



Stephen Hawking's Father: Genius Son Was a Lethargic Child

Description

Stephen Hawking, renowned physicist, was once described as a “lazy kid” by his father, Frank Hawking, in a new biography. Frank expressed concern about Stephen's lack of motivation and studies in his diaries, written in 1961. He noted that Stephen spent a lot of time at home with little initiative and did not put much effort into his studies.

In these diaries, Frank mentioned that Stephen's mother, Isobel, believed he suffered from an inferiority complex and had lost faith in physics, favouring the arts instead. This was troubling for Frank, as he saw great potential in his son.

At the age of 21, Hawking received a devastating diagnosis of Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), a motor neuron disease. Doctors estimated he had only two years to live. However, Hawking defied these expectations, ultimately becoming one of the leading astrophysicists in the world. He passed away in 2018 at the age of 76.

Hawking is perhaps best known for his book, “A Brief History of Time,” published in 1988, which sold over 25 million copies globally. His groundbreaking research on black holes marked a significant contribution to the field of physics.

In the final words of his book, Hawking encouraged readers to remain curious, look up at the stars, and embrace life's challenges. He reminded us that persistence is vital, even when situations seem insurmountable. The biography underscores the extraordinary journey from a seemingly unmotivated youth to a legendary figure in science. The new book, “Stephen Hawking: His Life and Work,” is set to provide further insights into his remarkable life.

Vocabulary List:

1. **biography** //baɪˈɑːɡrəfi// (noun): a book about a person's life
2. **diagnosis** //ˌdaɪəɡˈnoʊsɪs// (noun): what a doctor says about an illness
3. **defied** //dɪˈfaɪd// (verb): refused to follow what people expected
4. **astrophysicists** //ˌæstrəʊˈfɪzɪsɪsts// (noun): scientists who study stars, space, and physics
5. **groundbreaking** //ˈɡraʊndˌbreɪkɪŋ// (adjective): new and very important; changes old ideas
6. **persistence** //pəˈsɪstəns// (noun): continuing to try despite problems or difficulties

Comprehension Questions



Multiple Choice

1. What was Stephen Hawking's father's name?
Option: Frank Hawking
Option: John Hawking
Option: Michael Hawking
Option: David Hawking
2. At what age was Hawking diagnosed with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS)?
Option: 15
Option: 18
Option: 21
Option: 25
3. What is the title of Stephen Hawking's best-known book?
Option: The Elegant Universe
Option: A Brief History of Time
Option: The Grand Design
Option: Black Holes and Time Warps
4. How many copies of 'A Brief History of Time' were sold globally?
Option: 10 million
Option: 15 million
Option: 25 million
Option: 30 million
5. In which year was 'A Brief History of Time' published?
Option: 1986
Option: 1988
Option: 1990
Option: 1992
6. What significant contribution did Hawking make to the field of physics?
Option: Quantum mechanics
Option: Black holes
Option: Relativity
Option: Astrophysics



True-False

7. Stephen Hawking's mother believed he had lost faith in physics.
8. Hawking passed away at the age of 80.
9. Frank Hawking expressed great confidence in his son's academic future.
10. Hawking's diagnosis of ALS was initially thought to give him only two years to live.
11. The biography titled 'Stephen Hawking: His Life and Work' is about his achievements.
12. Hawking's early life was marked by extraordinary initiative and hard work.

Gap-Fill

13. Stephen Hawking was considered a 'lazy kid' by his _____.
14. Frank Hawking wrote his diaries in the year _____.
15. Hawking's disease, ALS, is a type of _____ neuron disease.
16. Hawking encouraged readers to look up at the _____.
17. Hawking passed away in the year _____.
18. The publication of 'A Brief History of Time' was in _____.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Frank Hawking 2. 21 3. A Brief History of Time 4. 25 million 5. 1988 6. Black holes

True-False: 7. True 8. False 9. False 10. True 11. True 12. False

Gap-Fill: 13. father 14. 1961 15. motor 16. stars 17. 2018 18. 1988

CATEGORY

1. Sci/Tech - LEVEL5

POST TAG

1. biography



2. C1
3. esl news
4. lazy kid
5. Level 5
6. Stephen Hawking

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