



Panel debate

Should young people be encouraged to read material which will have a good influence on them?

Team A: Your character is a mother who is very concerned about the violent games and films her children are playing and watching. She has decided to ban these from the house as she feels it is having a bad effect on their behaviour. She has bought a number of books, especially ones about friendship and taking care of others. The family read these together each night.

Team B: Your character is a very religious person. He runs a school at the weekend to teach children about his religion. He believes it is very important to read religious books. He feels it helps children to think about their choices and to understand their religion. He checks the books his own children read and sometimes takes away books he feels are unsuitable.

Team C: Your character wants his children to do their best at school. When he was young he had to leave school early to earn money to help his family. He did not get the chance to read or enjoy learning. He makes sure his children always have new books and magazines and reads with them every evening for two hours. He lets them read anything, even if it is for adults.

Team D: Your character is a very energetic person. He is still at school. He loves sport, being outdoors and working as a team. He finds it difficult to sit down for long periods of time and so he doesn't often read books. He likes to read newspapers or information about sport on the internet, but long stories just make him feel bored.

Team E: Your character was forced to read books by her teachers and by her parents. She found them very boring and stopped completely when she was a teenager. She prefers to read magazines and to watch TV, and just doesn't think reading books is important. She didn't really enjoy school much and found most subjects quite hard.

Team F: Your character is a very imaginative person who loves to read and write all sorts of stories. She lives quite a long way from her school and friends, so she gets lots of time to herself when she's travelling on the bus. She always has a book to read so she doesn't get bored. She also enjoys making up stories about the characters.