


B2.8 Children and Parents

You can learn:

- How to discuss issues related to child-rearing.
- How to create a children's story with your partner.

1  **Discuss the questions in the box, which are all related to the topic of children and parents, with your partner.**

- Looking back, do you think your parents brought you up well? What are you grateful for?
- What things did they do that were good?
- What do you wish they had done differently?
- If you have children, are you going to bring up your children in the same way?
- Did your parents make sacrifices for you as you grew up? Do you feel you 'owe' them something?
- Which is worse: 'spoiling' children by giving them too much freedom, or being too strict with them?
- How much pocket money should an eleven year old get each week? How about a sixteen year old?
- Were you spoilt when you were little? Who by?
- Why do people (you?) choose to have children?
- Would you ever consider adopting a child?

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2



Read the people's views about childhood and parenting. Say which you agree with, which you disagree with and give your reasons.



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I think it's wrong to hit a child. It teaches them to be bullies. My parents never raised a hand to me in anger; I think it's so unnecessary. There must be other alternatives. Rosine



Image Attribution to _Shogo_

Children are being treated as adults too soon these days. For example, some clothing for young girls is inappropriate. I would never let my daughter wear make-up, or high heels, until she was at least a teenager. Sam



Image Attribution to gabork

Children should have more discipline in schools. Children have no manners these days and it's because the teachers can't properly discipline them with corporal punishment. The only teacher a child respects is a strict one who is not afraid to raise his voice and instil some respect. They despise 'soft' teachers. Matt

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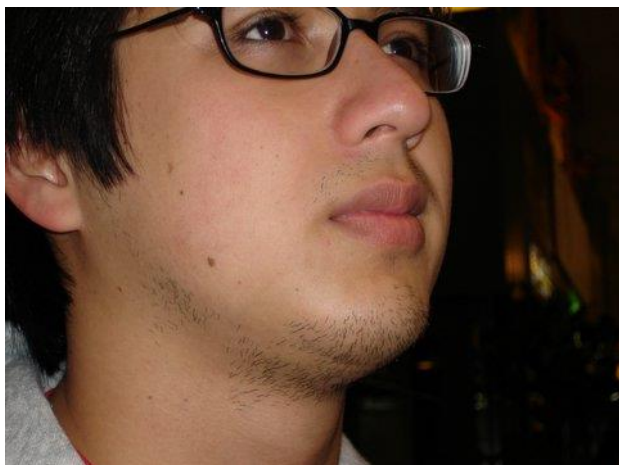


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It's wrong to tell lies to children, even about Father Christmas. If children are lied to, they grow up never really to trust adults. Also, I think it's wrong to force children to be religious. I was made to go to Sunday school and to go to church. But I'm an atheist now and I really resent it. Give me back my Sundays! I should have been playing with my friends. Alexander



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I object to sexist toys. Little boys and girls should play with the same toys. My daughter's friends just want to play with Barbie dolls and have toy cookers and hoovers. Why shouldn't she play with trucks and other 'science and technology' toys like her brother? Anne


3

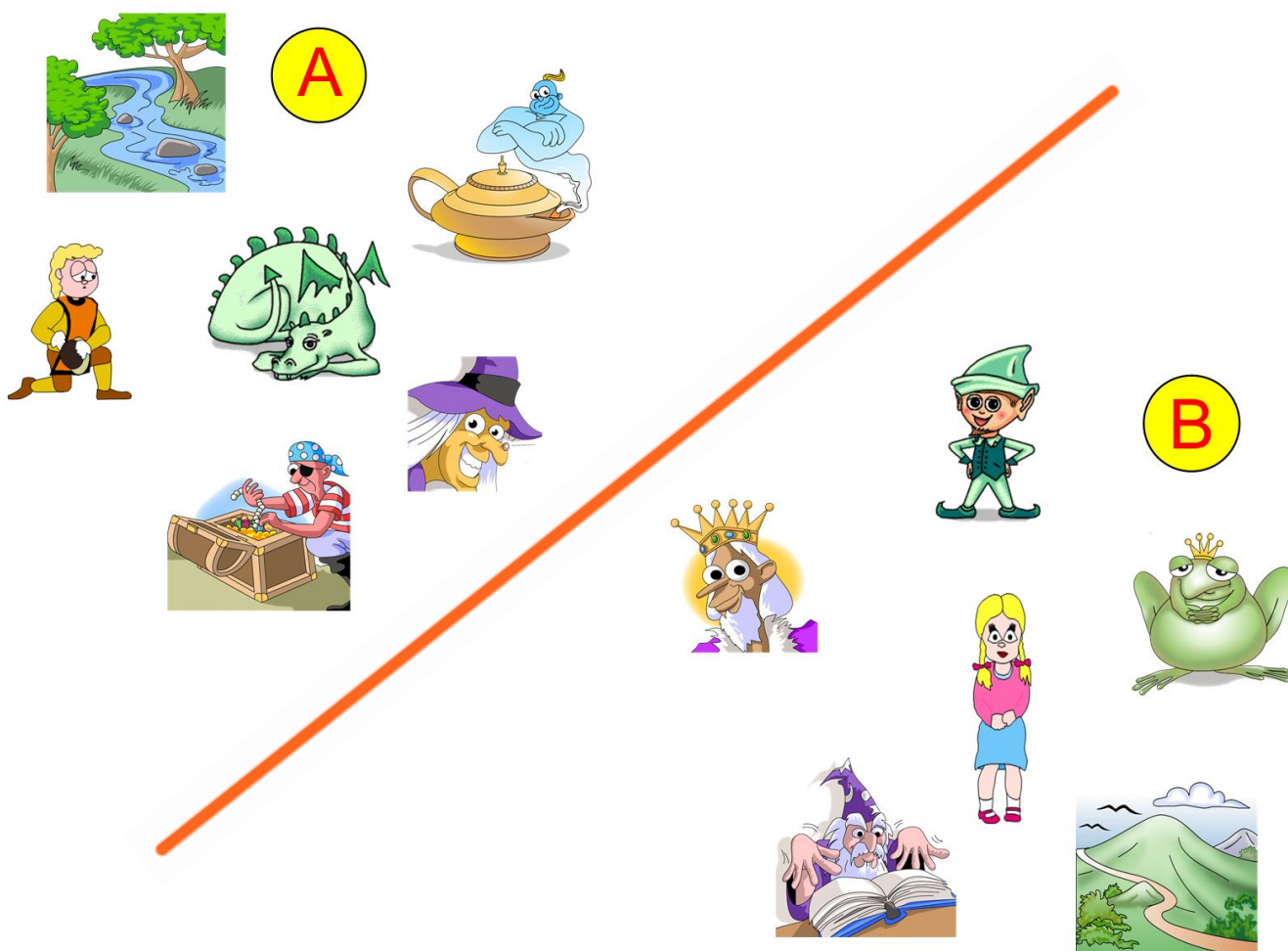


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They say childhood is the happiest time of your life. Well, I certainly don't agree. All those rules you have to obey! All those childhood illnesses and having to go to school every day. The happiest time of my life was when I was older, in my twenties. How about you? Mary

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3  Imagine that you and your partner are babysitting for a small child. Together, invent one fairy story incorporating the images below. There are one set of pictures for person 'A' and another for person 'B'. Take it in turns to tell the story, involving one of your pictures in each 'turn'.



4

4  Now write the "Fairy Story" using some of the the ideas suggested in the previous activity.

Once upon a time, in a land far, far away there lived ...

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Notes:

*"Youth is a wonderful thing. What a crime to waste it on children."
George Bernard Shaw*