

9. A Letter to Son

Worksheet 1

COMPREHENSION

[Letter from F. Scott Fitzgerald to his 11-year-old daughter Scottie, while she was away at camp, 1933].

La Paix, Rodgers' Froge,

Towson, Maryland

8 August 1933

Dear Pie,

I feel very strongly about you doing duty. Would you give me a little more documentation about your reading in French? I am glad you are happy but I never believe much in happiness. I never believe in misery either. Those are things you see on the stage or the screen or the printed pages, they never really happen to you in life.

All I believe in life is the rewards for virtue (according to your talents) and the punishments for not fulfilling your duties, which are doubly costly. If there is such a volume in the camp library, you will ask Mrs Tyson to let you look up a sonnet of Shakespeare in which the line occurs "Lilies that fester smell worse than weeds."

Have had no thoughts today, life seems composed of getting up a Saturday Evening Post story. I think of you, and always pleasantly, but if you call me "Pappy" again I am going to take the white cat out and beat his bottom hard, six times for every time. You are impertinent. Do you react to that?

I will arrange the camp bill.

Half wit, I will conclude.

Things to worry about:

Worry about courage.

Worry about cleanliness.

Worry about efficiency.

Worry about horsemanship.

Things not to worry about:

Don't worry about popular opinion.

Don't worry about dolls.

Don't worry about the past.

Don't worry about the future.

Don't worry about growing up.

Don't worry about anybody getting ahead of you.

Don't worry about triumph.

Don't worry about failure unless it comes through your own fault.

Don't worry about mosquitoes.
Don't worry about flies.
Don't worry about insects in general.
Don't worry about parents.
Don't worry about boys.
Don't worry about disappointments.
Don't worry about pleasures.
Don't worry about satisfactions.

Things to think about:

What am I really aiming at?

How good am I really in comparison to my contemporaries in regard to (a) Scholarship (b) Do I really understand about people and am I able to get along with them? (c) Am I trying to make my body a useful instrument or am I neglecting it?

With dearest love,

Daddy

A. Read the given letter and answer the following questions.

1. According to F. Scott Fitzgerald, where do you see happiness and misery?
2. What does he believe in life?
3. What does he consider his daughter's impertinence?
4. Name two things that he tells his daughter to worry about.
5. What does he advise her to think about?

B. Write your own views in 4–5 sentences about any one of the following.

1. Don't worry about popular opinion.
2. Don't worry about anybody getting ahead of you.
3. Don't worry about disappointments.

C. Fill in the blanks with suitable words mentioned.

1. I feel very strongly about you doing _____.
2. I never believe much in _____. I never believe in _____ either.
3. Don't worry about _____ unless it comes through your own _____.
4. Am I trying to make my body a _____ or am I _____ it?
5. How good am I really in comparison to my _____ in regard to a _____?

Worksheet 2

GRAMMAR

A. Fill in the blanks with the coordinating conjunctions.

1. He was a little boy _____ he was very brave.
2. She must return the book to the library _____ she will have to pay the penalty for losing it.
3. We decided to stay at the hotel _____ not to go any further.
4. He did not go to school _____ he could not read or write.
5. He ran very fast _____ he missed the train.

B. Underline the subordinating conjunctions in the following sentences.

1. The judge believed that he was innocent.
2. I saw a man who was blind.
3. He found the book which he had lost.
4. The place where they live is very noisy.
5. I gave her some money as I could not help in any other way.

C. Change the active voice into passive voice.

1. The guide took the tourists to Jaipur by coach.
2. Somebody has put out the light.
3. My mother will bake a pineapple cake.
4. He is finishing his homework before dinner.
5. Father had promised us an outing on Sunday.

Worksheet 3

VOCABULARY AND WRITING

A. Match the phrases in Column A with their meanings in Column B.

Column A

1. He threw up his job.
2. Her friends look up to her.
3. These rooms are set apart for girls.
4. The thief gave himself away.
5. The teacher called for an explanation.

Column B

- (a) Respect
- (b) Betrayed himself
- (c) Demanded
- (d) Resigned
- (e) Reserved

B. Add suffixes to the following groups of words by selecting one suffix from the Help Box to complete each group.

-ward -en -age -ile -ion

- | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| 1. (a) wood_____ | (b) sweet_____ | (c) gladd_____ |
| 2. (a) serv_____ | (b) frag_____ | (c) juven_____ |
| 3. (a) act_____ | (b) attent_____ | (c) prevent_____ |
| 4. (a) marri_____ | (b) bond_____ | (c) leak_____ |
| 5. (a) for_____ | (b) on_____ | (c) out_____ |

C. Write a dialogue between Govind and Bhanu, one who is disobedient and the other telling him why it is good and sensible to obey one's parents. Write at least 4-5 exchange dialogues.
