

Home Alone After School

Pre-reading

Questions:

- Are your children home alone after school? Why or why not?

Definitions:

- Alone – by oneself; not with others
- Responsible – able to be trusted; able to make good decisions
- Plan – a way that something is do be done that is thought of ahead of time
- Create – to make something new

Reading

School starts in one week. Beth is twelve years old. She is in sixth grade.

15 Beth’s mom feels that Beth is responsible enough to stay home alone. She talks to
30 Beth about their after school plans.

36 “Here is a key to our house, Beth. Take it with you to school,” says Mom.

52 “I’ve got the perfect place for it in my backpack,” says Beth. “Great!” says Mom.

67 Mom and Beth create some after school rules. The rules are: Beth will call
81 her mom at work as soon as she gets home; Beth will have no friends at their home
99 until Mom is home; and Beth will have her homework done by 6:00 p.m.

113 “Will this plan work for you, Beth?” Mom asks. “Yes,” says Beth. “I think it
128 will work great!”

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Understanding

1. When does school start? _____

2. How old is Beth? _____

3. What does Mom give Beth? _____

4. Who creates the rules? _____

5. What is one of the rules? _____

Writing

Choice A: Retell the story in your own words.

Choice B: What do you think about children being left home alone? When is it OK?
When is it not OK?
