

Pretty Little Pageant Princess

- A Is your sister really doing that dumb beauty pageant?
- B It's not dumb. She's really excited about it.
- A Isn't she a little young for a beauty pageant?
- B Not really. They have a Little Miss category. That's the one she's in.
- A Isn't it kind of stupid and old-fashioned, though?
- B Honestly, that's what I thought too. But you wouldn't believe how much it's helped her.
- A Helped her how? Teaching her how to walk? How to wave?
- B Since she started practicing for this pageant, she's like a whole new kid. She's super polite. Her grades have improved. She does all her homework now. It's unbelievable.
- A You're right. I don't believe it.
- B I didn't believe it either. But she even *looks* happier now.
- A All that from a pageant?
- B I think it's because they set goals.
- A Then they reach them?
- B Well ... not always. We can't win at everything.
- A But working at it is good for her self-esteem, you mean?
- B It's good for my self-esteem! Now I've got the coolest little sister in the whole world!

How Grown-Ups Don't Think

- A Tell me something.
- B No.
- A Why do people smoke?
- B Why do they smoke cigarettes?
- A Yeah, cigarettes.
- B I don't know. Maybe they like it.
- A How can they like it? It's disgusting.
- B Maybe not to them.
- A Well, it is to me. I was driving with my dad, and I started smelling cigarette smoke.
- B I didn't know your dad smokes.
- A He doesn't! It was coming from another car.
- B Another driver?
- A Yeah. This lady in another car was smoking, but she was stretching her arm all the way out the window like *this!* So she didn't have to smell it herself!
- B That's weird. Maybe the smoke bothers her. Maybe she doesn't wanna stink up her car.
- A Duh. Then maybe she shouldn't smoke.
- B Well ... maybe that's how grown-ups think.
- A No. Maybe that's how grown-ups *don't* think.