

Name:

Day One

Kid Translators

Part 1: Silent read

→ Find out about one way that immigrant kids and teens help their families. Read silently.

Josh sits next to his mother in his eighth grade homeroom. The parent conference is about to begin. His teacher, Mr. Mann, begins talking. "Josh is definitely smart but he goofs off in class constantly. We're all waiting for Josh to outgrow his silly behavior. He needs to buckle down and take school much more seriously."

Josh's mom, who speaks only Korean, looks over at her son. She waits for him to translate what Mr. Mann has said into Korean. But what should Josh say?

Experts are in agreement: when parents use their children as translators, it can lead to problems. Students may use their English skills to hide poor grades or behavior problems from parents. If children come along to doctors' appointments, they may be exposed to sensitive medical information. At their parents' workplaces, they may need to interact with supervisors.

Many schools will provide translators for parents who need them. When people visit a doctor, they expect to be helped by a translator who speaks their language. But some parents may turn down an adult translator. They trust their child instead, and they often seek their child's input along with language help. The children become experts at adult transactions. Does this give children too much power?

Shaleena, 17, from Bangladesh, resents being pulled out of school to go with her mother to doctors' appointments and work meetings. Shaleena told her story to the *The New York Times*. She always complains, "Mum you know some English." Is translating an unfair burden for Shaleena or a way to contribute?

Source: "Translating for parents means growing up fast," *The New York Times*, August 26, 2001.



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// one minute

Part 2: First timed read

WPM _____

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85

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113
126
137
142

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171
185
198
208

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235
248
259

Part 3: Comprehension and discussion

What are the possible problems when kids translate for their parents?

When people don't speak English or don't speak it well, what can they expect at a doctor's visit?

Day One

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Part 4: Phrase-cued reading

- Read the passage **out loud** in phrases to your partner.
- Pause at each / mark for a phrase.
- Also pause at each // mark that shows the end of a sentence.

Josh sits next to his mother / in his eighth grade homeroom. // The parent conference is about to begin. // His teacher, / Mr. Mann, / begins talking. // "Josh is definitely smart / but he goofs off in class constantly. // We're all waiting for Josh / to outgrow his silly behavior. // He needs to buckle down / and take school much more seriously." //

Josh's mom, / who speaks only Korean, / looks over at her son. // She waits for him / to translate what Mr. Mann has said / into Korean. // But what should Josh say? //

Experts are in agreement: / when parents use their children as translators, / it can lead to problems. // Students may use their English skills / to hide poor grades or behavior problems / from parents. // If children come along to doctors' appointments, / they may be exposed to sensitive medical information. // At their parents' workplaces, / they may need to interact with supervisors. //

Many schools will provide translators / for parents who need them. // When people visit a doctor, / they expect to be helped by a translator / who speaks their language. // But some parents may turn down / an adult translator. // They trust their child instead, / and they often seek their child's input / along with language help. // The children become experts / at adult transactions. // Does this give children too much power? //

Shaleena, / 17, / from Bangladesh, / resents being pulled out of school / to go with her mother / to doctors' appointments and work meetings. // Shaleena told her story / to the *The New York Times*. // She always complains, / "Mum you know some English." // Is translating an unfair burden for Shaleena / or a way to contribute? //

I read the passage in phrases out loud to my partner.