider other rights and privileges that societies do not allow young people to do like (1) the right to drive a car (2) flying small airplanes, (3) drink alcohol, (4) vote in elections and so on. _____
- In 4 years she'll be 18 and nobody can stop her. It's frustrating to be a kid - nobody lets you do what you want. But it doesn't last. I wouldn't let her go, it would be abdicating parental responsibility. There's a reason that one is under parents's responsibility until 18. The brain (and various other parts) needs to grow a little more. She will be wiser and stronger. _____
- She is possibly endangering only herself. Why are the courts involved? She might die, might get injured; but, that is the concern of her and her parents. They have a well thought out plan. Let them go for it!! _____
- The reality is Laura is a truly exceptional and mature girl with a very particular set of skills and life experiences that allow her to be able to do this very safely and very skillfully. _____
- Her sense of urgency to do this now is a clue that she's not ready. It's probable that her plans are an expression of fighting or rebellion against someboby. Solo sailing on day trips is nothing like complete isolation for two years. But I don't think she's old enough to make a decision to undertake something most people would never undertake at any point in their lives. _____
- The argument about unattending school for two years is weak. Unfortunately there are children or teens who miss two years of school due to an accident or an injury. From my own experience, at that age they can quickly catch up after a time without attending school. _____

2. You have to write a discussion essay about Laura's adventure (120-130 words). In your essay you have to mention some advantages and some disadvantages about her solo trip around the world. The structure should be the following:

- Opening paragraph: explain who is Laura and her dream
- First paragraph: present two or three arguments FOR
- Second paragraph: mention a few arguments AGAINST
- Conclusion: give your opinion

You can use some of the arguments you have read in exercise 1, but you have to simplify them. To make your essay better try to use: linkers, passive verbs, present perfect, used to..., conditionals, etc. All the structures we have studied this school year.