

# Would You Let Your Teen Become a Reality Show?

based on a blog by Sherry Davey

- 1 Recently, I had a producer from a well-known, daily, nationally syndicated talk show contact me about doing an episode on teenagers with bad manners based on my blog (on the very same topic). My daughter and her friends were the driving force behind the blog and the producers wanted me to basically hand over my daughter for the episode. I turned them down immediately for many reasons – the main one being that I don't want her experiencing that 15 minutes of fame based on her bad behavior, nor do I want her being exposed in the mass media because of it.
- 2 However, their request did give me pause. Firstly, I was thrilled that a producer from a well-known television show is reading my blog. The sad realization is that my malcontent daughter and her misadventures are striking a chord with readers and TV producers looking for content! The show's segment was going to be shot reality-style and then a therapist was going to be called in to give us both feedback on my daughter's lack of manners. I guess the episode was going to be on etiquette or the lack thereof in teens today.
- 3 I'm all for the 'collective learning' experience in our global society, but not at the expense of children, nor at mine. How shameful would it be for me to be the mother-of-the-worst-behaved-teen-in-America?? Believe me, it was a huge compliment to receive an email of interest from a network show but the reality is, it wouldn't do my daughter much good to be on a reality show. Most reality shows aren't about learning at all.
- 4 Consider *The Real Housewives of New York* or *New Jersey* and you'll see, the episodes are chock full of badly behaved adults and deliciously embarrassing experiences. They're fun to watch but would you want your child to be the focus of one? I don't think so. Would you want your daughter to be ridiculed by the *Millionaire Matchmaker*? Would you want your son to be rejected on *Top Chef*?
- 5 Needless to say, I didn't mention to my teenager that a national TV show was interested in having her on as a guest because, despite their reasons, she probably would have 26. Many years from now this would have built a lovely summer home for her therapist.
- 6 This whole experience has brought reality shows into sharper focus for me. The reality is that everyone on these shows is a member of someone's family, someone's son or daughter, father or mother. I don't mean to all of a sudden be so preachy but I find myself searching for the deeper meaning of it all now when it comes to these shows. When will we tire as a society of watching people at

their worst? When will embarrassing experiences become private again? Are reality shows the modern equivalent of the Roman Colliseum? Give me an original series with real actors any day.

*momtourage.com, 2012*

## Tekst 8 Would you let your teen become a reality show?

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“I turned them down immediately” (paragraph 1)

- 1p 23 Why did Sherry Davey do this?
- A She did not want her daughter to star on TV for the wrong reasons.
  - B She disliked the idea of her daughter becoming famous.
  - C She feared her daughter would act inappropriately on the show.
  - D She thought people would accuse her of spoiling her daughter.
  - E She was afraid the TV show would create bad publicity for her blog.
- 1p 24 Which of the following statement(s) is/are in line with paragraph 2?
- 1 Sherry Davey distrusts advice given by psycho-therapists who star in TV reality shows.
  - 2 Sherry Davey felt flattered because a TV-hotshot was interested in her writing.
- A only 1
  - B only 2
  - C both 1 and 2
  - D neither 1 nor 2
- 1p 25 How does paragraph 4 relate to paragraph 3?
- A Paragraph 4 illustrates the point made in paragraph 3.
  - B Paragraph 4 modifies the point made in paragraph 3.
  - C Paragraph 4 questions the point made in paragraph 3.
  - D Paragraph 4 undermines the point made in paragraph 3.
- 1p 26 Which of the following fits the gap in paragraph 5?
- A been furious
  - B done great
  - C felt silly
  - D run away
  - E said yes
- 1p 27 What do the questions in the second half of paragraph 6 make clear?
- A Sherry Davey admits she likes watching people fight in talk shows.
  - B Sherry Davey believes reality shows employ second-rate artists.
  - C Sherry Davey feels sorry for the relatives of famous actors.
  - D Sherry Davey thinks reality shows are cheap and humiliating.
- 1p 28 Welke zin in alinea 4, 5 of 6 is spottend van toon?  
Citeer de eerste twee woorden van deze zin.

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