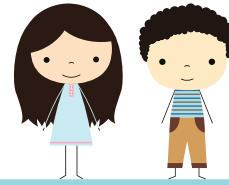


Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



# SIBLINGS

WHEN WE ARE CHILDREN, our siblings - that is, our brothers and sisters – are our first friends and first enemies. At the end of life, they are often our oldest friends and oldest enemies. The effect of sibling relationships in childhood can last a lifetime. Many experts say that the relationship among brothers and sisters explains a great deal about family life, especially today when brothers and sisters often spend more time with one another than with their parents. Studies have shown that sibling relationships between sister-sister pairs and brother-brother pairs are different. Sister pairs are the closest. Brothers are the most competitive. Sisters are usually more supportive of each other. They are more talkative, frank, and better at expressing themselves and sharing their feelings. On the other hand, brothers are usually more competitive with each other. Experts agree that the relationship among siblings is influenced by many factors. For example, studies have shown that both brothers and sisters become more competitive and aggressive when their parents treat them even a little bit differently from one another. But parental treatment is not the only factor. Genetics, gender, life events, people, and experiences outside the family all shape the lives of siblings. Recently, one researcher demonstrated another factor in sibling relationships. It was discovered that children dislike watching their siblings fight. In fact, they respond to arguments by taking sides – supporting one sibling and punishing the other.

**A: READ THE ARTICLE. THEN CHECK YOUR ANSWERS TO THE QUESTIONS.**

What is the main idea of the first paragraph?

- a. Siblings are our oldest friends in life.
- b. Some siblings have good relationships, but other siblings have bad relationships.
- c. Sibling relationships are among the most important relationships in life.

What is the main idea of the second paragraph?

- a. Sisters get along better with their sisters than with their brothers.
- b. Females and males generally have different sibling relationships.
- c. Siblings spend a lot of time together because they have to.



What is the main idea of the third paragraph?

- a. There are many causes of good and bad sibling relationships.
- b. Research has shown that siblings hate to fight.
- c. Siblings often support or punish one of their brothers or sisters in an argument.



**B HOW MANY OF THESE STATEMENTS ARE TRUE? CHECK TRUE (T) OR FALSE (F). THEN REWRITE THE FALSE STATEMENTS TO MAKE THEM TRUE.**

Sister-brother pairs are the most competitive.

T F



When parents treat each child a little differently, the children get along better.



Parental treatment is not the only factor that influences sibling relationships.

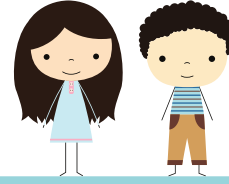


Children avoid arguments that their siblings have.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



# SIBLINGS

-Answer Key-

WHEN WE ARE CHILDREN, our siblings - that is, our brothers and sisters – are our first friends and first enemies. At the end of life, they are often our oldest friends and oldest enemies. The effect of sibling relationships in childhood can last a lifetime. Many experts say that the relationship among brothers and sisters explains a great deal about family life, especially today when brothers and sisters often spend more time with one another than with their parents.

Studies have shown that sibling relationships between sister-sister pairs and brother-brother pairs are different. Sister pairs are the closest. Brothers are the most competitive. Sisters are usually more supportive of each other. They are more talkative, frank, and better at expressing themselves and sharing their feelings. On the other hand, brothers are usually more competitive with each other.

Experts agree that the relationship among siblings is influenced by many factors. For example, studies have shown that both brothers and sisters become more competitive and aggressive when their parents treat them even a little bit differently from one another. But parental treatment is not the only factor. Genetics, gender, life events, people, and experiences outside the family all shape the lives of siblings. Recently, one researcher demonstrated another factor in sibling relationships. It was discovered that children dislike watching their siblings fight. In fact, they respond to arguments by taking sides – supporting one sibling and punishing the other.

**A: READ THE ARTICLE. THEN CHECK YOUR ANSWERS TO THE QUESTIONS.**

What is the main idea of the first paragraph?

- a. Siblings are our oldest friends in life.
- b. Some siblings have good relationships, but other siblings have bad relationships.
- c. Sibling relationships are among the most important relationships in life.

**C**

What is the main idea of the second paragraph?

- a. Sisters get along better with their sisters than with their brothers.
- b. Females and males generally have different sibling relationships.
- c. Siblings spend a lot of time together because they have to.

**B**



What is the main idea of the third paragraph?

- a. There are many causes of good and bad sibling relationships.
- b. Research has shown that siblings hate to fight.
- c. Siblings often support or punish one of their brothers or sisters in an argument.

**A**



**B HOW MANY OF THESE STATEMENTS ARE TRUE? CHECK TRUE (T) OR FALSE (F). THEN REWRITE THE FALSE STATEMENTS TO MAKE THEM TRUE.**

Sister-brother pairs are the most competitive.

	<b>T</b>	<b>F</b>	
Sister-brother pairs are the most competitive.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Brother-brother pairs are the most competitive.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
When parents treat each child a little differently, the children get along better.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
When parents treat each child a little differently, the children get more competitive and aggressive.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Parental treatment is not the only factor that influences sibling relationships.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Children avoid arguments that their siblings have.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Brother-brother pairs are the most competitive.

When parents treat each child a little differently, the children get along better.  
When parents treat each child a little differently, the children get more competitive and aggressive.

Parental treatment is not the only factor that influences sibling relationships.

Children avoid arguments that their siblings have.