

## Eliza

“Life is so unfair!” thought Eliza to herself as she tidied her room in a huff. She flung her clothes off the floor and onto the bed muttering under her breath all the while. All this because her mother asked her to tidy her bedroom on a fine Saturday morning. Eliza was upset because she had been working hard all throughout the week, but her mother was still always forcing her to do something she didn’t like – school, homework, chores, etc. Oddly, the list ended there and Eliza couldn’t think of anything else she was upset about.

“It doesn’t matter,” she sneered, “I’m just too tired to think of anything else.”

She couldn’t understand why it was important to keep her room tidy. After all, it was her space and she should be able to keep it messy if she wanted. She grabbed the vacuum cleaner and guided it half-heartedly across the room. As she reached the window, she noticed her friend Chelsea riding her bicycle on the street below. She called out to her friend, who looked up and motioned her to join her. Eliza was a little hesitant as the room was far from clean and tidy. She tiptoed to the top of the stairs and listened intently. When she realised that her parents were in the kitchen, she descended the stairs as quietly as a mouse and sneaked out the front door.

She ran up to Chelsea and ranted and raved about how terrible her morning had been. Chelsea listened patiently and sympathised with her friend, explaining to her how her parents allowed her free rein at her house. She said that she never had to clean her room, that she watched television whenever she liked, and that she felt like a princess all the time. She was telling Eliza about how she was allowed to eat whatever she wanted and play whenever she liked to.

Eliza was fuming as she listened to her friend. Her list of grievances against her parents started to grow longer and longer. Red-faced and angry, she decided to pick up her bicycle and follow Chelsea to her house. She no longer felt guilty about leaving her room in a messy state. She rode her bicycle beside Chelsea. The cool wind hitting Eliza’s face was most welcome after the stressful morning she had had. She glanced back briefly and was confident that no one had seen her leaving the house. As relieved as she was, she was also irritated that thinking that no one cared about her enough to notice that she was gone.

***(The actual passage is 1 ½ pages long, the actual passage word count is 433 words)***

- 9) How old is Eliza?  
a) Eleven  
b) Twelve  
c) Thirteen  
d) Fourteen  
e) The passage doesn't say
- 10) What was Chelsea's explanation for James' behaviour?  
a) All brothers are annoying.  
b) Teenagers can be difficult.  
c) Eliza doesn't spend enough time with James.  
d) He doesn't like doing chores.  
e) He doesn't like doing homework and chores.
- 11) Which of the following about Chelsea did Eliza admire?  
a) The amount of sweets she could have.  
b) Her family  
c) Her self-assurance  
d) Her doll collection  
e) Her untidiness
- 12) Which of the following is an accurate description of Chelsea's garden?  
a) It was neat and tidy.  
b) It was pristine.  
c) It was dark and gloomy.  
d) It was unkempt.  
e) It was landscaped.
- 13) Which of the following was Eliza not daydreaming about, regarding being a part of Chelsea's family?  
a) Lots of homework  
b) Lack of household tasks  
c) Sweet treats  
d) Pink dresses  
e) Crowns
- 14) Which of the following did Eliza eat or drink in Chelsea's kitchen?  
a) Red velvet cake  
b) Hot chocolate  
c) Chocolate fudge cake  
d) Vanilla cake  
e) Chocolate brownies
- 15) What startled Chelsea in her kitchen?  
a) A large rat  
b) Unclean state of the sink  
c) Dirty plates  
d) A squeak  
e) None of the above
- 16) How did Eliza react to what she discovered in her friend's kitchen?  
a) She ran outside.  
b) She squeaked.  
c) She dropped her plate.  
d) She laughed.  
e) She reassured her friend that it was safe to stay in the kitchen.
- 17) Why didn't Eliza stay and play with Chelsea?  
a) She didn't like Chelsea's doll.  
b) There was a rat in the bedroom.  
c) The house looked completely different from how she had imagined.  
d) The bedroom was very untidy.  
e) Her mother had summoned her home.
- 18) What did Eliza see as she neared her house?  
a) Her family hugging each other and crying.  
b) A small search party.  
c) Her family going about their own business.  
d) Her family waiting outside for her.  
e) Chelsea on her bicycle.

19) Which of the following emotions was Eliza feeling when she reunited with her family?

- a) Relief and a sense of happiness
- b) Sadness and jealousy
- c) Discontent and horrified
- d) Regret and contempt
- e) Guilt and contempt

20) Which of the following statements is true?

- a) Eliza didn't learn a valuable lesson that day.
- b) Chelsea's parents were strict and severe.
- c) Chelsea's home was all that Eliza hoped it would be.
- d) Chelsea's parents allowed her to do anything she wants.
- e) Eliza promised her family that she will be a better daughter and sister.

9	A	Her brother James was two years older and the most annoying thirteen-year-old Eliza had ever met.
10	B	Chelsea explained to her that big brothers can be like that; she had overheard her parents speaking about how difficult teenagers can be.
11	C	Eliza looked at Chelsea in admiration. She wished she could be as confident and free-spirited as Chelsea.
12	D	The garden looked slightly dishevelled
13	A	Her imagination started running wild – no homework, no chores, lots of cake and biscuits, pink dresses and tiaras.
14	C	She helped herself to a slice of chocolate fudge cake
15	E	Chelsea looked at her and laughed, reassuring her friend that rats are friendly.
16	C	She got up to investigate and noticed a large rat sitting comfortably on some dirty plates. Startled, Eliza gave a shriek as her plate flew out of her hands.
17	B	Eliza started to move but set foot on something squishy that moved under her foot with a loud squeal.  “No!” exclaimed the terrified little girl, as she realised that it was another rat.

18	D	As she approached her home, she saw her mother and father – and even James – on the street looking worried.
19	A	Eliza noticed that they had been crying and she was crying too. She didn't know what to say at that moment except "Sorry." The family stood there hugging each other, each one relieved to be together.
20	D	She was telling Eliza about how she was allowed to eat whatever she wanted and play whenever she liked to.

AtoZ Sample