

Name:

## Day One

# Working Hard and Not Getting Ahead

### Part 1: Silent read

→ Do you know families where everyone has to work really hard? Read silently.

Most people go to work every day. But some families work hard and still don't make enough for the basics. It can be a strain to buy food and clothes and to pay bills. In many families, there is just one parent. In the span of a day, the parent may need to work 16 hours. In these families, older children often look after the younger ones. They may also clean the house and prepare meals. Children may pick up the slack while the parent is at work.

At 13, Derek has a lot of responsibility. He takes care of his brother and sister before and after school. Weekdays, he makes dinner and breakfast. At school, he sometimes argues with his teachers. Derek says, "It bugs me when I get scolded for forgetting homework. I have to take care of my family first. Then I can do schoolwork. There isn't enough time." His teachers need to be aware of all he has to do for his family. Derek also needs space just to be a 13-year-old.

Maybe an agency can help. The family may be able to get more childcare. Maybe Derek's mother can switch hours so she can be home more.

At Derek's house, everybody works hard just to keep even. Everyone is stressed. Families need to hope that hard work can help them get ahead.



## Day One

// one minute

# Working Hard and Not Getting Ahead

### Part 2: First timed read

WPM \_\_\_\_\_

Most people go to work every day. But some families work hard and still don't make enough for the basics. It can be a strain to buy food and clothes and to pay bills. In many families, there is just one parent. In the span of a day, the parent may need to work 16 hours. In these families, older children often look after the younger ones. They may also clean the house and prepare meals. Children may pick up the slack while the parent is at work.

At 13, Derek has a lot of responsibility. He takes care of his brother and sister before and after school. Weekdays, he makes dinner and breakfast. At school, he sometimes argues with his teachers. Derek says, "It bugs me when I get scolded for forgetting homework. I have to take care of my family first. Then I can do schoolwork. There isn't enough time." His teachers need to be aware of all he has to do for his family. Derek also needs space just to be a 13-year-old.

Maybe an agency can help. The family may be able to get more childcare. Maybe Derek's mother can switch hours so she can be home more.

At Derek's house, everybody works hard just to keep even. Everyone is stressed. Families need to hope that hard work can help them get ahead.

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### Part 3: Comprehension and discussion

Why does Derek have to watch his brother and sister and make meals?

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Why does Derek get angry when his teachers ask him about missing homework?

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## Day One

# Working Hard and Not Getting Ahead

### 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.

Most people go to work every day. // But some families work hard / and still don't make enough for the basics. // It can be a strain to buy food and clothes / and to pay bills. // In many families, / there is just one parent. // In the span of a day, / the parent may need to work 16 hours. // In these families, / older children often look after the younger ones. // They may also clean the house / and prepare meals. // Children may pick up the slack while the parent is at work. //

At 13, / Derek has a lot of responsibility. // He takes care of his brother and sister before and after school. // Weekdays, / he makes dinner and breakfast. // At school, / he sometimes argues with his teachers. // Derek says, / "It bugs me / when I get scolded for forgetting homework. // I have to take care of my family first. // Then I can do schoolwork. // There isn't enough time." // His teachers need to be aware of all he has to do for his family. // Derek also needs space just to be a 13-year-old. //

Maybe an agency can help. // The family may be able to get more childcare. // Maybe Derek's mother can switch hours / so she can be home more. //

At Derek's house, / everybody works hard just to keep even. // Everyone is stressed. // Families need to hope / that hard work can help them get ahead. //

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