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The Best Marriage I Know

As an eighth grader, I haven't thought much about marriage. Frankly, I am clueless about what it takes to make a great marriage. I must admit, though, that I do reap the benefits of a great marriage, my parents' marriage. I feel loved and secure in the knowledge that my parents won't separate or divorce because they work hard on their marriage. My parents have a great marriage built on friendship, keeping the romance alive, and respect.

I would think that a solid marriage is built on a foundation of friendship. My parents met on a study abroad program in Israel. They weren't allowed to date on the program, so they had plenty of time and opportunities to get to know each other in classes, on field trips, and studying together in the library. They had time to talk and get to know each other's likes and dislikes, goals, future plans, and dreams. When the romance started to blossom, they had a solid foundation of friendship to build on. They are still each other's best friend. If my dad has a choice, he chooses to spend time with my mom. My mom chooses to spend her time with my dad.

They like to spend time together because they have kept the spark of romance alive in their marriage. Their most famous tradition is their Friday night date night. Every Friday night, they leave my seven siblings and me home with pizza and a DVD while they go out on a date. My siblings and I benefit from this tradition because when they return, there is always a new sparkle in my mom's eye and she has renewed energy to deal with us kids. Even after twenty-two years of marriage, Dad still opens the car door for Mom every time she gets in and out of the car. Every Friday afternoon Mom takes time to fix up for Dad. They leave the house and return holding hands and giggling like they are still in high school, Dad

will often give Mom a big kiss and we remind them to “get a cave!” There is definitely plenty of romance in their marriage. The main characteristic that strengthens my parents’ marriage is respect. My mom shows respect for my dad by supporting him at this job; by making home a comfortable and inviting place for him, and listening to his opinions. My dad shows respect for my mom by quickly doing small repairs around the house, by pitching in and helping with the chores, and by teaching my six brothers and me how to love and respect my mom.

My parents truly have a great marriage. Even when they have disagreements, they work together to find solutions, to forgive each other, and to not hold grudges. My siblings and I benefit from the peace in our home as my parents build a strong marriage which results in a happy and loving family without problems, but with the ability to solve them. My parents are each other’s best friend, they work hard to keep the spark of romance in their marriage alive, and they respect each other in their individual roles as they raise a large family of eight children.