VACATION 2026
GIFTED HANDS

Gifted hands

From a Difficult Childhood to a Remarkable Life

Gifted Hands: The Ben Carson Story is based on the true story of **Dr. Ben Carson**, who grew up in Detroit and struggled at school. He did not believe he was a particularly intelligent student, but his mother, Sonya, believed in him. She encouraged Ben and his brother to read more and spend less time watching television.

Little by little, Ben's attitude toward learning changed. His grades improved, and he became interested in science and medicine. He later studied at Yale University and medical school before becoming a neurosurgeon at Johns Hopkins Hospital.

Carson became famous for performing complex brain surgeries. In 1987, he led a team that successfully separated twins who were joined at the back of the head. He retired from medicine in 2013 after almost three decades as a surgeon.

But his story continued. From 2017 to 2021, Carson served as the **U.S. Secretary of Housing and Urban Development**. Today, he is no longer a

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practicing neurosurgeon, but he continues to write, speak publicly, and share his experiences.

Ben Carson's story is about more than becoming a doctor. It shows how education, support, discipline, and determination can change the way a person sees their own future.

Reading Comprehension

1. What was one of the biggest changes in Ben's childhood?

a) He became naturally more intelligent.

b) He began to believe that learning could change his future.

c) He stopped having problems at school.

2. Why was his mother's influence important?

a) She chose medicine as his career.

b) She helped him develop better learning habits.

c) She taught him everything he needed to know.

3. Put the events in the correct order.

( ) He became Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

( ) His grades began to improve.

( ) He became a neurosurgeon.

( ) He retired from medicine.

4. What does "But his story continued" mean in the text?

a) He returned to working as a surgeon.

b) He found a new career after leaving medicine.

c) He continued studying medicine.

5. True, False or Not Given?

a) Ben had academic difficulties as a child. _____

b) His mother encouraged him to read. _____

c) Ben worked alone when he separated the twins. _____

d) He is currently practicing as a neurosurgeon. _____

6. Which statement best expresses the main idea of the text?

a) Intelligence is the most important factor in success.

b) Ben Carson became successful mainly because he was talented.

c) Education, support and determination helped Ben change his future.

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