

Teamwork Makes the Dream Work

When you think of a problem solver, do you think of one person or many? It might seem like great discoveries are made alone, but most solutions are found by working as a team. Have you ever heard the expression “teamwork makes the dream work”? It’s true in sports, science, art, and life.

Maybe you’ve heard of Sir Edmund Hilary, the first person to climb Mount Everest. He couldn’t have made the difficult trek without the help of a Nepali-Indian Sherpa Mountaineer, Tenzing Norgay. They worked together to solve the problems they encountered during the climb. They combined their skills and knowledge to reach the top.

What about Steve Jobs? He created Apple computers. But he couldn’t have done it without his friend and business partner, Steve Wozniak. And they couldn’t have done it together without the computer pioneers who came before them. Advances in science and technology are built on previous discoveries.

Problem solving teams occur in fiction too. Sherlock Holmes was a famous detective in mystery stories. But he couldn’t have solved all those mysteries without the help of his friend Dr. Watson. And what about Batman and Robin? Or the Avengers? Having lots of different talents in a team makes it stronger.



Everyone knows that a basketball team has to work together to win. But what about a tennis player? Even though they are playing alone on the court, the tennis player is surrounded by a team, too. Their coach, trainer, practice partners, and fans, all helped them get ahead.

So, the next time you have to choose a teammate in P.E. or work as a group in English class, remember that problems are best solved together!



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NAME: _____ DATE: _____

1. Which of the following teams was NOT mentioned in this passage?
 - a. Jobs and Wozniak
 - b. Hilary and Norgay
 - c. The Avengers
 - d. Watson and Crick

2. According to the passage, how do most advances in science and technology happen?
 - a. They are built on previous discoveries
 - b. They are found by geniuses working alone
 - c. They are created through hard work
 - d. They take time to develop

3. Why do you think teams are good at solving problems?
 - a. Because team members don't argue
 - b. Because team members have different strengths
 - c. Because team members always agree
 - d. Because team members work harder than individuals

4. What does "teamwork makes the dream work" mean?
 - a. Teams have bigger dreams than individuals
 - b. Teams work best while they are sleeping
 - c. Working as a team helps you realize your dreams
 - d. Working as a team slows you down

Instructions for teachers:

These questions can be used to assess understanding of the reading passage.

The item in bold is the correct answer for each question.

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