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Comprehension story 24

Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow, using your own words wherever possible.

Most parents think the child is too young to understand that they are quarrelling as he is too young to comprehend the reasons for the discord. What most parents are not aware of is that, innocent children are definitely of the fighting between the parents and quite often believe that parents are fighting because of them.

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Each child is unique human being with a complex set of emotions and sensibilities. Every child's reaction is individualistic too. There is no set of definite pattern as to how a child will react to the warring parents, undoubtedly, whatever the reaction might be, the child be hurt by the disagreement between the parents.

Some children might just withdraw and become total introverts, others might show maturity much beyond their years. There might be a third be a third reaction altogether, making some children revolt and become unmanageable. They end up being rude and cruel to other around them, tuning into bullies. They do not follow any set of rules of society. Research done in the field of child psychology has proved that the children who see the violent interaction between their parents seem to be surrounded by trouble all their lives. They are through all their growing years constantly living with the fear that if parents separated, from their siblings or have only one parent around.

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Similarly, in case when a divorce takes place and where one parent gets remarried, the child believes that the reunion might break as well. He does not let himself get too close to the step parents in such cases. It is true that the fighting between the spouses is essentially a physical, mental and emotional torture for the child. It might physically affect the health and growth of the child as well. Even a normal child could start stammering, or his development might be hampered. 20

In their innocence, the children might spill the details of the parents constant fighting among the relatives and friends, thereby creating embarrassment for the parents. If they feel they are not getting due care and affection from both of their parents, they might turn to strangers for it. They often become vulnerable to the negative sections of society who might abuse their trust. Imagine a situation where a child says to a stranger or relative “you love me so much but my own mother does not love me at all.” 25 30

When parents fight constantly, the child feels a physical, mental, emotional and social separation and suffers. His understanding of “Marriage” gets distorted and when this child reaches adulthood, the fear of marriage sets deep in his psyche. Marriage to him becomes not a balanced equation of love and trust, but something that would bring fights and discord in their lives. It is very parent’s moral duty to take full responsibility for child’s physical and mental development. 40

Questions

- (a) Suggest a suitable title for the passage (02marks)
- (b) What major misconception do parents have about children? (04marks)
- (c) In not more than 100 words, give a summary of the effect of fighting between parents on the children.” (12marks)
- (d) Explain the meaning of the following words and phrases as used in the passage, using your own words wherever possible
- (i) Individualistic (line 07) (02 marks)
 - (ii) Definite pattern (line 08) (02marks)
 - (iii) introverts (line 09) (02 marks)
 - (iv) Essentially (line 21) (02marks)
 - (v) spill (line 24) (02marks)
 - (vi) negative sections (line 29) (02marks)
 - (vii) Psyche (line 41) (02 marks)
 - (viii) Balanced equation (line 42) (02 marks)
 - (ix) Discord in their lives (line 43) (02 marks)
 - (x) Moral duty (line 43) (02marks)
- (20 marks)

Spellings, Punctuation and Grammatical Expression (SPGE) (10 marks)

Suggested answers

- (a) Suggest a suitable title for the passage (02marks)
Effects of parent conflicts on a child
Child's reaction to parents fights
- (b) What major misconception do parents have about children? (06marks)
Parents assume that children are too young to mind or be affected by their fights.
And that children cannot comprehend reasons for the conflict
- (c) In not more than 100 words, give a summary of the effects of fighting between parents on the children." (12marks)

THE EFFECTS OF FIGHTING BETWEEN PARENTS ON THE CHILDREN

The effects of fighting between parents a on the children include; the children become guilty that the parent are fighting because them; the children may become psychologically hurt making them becoming cruel, rude, introverts and develop insecurity and mistrust against the parents, friends and future partners. The children could also get excessive trust into neighbors revealing to them the parents fights that may cause embarrassments and isolation. When parents fight constantly, the child feels a physical, mental, emotional and social separation and suffers.

- (d) Explain the meaning of the following words and phrases as used in the passage, using you own words wherever possible
- (i) Individualistic (line 07) (02 marks)
People think and do things in their own way, rather than imitating other people
- (ii) . Definite pattern (line 08) (02marks)
A particular way of doing /organizing something
- (iii) introverts (line 09) (02 marks)
reserved or quiet person
- (iv) Essentially (line 21) (02marks)
Fundamentally/basically/principally
- (v) spill (line 24) (02marks)
reveal/leak

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|--------|--|------------|
| (vi) | negative sections (line 29)
bad/evil/immoral people | (02marks) |
| (vii) | Psyche (line 41)
Mind/spirit/soul | (02 marks) |
| (viii) | Balanced equation (line 42)
Acceptable proportion/equal ratio | (02 marks) |
| (ix) | Discord in their lives (line 43)
Conflict/chaos/disharmony | (02 marks) |
| (x) | Moral duty (line 43)
Responsibility/obligation/concern | (02marks) |
| | | (20 marks) |

Spellings, Punctuation and Grammatical Expression (SPGE) (10 marks)

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Thanks

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