

Taylor Akins - 3rd Place

Congressional District Six

Teacher: Mrs. Christy Dooley

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“The Best Marriage I Know”

The best marriage I know of is that of my parents'. It would be simple to state a few good moments they've had together and how that makes a deep bond between them; however, I have a different view on the components of a good marriage. A healthy marriage must be composed of three key features: responsibility, how well they get along and surprisingly, all the “bad” moments they've had. In my opinion, my parents possess all three of these traits.

To me, it is necessary for a couple to go through hard times in their relationship. I think it is the most important experience for them. The moment where they argue with each other or disagree on something is crucial because they are able to get over it. I'm not saying my parents quarrel indefinitely, but they've had their share of lost tempers, just like any other married couple. I'm not willing to reveal any family mishaps, but almost every couple has argued over something. It won't be very hard to find an example. Each time they go through something like that, it strengthens their relationship. This is easily the most critical point for a healthy marriage.

Obviously, a married couple has to have compatible personalities for their relationship to survive. Most men achieve this by agreeing with the women wherever possible and always allowing her to speak. My dad tends to agree with my mom on most subjects (especially when involving my grades or chores). Other than that, I'm proud to say he speaks his mind and isn't afraid to disagree. I'm actually surprised they get along so well. My father's a computer whiz, while my mother is a dance teacher. I suppose there's something they mutually have in common, but I have yet to discover it. I think they are the most perfect example of this category. They joke around, go out for dinner every once in a while,

and generally just talk to each other about random stuff. A married couple either is compatible, or isn't. There's really no in-between.

Responsibility is important for a married couple in many different ways. My dad usually keeps track of our finances, and my mom makes sure my sister and I have done our homework and go to bed at a decent time. They've done a great job at splitting the work around the house. My dad does a share, my mom does a share, and it usually feels like I have to do all the rest. When recital time for my mom's dance studio pops up on the calendar, they both begin to prepare for it. I've always seen my dad help out a lot, and it seems like he's never even asked to assist. This is something that a married couple must work out. Splitting the tasks that keep your lifestyle together is so helpful. It's probably one of the reasons people get married.

There are just so many different things that could go wrong in a relationship. Still, it is an amazing thing, and I'm happy it's gone so well for my parents. In my opinion, they are the perfect example of what a marriage should be like. There's always got to be give-and-take between marriages. If there is such a thing as a "perfect" marriage, my parents have it.