

Name: _____

New Year's Resolution

By Kelly Hashway



Erica scribbled her third New Year's resolution down on her homework sheet and smiled. "Done!"

"Really? That was quick," her mother said.
"Can I hear what your resolution is?"

"I have three," Erica said. She held the paper up and read, "Do my homework right after school, don't wait until the last minute to finish my chores, and get an A in math."

"Wow," her mom said, sounding a little concerned.

"What?" Erica thought she'd done a great job coming up with resolutions. Why wasn't her mom happy?

"You know the point of a resolution is to change something in your life for the better and to stick with it. Can you honestly see yourself sticking to these things?"

Erica looked over the list again. "Maybe," she said with a shrug.

Her mom raised an eyebrow at her.

"Well, maybe not all of them," Erica said. "I can try my best in math but that doesn't mean I'll get an A."

"Then maybe you should find a resolution that is achievable and something you can benefit from."

"Like what?"

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“You’ll come up with something,” her mom said, as she started to fix dinner.

Erica sat at the table, staring at her list of resolutions. She really wanted to try to make these things happen. It would be nice to have more time in the evenings, so doing her homework after school and not leaving her chores until right before bedtime made sense. And if she planned some study time in each night, she might be able to get an A in math or at least a B+.

“How could I plan my time better to make these things happen?” Erica thought aloud.

Plan! That was the answer.

“Mom!” Erica jumped up from the table.

“What is it?” her mother asked.

“I’ve got it. In order to do all these things, I need to stick to a schedule. So my New Year’s resolution should be to schedule my time after school so I can do my homework, get my chores done, study for math, and still have time to relax.”

Her mother smiled. “I think coming up with a schedule and sticking to it is a great resolution.”

“Me too,” Erica said, and she sat back down to start planning her schedule for the New Year.



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1. Why was Erica writing New Year's Resolutions?
 - a. She likes to write them every year.
 - b. All of her friends are writing resolutions.
 - c. She wanted to surprise her mother.
 - d. It was a homework assignment.
2. Which sentence about Erica is probably true?
 - a. She likes to keep secrets.
 - b. She doesn't usually do her homework.
 - c. Math is a tough subject for her.
 - d. She enjoys doing chores at home.

3. Complete the graphic organizer.

Erica's New Year's Resolutions

When She First Wrote Them

- a. _____

- b. _____

- c. _____

Revised Resolution

4. Erica's mother said New Year's resolutions should be achievable.
What does the word *achievable* mean?
 - a. requiring a lot of thought
 - b. requires luck
 - c. reasonable and possible to do
 - d. nearly impossible

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New Year's Resolution



Match each vocabulary word from the article with the correct definition.

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| 1. _____ resolution | a. worried |
| 2. _____ concerned | b. household jobs |
| 3. _____ happy | c. a decision to do or not do something |
| 4. _____ achievable | d. to do something enjoyable |
| 5. _____ chores | e. a choice that is reasonable and possible |
| 6. _____ schedule | f. to spend time learning |
| 7. _____ relax | g. pleased |
| 8. _____ study | h. a list of times when things have to be done |

ANSWER KEY

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- Why was Erica writing New Year's Resolutions?
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- Complete the graphic organizer.

Erica's New Year's Resolutions

When She First Wrote Them

- Do my homework right**
_____ **after school.** _____
- Don't wait until the last minute**
_____ **to finish my chores.** _____
- Get an A in math.**

Revised Resolution

- Schedule my time after school**
_____ **so I can do my homework,**
_____ **get my chores done, study for math,**
_____ **and still have time to relax.**

- Erica's mother said New Year's resolutions should be achievable. What does the word *achievable* mean?
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ANSWER KEY

New Year's Resolution



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1. c resolution
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- a. worried
 - b. household jobs
 - c. a decision to do or not do something
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 - e. a choice that is reasonable and possible
 - f. to spend time learning
 - g. pleased
 - h. a list of times when things have to be done