

WHAT ARE WE LIKE?



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INTRODUCTION

HELLO EVERYONE. MAY I HAVE YOUR ATTENTION? I HAVE A LITTLE TEST FOR YOU. NO, JANE, YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT GETTING THE ANSWERS WRONG AND FAILING. AND PHILLIP, PLEASE STOP ROLLING YOUR EYES. THIS TEST IS GOING TO BE FUN ... WELL, PERHAPS.



1,2,3,4,5,6,7... they're all there.



So, imagine that you've just stumbled upon the little cottage of the seven dwarfs, like Snow White in the fairy-tale. Are you going to go in? When you venture inside, you see little beds, a pot of soup on the stove, toys on the floor and everything in disarray. What do you do first?

Okay, don't take it seriously, the test was just a bit of fun and it doesn't say anything about you. It was just to show you how different and diverse we humans are. Some of us are tidy, whereas others are untidy, stingy, generous, envious, proud, humble, patient, impatient and so on and so on. In short, we all have a different character. And that's what this book is about human character. Or at least about certain human characteristics, not all of which could be included in this thin book, as there are so many. Well, now it's time to start reading. You might just recognize yourself in the following pages.

The test

1. strange house? Better not go in there. What if it belongs to some evil creature?
2. What a peculiar little cottage! It'd be a great adventure to go in and explore.
3. First things first, this place needs tidying up!
4. What comfortable looking beds! I'll just put my feet up and have a little nap.
5. Oh look, toys! Mmm ... what shall I play with first?



The Test Result

- Are you more of a number 1?
You're a bit of a scaredy-cat.
2. You're braveheart
 3. You are one of this world's tidy, order-loving and also diligent beings
 4. You're a little bit lazy
 5. You don't have a care in the world

DILIGENCE

A DILIGENT PERSON IS SOMEONE WHO IS CONSTANTLY DOING SOMETHING AND WON'T SIT STILL FOR A SECOND. THAT'S RIGHT, REST IS FOR IDLERS AND LIFE IS TOO SHORT FOR THAT. AND SO A DILIGENT OR HARD-WORKING PERSON FIRST CLEANS THE WHOLE HOUSE, THEN COOKS FOR THE FAMILY AND RELATIVES, FOLLOWED BY WEEDING THE GARDEN, PLANTING FLOWERS, DOING OTHER HOUSEHOLD CHORES, NOT TO MENTION A TEN-KILOMETER RUN, A BIT OF YOGA AND ... OH, ARE YOU FEELING TIRED TOO?



It's a pity there are so few hours in a day, I just won't be able to manage it all!



Hurry, hurry, there's no time to lose! I'm going to wash the windows, mop the floor, tidy up my toys, do my homework and draw a picture.

Too much diligence

Sooner or later, a person gets tired, and even the most diligent person needs to rest now and then. But unlike lazy individuals, hard-working people rest with a bad conscience. They think, 'I shouldn't be resting,' brooding over the list of things that they should be doing. In the end, they get up and start working again, tired or not.



Cinderella



Bee



Athlete



Rewards of hard work

It was only down to the diligence of our ancestors that great cities, magnificent temples and the majestic pyramids of Egypt were built. Without hard work, athletes wouldn't win important competitions, and it takes a great deal of effort for gifted musicians to turn into real virtuosos, for writers to write voluminous novels, and for bakers to bake lots of bread.

In praise of diligence

Diligence and industry have always been considered noble qualities. Our ancestors believed that work was ennobling and nothing could be achieved without the sacrifice of hard work. They thought very highly of diligent people.

The most diligent of all

There are even diligent characters in fairy tales. Take Cinderella, for instance, – she slaved away from dawn till dusk. In the natural world, bees and ants are the champions of hard work.

STINGINESS

I'M NOT SHARING MY SWEETS! YOU'RE NOT BORROWING MY SCOOTER! THEY'RE MINE! STINGY OR MISERLY PEOPLE ARE PRISONERS OF THEIR OWN STINGINESS. THEY'RE ALWAYS WATCHING OVER THEIR POSSESSIONS AND COUNTING THEIR MONEY, AND FOR THEM IT'S NEVER ENOUGH. AND THAT'S WHY THEY ARE NEVER HAPPY. WHEN IT'S THEIR FRIEND'S BIRTHDAY, THEY PRETEND THEY'VE FORGOTTEN ABOUT IT, RATHER THAN COUGH UP THE MONEY FOR A PRESENT. NO WONDER MISERS ARE UNPOPULAR.

Ah, my lovely money, you're growing nicely!



I'm the richest, no one can touch me!



No harm in being stingy

Stingy people are afraid that they'll fall on hard times. Their saved money and accumulated property give them at least a little assurance that they'll get through the bad times. Researchers have found that people who try to accumulate as much wealth and power as possible have a clearly higher evolutionary advantage for survival. In short, they are well prepared, even for emergency situations.

Emotional stinginess

Did you know that a person can also be stingy when it comes to feelings towards other people? An emotionally stingy person does not praise other people nor communicate positive feelings towards them. On the contrary, they make disparaging and critical comments.



Good for the planet

Thrifty people behave in a very ecological way. People who are forever buying new things such as clothes are putting great strain on our planet.



The risk of thrift

There is a very fine line between thriftiness and stinginess. Thrifty people beware - don't become a miser!

Would you like another one? I've saved up for it.



THRIFTINESS

THRIFTY PEOPLE ALSO KEEP A VERY CLOSE EYE ON THEIR WEALTH AND DON'T LIKE TO SPLASH OUT. THAT'S WHY THEY DON'T BUY UNNECESSARY THINGS AND TAKE GOOD CARE OF THE THINGS THEY OWN, SO THEY LAST AS LONG AS POSSIBLE. STILL, THRIFTY PEOPLE DON'T MIND SPENDING MONEY ON THEIR LOVED ONES.

Not always an advantage

Sometimes people try to take advantage of the kindness of a generous person for their own benefit, to gain whatever they can. That's why generous people must learn to behave assertively, which means they set clear limits for their own protection that other people are not allowed to cross.



Generous and forgiving

If you accidentally knock your ice cream over onto a generous person, they won't make a big deal about it. They'll take it in their stride. These things simply happen, and there are far worse things in the world to get angry about. Generous people know how to forgive. They also accept everyone as they are – with their good sides and their flaws.

It's no trouble, I'll bring your shopping up to the top floor.



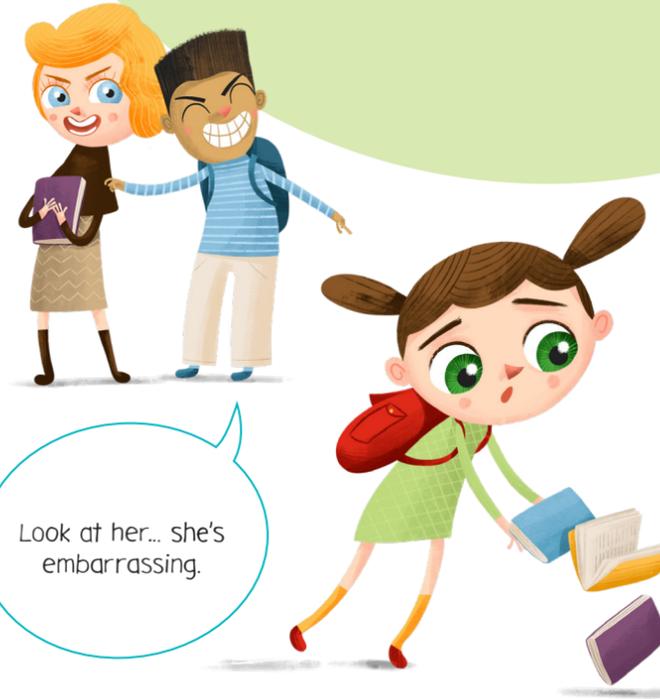
GENEROSITY

YOU CAN RELY ON ME. DO YOU WANT TO BORROW IT? IS THERE SOMETHING YOU NEED? YOU CAN HAVE IT, IT'S MY LAST ONE. YOU'LL HEAR SUCH THINGS FROM A GENEROUS PERSON, ONE WHO IS WILLING TO HELP OTHER PEOPLE AT ANY TIME. THEY ARE KEEN TO GIVE WHAT THEY HAVE AND THEY EXPECT NOTHING IN RETURN. THEY ALSO LISTEN TO OTHERS AND HELP THEM FEEL BETTER WHEN THEY HAVE PROBLEMS.



HUMOUR

LISTEN, LET ME TELL YOU A REALLY FUNNY JOKE! IN FACT, I KNOW LOADS OF THEM, I COULD TELL JOKES ALL DAY. IN SHORT, I LIKE HAVING A LAUGH, AND I LIKE IT EVEN MORE WHEN OTHERS LAUGH.



Look at her... she's embarrassing.

Mocking is not funny

People who are not satisfied with themselves like to draw attention to the shortcomings of others and mock or ridicule them. In this way, they hope to divert all attention away from their own weaknesses. But it's different when you make fun of yourself. This makes people laugh along with you, and they realize you are not just trying to show off.

Benefits of being funny

Of course, being funny is not just about telling jokes. A funny person is someone who has a sense of humour and is fun to be with. People adore a funny person and enjoy being in their company.

Hey, it's fun being with you. Fancy coming to our house after school?



CARELESSNESS

WORRYING ABOUT YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES AND PROBLEMS? WHAT IN HEAVENS FOR? IT'S JUST NOT WORTH IT. ITS BETTER TO GO THROUGH LIFE WITHOUT A CARE. CARELESS PEOPLE CARE ABOUT NOTHING AND TAKE EVERYTHING LIGHTLY. THEY DON'T BURDEN THEMSELVES WITH UNNECESSARY WORRIES. STRICT DISCIPLINE IS NOT FOR THEM AND THEY TEND TO BEHAVE IRRESPONSIBLY.



Reliable?

A careless person usually cannot be relied on. You wait for them at the agreed time and they will casually stroll up to meet you twenty minutes later. But, of course, it's no big deal, is it?



The lightness of not caring

Careless people are spared the worrying, stress and suffering of overly responsible people. It's not that they don't have any problems, they just manage to keep a healthy distance from them. They don't take their troubles so much to heart or wallow in them.

Burden of responsibility

Responsible people take everything a bit too seriously. They try to do everything on time and to the best of their ability. They never want to be late for a meeting and they try not to disappoint others. That's all well and good, but can you imagine the constant pressure of having to do everything responsibly?



RESPONSIBILITY

WE'RE HAVING A TEST AT SCHOOL TOMORROW, SO I WON'T GO OUT WITH MY FRIENDS UNTIL I KNOW IT ALL PERFECTLY. IT'S SO LOVELY OUTSIDE, BUT DUTY CALLS. A RESPONSIBLE PERSON IS SOMEONE WHO CAN BE RELIED UPON AND WHO CARRIES OUT ALL THEIR TASKS CAREFULLY AND THOROUGHLY. RESPONSIBLE PEOPLE TAKE NOTHING LIGHTLY. WHEN YOU ARRANGE TO MEET THEM, THEY ARRIVE ON TIME. THEY NEVER MISS THE TRAIN AND THEY NEVER OVERSLEEP.



WHAT ARE WE LIKE?

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Some people don't mind waiting for hours on end, they're simply patient. Others have to be doing things all the time, because they're diligent. Come rain or shine, an untidy person just won't tidy up, why is that? A funny person likes to laugh, but a killjoy doesn't understand what fun is. We're all the same, flesh and blood, but we all have a different characteristics. What kind of person are you? Are you happy to lend your toys to your friends, or do you guard them closely and never let them out of your sight? Or perhaps you just can't make up your mind. In that case, this book is for you ... it's full of human characteristics and amusing illustrations.



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