

Divorce Hurts

Revised selection – original text entitled *One of My Struggles in Life*
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Pre-reading

Questions:

- What do you know about divorce?

Definitions:

- Separate – to decide to live apart while still being legally married
- Divorce – the ending of a marriage by a court or law
- Spurt – a strong feeling or action that lasts a short time

Reading

My parents got divorced seven years ago. They separated when I was ten
13 years old. They got a divorce six days after Christmas. It has been hard on us kids.
30 Sometimes it still bothers me.

35 My brother is the one who took things the hardest. Over the years, he's
49 become very angry and has a hard time in relationships. But, he's still a good kid.
65 My younger sister goes through spurts of good and bad. One day she gets all A's in
82 school, the next day she's failing. She also **struggles** with relationships.

93 Initially, I became very depressed and ran from life. However, now life is
106 better. My life is good, and I have many things for which to be thankful. One is my
124 two-year-old daughter. Another is my boyfriend of over two years.

136 I have learned many things from my parents. One is to not fight in front of
152 your kids. It can hurt them emotionally. Another is to know for sure that the person
168 you marry is the right one. When I get married, I need to know he is the one for me.
188 We will **commit** to be together for the rest of our lives. I don't want to put my
206 daughter through what my parents put our family through!

215 I'm trying to make good choices and get my life on the right track. I am going
232 to college this fall. When I turn 18, I am moving away from the chaos of home.
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Understanding

1. What did the author learn from her parents? _____

2. How are her brother and younger sister's lives similar? _____

3. When her parents decided to divorce, how did the author feel? _____

4. What does the word **commit** mean in this story? _____

5. How old do you think the author is? _____

6. What does the word **struggle** mean in this story? _____

Writing

Choice A: Summarize the story in your own words.

Choice B: Write about an experience you've had with divorce, or about someone you know who's experienced divorce in their life.
