

1 As Ella went on to high school she wondered if it was possible that they might
care too much about her. All the other girls at school said that their parents were
utterly monstrous. She gave a little shiver in case suddenly everything went sour.
Maybe her parents wouldn't like her clothes, her career, her husband? It was going
5 dangerously smoothly so far. And it continued to go well during what were meant to
be the years from Hell, when Ella was sixteen and seventeen. Every other girl at the
school had been in open warfare with one or both parents. There had been scenes
and tears and dramas. But never in the Brady household.

 Barbara may have thought the party dresses Ella bought were too skimpy. Tim
10 may have thought the music coming from Ella's bedroom too loud. Ella might have
wished that her father didn't turn up in his nice safe car and wait outside the disco to
take her home at the end of an evening, as if she were a six-year-old. But if anyone
thought these things they were never said. Ella did complain that her father fussed
over her too much and that her mother worried about her, but she did it lovingly. By
15 the time Ella was eighteen and ready to go to university, it was still one of the most
cheerful, peaceful, households in the Western Hemisphere.

 Ella's friend Deirdre was full of envy. "It's not fair, really it isn't. They haven't
even got annoyed with you for doing science. Most parents refuse point-blank to let
you do what you want."

20 "I know," Ella said, worried. "It's a bit abnormal, isn't it?"

 "They don't have rows, either," Deirdre grumbled. "Mine are always on at each
other about money and drink ... everything in fact."

 Ella shrugged. "No, they don't drink, and of course we rent out the flat so that
they have plenty of money ... and I'm not a drug addict or anything, so I suppose they
25 don't have any worries."

 "But why are they all on the red alert about everything in *my* house?" Deirdre
wailed.

 Ella shrugged. She couldn't explain it ... it just didn't seem to be a problem.

 "Wait until we want to stay out all night and go to bed with fellows, then it will
30 be a problem," Deirdre said with her voice full of menace.

 But oddly when that happened it wasn't a problem at all.

I - GENERAL COMPREHENSION

A - Who is who? Fill in the blanks.

Ella is Barbara's a)

Tim is Barbara's b)and Ella's c)

Deirdre is Ella's d)

B - Give the correct answer and justify by quoting from the text.

1) Ella and Deirdre are :

a) 6 to 10 b) 12 to 18 c) over 18

2) The main topic of their conversation is about:

a) parents b) boyfriends c) school

II - DETAILED COMPREHENSION

A - Right or wrong? Justify all your answers by quoting from the text. Indicate the lines.

1 - Ella is at war with her family.

2 - Barbara told Ella to wear different clothes.

3 - Ella thinks she is treated like a child.

4 - Ella's parents did not want her to study science.

5 - Deirdre is jealous of Ella.

6 - Ella is from a rich family.

B - Choose the three adjectives which best describe Ella's family life.

bad / stormy / happy / peaceful / dramatic / pleasant / dangerous

C - Who do the underlined pronouns or adjectives refer to?

1- (L.1) they might care too much ...

2- (L. 2-3) their parents were utterly monstrous.

3- (L. 11-12) to take her home...

4- (L. 17-18) They haven't even got annoyed with you ...

5- (L. 26) ...on the red alert about everything in my house?

III- EXPRESSION

Traiter UN sujet au choix.

A - Deirdre is extremely angry with her parents. She decides to write a diary. Imagine the first page. (*about 150 words*)

B - What is an ideal parent for you? (*about 150 words*)