



There appears to be an unusual dynamic between my grandson and his closest companion.

Description

Slate Plus members, we offer you additional Care and Feeding content every week. If you're struggling with a problem related to children, parenting, or family life, feel free to submit your queries here.

A concerned grandmother writes in about her grandson Jack with a worry he's too reliant on his best friend, Elizabeth. Jack and Elizabeth, two similar twelve-year-olds described as "old souls" who prefer Agatha Christie novels over surfing on TikTok, are inseparable. They are involved in everything together to the point their independence seems at stake. When Jack wanted to take art classes, his lack of enthusiasm without Elizabeth's company resulted in his retreat from the plan. His need for Elizabeth's presence even amplifies his already existing shyness in the school environment, with her absence during surgery negatively affecting his participation.

As far as informed, the dependency seems shared. Jack has depended on Elizabeth during significant moments of pain and hardship in his life, such as the loss of his father. Presenting this concern to Jack's mother would likely yield dismissal related to Jack's shyness and sensitive nature, but the grandmother worries if it's more than that - a deterioration of his mental health.

To worried grandmothers out there, if you find yourself a comforting counsel for your grandchildren, a pillar they can lean on, then you are already helping. Without rushing to judgments, acknowledge the trauma Jack must be dealing with from his father's death. Your role is crucial; continue being there for him, tend to his feelings, and assure him of your love.

It might be beneficial for Jack to seek counseling or additional support related to grieving. You may introduce this idea to your daughter if it seems like an area that hasn't been adequately addressed yet. When talking about the observed co-dependency, don't overload this discussion with judgments about their friendship or shyness, as she might dismiss these. Start by asking your daughter what she has observed - has he shared anything with her, in what ways does she think he's struggling and how can you both meet these problems together.

Don't let it dishearten you if you can't change your daughter's parenting style or facilitate how Jack's school day progresses. You can't manipulate how he copes or recovers in healthy ways, but your consistent love and support can mean more than you believe, especially if he's battling difficulties right now.

For more advice, tune in to Slate and help us provide solutions to various other dilemmas - A 12-year-old extrovert son who loves participating in extracurricular activities and has an introverted mother struggling to keep up with being a "soccer mom," "stage mom," and "dance mom," and she wonders how she can support him.

Keep your stories coming! Let's decode and deal with parenting trials together here at Slate Plus.



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Vocabulary List:

1. **Dependency** // (noun): Reliance on or trust in someone or something.
2. **Inseparable** // (adjective): Unable to be separated.
3. **Amplifies** // (verb): Increases in intensity.
4. **Dismissal** // (noun): The act of rejecting or ignoring something or someone.
5. **Deterioration** // (noun): The process of becoming progressively worse.
6. **Counsel** // (noun): Advice or guidance especially as given by a professional.

Vocabulary quizzes

Multiple Choice (Select the Correct answer for each question.)

1. What word describes something that is attractive or tempting?

Option: Encircling

Option: Enticing



Option: Deterioration

Option: Contentious

2. Which word means deserving praise or admiration?

Option: Seminal

Option: Commendable

Option: Dismissal

Option: Fervently

3. What term refers to a state of relying on someone or something else?

Option: Dependence

Option: Behemoth

Option: Exceedingly

Option: Dependency

4. Which word best describes something fascinating or interesting?

Option: Feasibility

Option: Intriguing

Option: Amalgamation

Option: Geoengineering

5. What term describes something that speeds up a process or activity?

Option: Respite

Option: Accelerator

Option: Skeptical

Option: Protostar

6. Which word means likely to cause arguments or controversies?

Option: Contentious

Option: Fervently

Option: Amplifies

Option: Constituents

7. Which term refers to the likelihood of something being successful or effective?

Option: Lucrative

Option: Sublimation

Option: Feasibility

Option: Protostar

8. What word means a short period of rest or relief?

Option: Counsel

Option: Respite

Option: Commendable



Option: Amalgamation

9. Which term means the process of becoming progressively worse?

Option: Behemoth

Option: Deterioration

Option: Dismissal

Option: Counsel

10. What word describes the action of combining or uniting to form a whole?

Option: Amalgamation

Option: Amplifies

Option: Skeptical

Option: Constituents

Gap-Fill (Fill in the blanks with the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

11. Investing in real estate can be very _____ if done wisely.

12. She quickly became a _____ figure in the field of medicine.

13. Beauty is in the eyes of the _____.

14. Twins are often said to be _____ since they are always together.

15. The company's code of _____ serves as a guide for employee behavior.

16. She _____ believed in the cause and dedicated all her time to it.

17. After the incident he faced immediate _____ from his position.

18. Despite the challenges she always _____ with a positive attitude.

19. The new shopping mall is a _____ of modern architecture.

20. The child had a strong _____ on his parents for support.

Matching Sentences (Match each definition to the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

21. The use of social media the spread of information.

22. The elected official listened to the concerns of his before making a decision.



23. The moat was dug the castle to protect it from invaders.
24. The of dry ice is the process of changing from a solid to a gas without becoming a liquid.
25. Her plan to climb the highest mountain impressed even the most seasoned climbers.
26. The concept of aims to manipulate the Earth's climate to counteract the effects of global warming.
27. A is a contracting mass of gas that represents an early stage in the formation of a star.
28. She was with the idea of traveling to far-off lands and experiencing new cultures.
29. The software update provided an to the user interface making it more user-friendly.
30. From its as a small startup the company has grown into a global corporation.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Enticing 2. Commendable 3. Dependency 4. Intriguing 5. Accelerator 6. Contentious
7. Feasibility 8. Respite 9. Deterioration 10. Amalgamation

Gap-Fill: 11. lucrative 12. prominent 13. beholder 14. inseparable 15. ethics 16. fervently 17. dismissal
18. contended 19. behemoth 20. dependency

Matching sentence: 1. amplifies 2. constituents 3. encircling 4. sublimation 5. audacious 6. geoengineering
7. protostar 8. enamored 9. enhancement 10. inception

CATEGORY

1. Sci/Tech - LEVEL5

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