

What does it take to be a hero?

Similarity in meaning

A Match each word or phrase with a word or phrase that is similar in meaning.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <u> d </u> 1. <i>character traits</i> (par. 2) | a. <i>luck</i> (par. 6) |
| _____ 2. <i>adversity</i> (par. 3) | b. <i>accomplishments</i> (par. 8) |
| _____ 3. <i>lie</i> (par. 4) | c. <i>hardships</i> (par. 3) |
| _____ 4. <i>chance</i> (par. 6) | d. <i>aspects of personality</i> (par. 2) |
| _____ 5. <i>achievements</i> (par. 6) | e. <i>children</i> (par. 9) |
| _____ 6. <i>kids</i> (par. 9) | f. <i>deception</i> (par. 4) |

Reference words

B What do these words refer to?

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. <i>it</i> (par. 1, line 8) | <u> the next generation </u> |
| 2. <i>he</i> (par. 2, line 4) | _____ |
| 3. <i>one</i> (par. 2, line 6) | _____ |
| 4. <i>they</i> (par. 5, line 2) | _____ |
| 5. <i>his or her</i> (par. 6, line 2) | _____ |
| 6. <i>them</i> (par. 9, line 9) | _____ |

Inferencing

C Circle the personality aspect from the text that best describes each hero's action.

- After the famous tennis player lost the tennis match, he congratulated the winner.
 - Kindness, love, and generosity
 - Honesty
- Millions of people cried as they watched the princess's funeral on television.
 - Courage and strength
 - Objects of affection
- The second-place winner got first prize when the judges learned that the contest winner had cheated.
 - Kindness, love, and generosity
 - Honesty
- Every day, firefighters enter burning buildings to rescue people, even though they know they might be killed.
 - Skill, expertise, and intelligence
 - Risk-taking

CHALLENGE

D Find the noun forms of these words in the reading.

- | | | | |
|------------|---------------------|-----------|-------|
| 1. strong | <u> strength </u> | 4. great | _____ |
| 2. adverse | _____ | 5. quit | _____ |
| 3. hard | _____ | 6. modest | _____ |

Are athletes worthy heroes?

Text organization

A Complete the outline with the phrases and sentences from the box.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Do heroic things | <input type="checkbox"/> Universities take care of all their needs. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> They're paid large amounts of money. | <input type="checkbox"/> What society expects of heroes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Self-absorption | <input type="checkbox"/> Extraordinary physical skills |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Selflessness | <input type="checkbox"/> The public sees them as stars. |

I. Why the public often confuses athletes with heroes

A. Have heroic qualities

B. *Do heroic things* _____

II. Why most athletes should not be considered true heroes

A. _____

1. _____

2. Social consciousness

B. What is needed to become a star athlete

1. _____

2. _____

3. Competitive personality

III. Why some athletes learn to think they are heroes

A. _____

B. Communities see them as heroes.

C. _____

D. _____

Context clues

B Find the words in *italics* in the reading. Then complete the sentences.

<i>deserve</i> (par. 5)	<i>privileged</i> (par. 5)	<i>tremendous</i> (par. 5)
<i>misguided</i> (par. 7)	<i>threatens</i> (par. 4)	<i>witness</i> (par. 2)

1. Some athletes have *privileged* lives of wealth and comfort.

2. Did anybody _____ the crime?

3. An athlete needs to spend a _____ amount of time training.

4. True heroes try to protect others and make sure nothing _____ them.

5. That was a truly heroic act! I think you _____ a prize.

6. I think it's _____ to call George a hero. He's not very honest.

Point of view

C Check the statement that best describes the writer's opinion.

___ 1. All athletes are not real heroes.

___ 2. Many athletes are not real heroes.

___ 3. All athletes only seem to be heroes.

___ 4. Only successful athletes aren't heroes.

The hero of my life

Details

A Complete the chart with the phrases from the box.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ask questions | <input type="checkbox"/> often sigh |
| <input type="checkbox"/> behave politely | <input type="checkbox"/> share his food |
| <input type="checkbox"/> show pity | <input type="checkbox"/> give advice |
| <input type="checkbox"/> talk about himself | <input type="checkbox"/> look directly at the writer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> maintain his daily routine | <input type="checkbox"/> understand the writer |

Things Elroy did	Things Elroy didn't do
	<i>ask questions</i>

Context clues

B Find the words or phrases in *italics* in the reading. Circle the meaning of each word.

- If you do something in *gratitude*, you do it because you are **sorry** / **thankful** / **sad**. (par. 1)
- If something is *overdue*, it is **late** / **early** / **on time**. (par. 1)
- If you feel *awkwardness*, you feel **comfortable** / **uncomfortable** / **worried**. (par. 6)
- If you've *sheltered* someone, you've **listened carefully to** / **given a temporary home to** / **played games with** him or her. (par. 6)
- If you are *preoccupied* with something, you are **worried** / **curious** / **not thinking** about it. (par. 6)
- If someone *pried* into something, he or she **looked for private information** / **lied** / **was very understanding** about it. (par. 7)

Details

C Mark the statements true (T), false (F), or does not give the information (?).

- F 1. After six days, the writer thanked Elroy Berdahl.
2. Elroy was polishing a razor blade when he opened the door to the writer.
3. The writer was in trouble because he had run away from home.
4. Elroy and the writer took long walks in the woods.
5. Elroy was quiet most of the time when the writer stayed with him.
6. Elroy was polite to everyone.

CHALLENGE

D Correct the false statements in Exercise C.