

Call No. : F GEP

**As if being 12 3/4 isn't bad enough,
my mother is running for president!**

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As a teenager, we want to be alone without mum's nagging words. We will feel excited when parents concentrate working day and night. However, the main character of the book, Vanessa, really needs concern of her mum. She hopes that mum can be free to stay at home with her.

Vanessa Rothrock is 12 3/4 year-old now! She hasn't got her period. However, she thinks the worst thing is that her mum is running for president. She doesn't support mum to run the race. In her normal life, mum is busy preparing for the election. She thinks she is neglected! She is afraid that she will be totally unimportant when mum is the president of America. Besides, she feels worried about mum's safety after being threatened by some unknown letters. Her mum still thinks running for president is a wise decision. Anyway, something happened before the election which reminded mum to pay more attention to her daughter.

In the beginning of the story, Vanessa becomes the school spelling bee. It is disappointing that her mum doesn't come to watch the competition. When she comes back home, mum is not there. Actually, she has much to talk with mum but she never has the chance. I sympathize with her situation. She lacks mum's care and love. As a governor's daughter, she is under high pressure. She needs someone to share with. Although she has Emma to be her listener, mum is always the most suitable person to share with. As a teenager, she comes across many confusing problems. She needs courage and support at this age for whom family is a good shelter to get protection and comfort.

Her mum is so busy that she is often out to work all day long. If Vanessa goes to mum's office, she is told to make an appointment. It is hard for her to meet mum. I think it is not reasonable! Have you ever heard of a daughter having difficulty to meet her own mum? I think her mum is a bit selfish that she treats her work even more importantly than her daughter. Sometimes, working is even a good excuse to refuse meeting her daughter. It is ridiculous! If I were Vanessa, I would feel angry about mum. I would have lots of queries which were waiting for her response. Did she give birth to me? Why didn't she stay with me when I was in need? Why did she leave me alone? How could I have influence on her decision about running for president? Could she drop the race now! ... In fact, her mum is caring too. She will leave some warm-hearted words on the breakfast table for Vanessa. She will not work at home and enjoy the wonderful time with her daughter. For Vanessa, it is not caring enough, though!

From this story I could find out some common problems in a family. Some parents neglect their children's life. They are working all the time! Parents only satisfy children by buying things they want and lack caring. Members in the family do not have enough communication between each other. This condition may produce many teens' problems which are hard to deal with and lead to misunderstandings. Also, many broken families may be resulted while parents only care about how much they earn and do not maintain a good relationship with the whole family. Parents focus on fulfilling their dreams and forget the family's needs, just like Vanessa's mum! Vanessa's mum has a great hope of being a well-loved president which concern about the serious topics such as protecting the environment, helping the poor, and maintaining world peace. I am thinking about even when she could become a successful president, if she had to sacrifice her family, is it still worth it?

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