Being a Role Model for Your Child

Pre-reading
Questions:
• Do you have a role model?
• Do parents make good role models?
Definitions:
• Imitate – to copy someone’s actions or words
• Role Model – a person you look up to, a person that you want to be like
• Curious – eager or excited to learn

Reading

Children eagerly look for someone to imitate. That "someone" is usually one or both of their parents. Parents are a child's first teacher. But more important, parents are a child’s first role model. A role model is someone who the child looks up to and wants to be like. Most parents continue to be a role model throughout the child's life. Usually children are more affected by what their parents do, than by what they say. Children learn how to behave by seeing how their mothers and fathers behave and following that example.

That's why the best way to help your children do their best at school is to demonstrate good study habits in your own life. If your children see you reading, they are more likely to read. If your children hear you thinking through problems, considering different solutions, they are more likely to think through their problems. If you meet deadlines and put in extra effort, so will your children. If you listen to others, so will your children. If you are curious, your children will be curious and enjoy learning. If you include the family in discussion, your children will learn how to express themselves.

Parents aren't perfect. We lose our tempers and we have bad habits. Sometimes we do not set the perfect example. We are human and so are our children. What is important is that we admit to our mistakes, try to do better, and try to make up for our failures. Being a good role model is one of the most important and rewarding things you can do for your children.

Adapted from Info U, University of Minnesota Extension Service
Understanding

1. If children see their parents reading, why will they be more likely to read? _________
   __________________________________________________________________________

2. Why is it important for parents to be good role models? ____________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________

3. What does the word imitate mean? ____________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________

4. What does the word **demonstrate** mean in the story? ____________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________

5. What is a role model? ____________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________

6. If a parent makes a mistake, what should they do? ____________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________

7. What does curious mean? ____________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________

Writing

**Option A:**  Do you think you are a good role model for a child? Tell why you are a good
role model.

**Option B:**  Who was your role model when you were a child? Tell why you looked up to
this person.

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