

Unemployed eldest child feels trapped in parents’ basement

DEAR ABBY: I am a young adult, the eldest of four children. I sleep in a basement (furnished and livable), which serves as my bedroom. I have no job, no driver’s license, no friends who live close by.

I try to make my family happy, despite being under-appreciated by my parents and siblings. No matter how often I clean the house, take the blame when I have done nothing wrong or try to be social and see eye to eye, I spend many nights crying like a baby in the inky darkness. A few times I have felt so down I have wanted to end my life.

I found an opportunity to get the training I need to accomplish the first half of my dream, and being a chef would help me earn the money I need to make the other half of my dream a reality. The thing is, I’m required to live on the property of the school.

I tried running away once and had to come back. I don’t want my parents to think I’m trying to run away from them again, but we don’t communicate well. How can I get them to see I’m trying to move toward my goal instead of severing family bonds? — **BABY OF THE BASEMENT**

DEAR BABY: I don’t know how old you were when you ran away, but if you are close to 18 or older, then finding a way to be self-supporting should



DEAR ABBY

be your priority. Family bonds are supposed to be bonds of love, not chains that prevent a person from achieving his or her potential. If you can’t explain this to your parents, then you should enlist the help of another adult -- a family friend or a relative -- to help them understand that getting the training or certification you need for a career isn’t severing anything, but is to everyone’s advantage.

DEAR ABBY: I’m 12 years old and I still play with dolls. My older sister keeps telling me to grow up. I am embarrassed to ask my mom about it. Lots of girls at my school are growing up and they wear makeup, and I feel left out sometimes. Sometimes I throw tantrums.

I try to get good grades, but my sister puts me down by saying stuff like I’m stupid. I try to ignore it, but it just gets in my head and stays in there forever.

It’s hard growing up to be a young lady. I don’t know

what to do with my life. I’m trying to grow up, but I can’t get out of my childish ways. Please help me, Abby. I would really appreciate it. — **SAMANTHA IN KOKOMO**

DEAR SAMANTHA: Growing up isn’t easy. I know people decades past the age of 21 who are still trying to do it, some with more success than others.

It might help you to know that people don’t mature at the same rate. This may have to do with emotional maturity and hormones. At 12, you are supposed to be mature enough to control your emotions and not have tantrums. Because you aren’t, it’s important you talk with your mother about your feelings.

As to your dolls -- hang onto them if you wish. People of every age collect and enjoy dolls, and it’s not a sign of immaturity. As to wearing makeup, that’s a personal choice. If you aren’t interested, it’s nothing to feel self-conscious about. More important than growing up fast is growing up to be a self-confident person who accepts herself for who she is.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

su | do | ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

	9				8	
			1	4		6
4	6			9	7	
		6			2	5
2	5					7
		4	6		8	
		1		7		3
	2			1	4	
3						4

Instructions for play: Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9.

That’s all there is to it. There’s no math involved. The grid has numbers, but nothing has to add up to anything else. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic. It’s fun. It’s challenging. It’s addictive!

Solving time is typically from 10 to 30 minutes, depending on your skill and experience.

The solution for today’s puzzle will be published in Saturday’s paper. Or you can go to www.sudoku.com to find the solution.

7	8	4	9	2	5	6	3	1
5	6	1	3	4	7	2	8	9
9	3	2	8	6	1	4	5	7
3	9	7	4	8	2	1	6	5
6	2	8	1	5	9	3	7	4
4	1	5	6	7	3	8	9	2
1	4	6	7	9	8	5	2	3
2	7	3	5	1	6	9	4	8
8	5	9	2	3	4	7	1	6

HOROSCOPES

ARIES - Mar 21/Apr 20

Aries, although you are full of excitement this week, rein in some of those feelings so you can focus on the tasks at hand. Use your energy to your advantage.

TAURUS - Apr 21/May 21

Taurus, motivation may not be strong this week, so begin with some menial tasks around the house and build up to bigger plans. Eventually you will find a groove.

GEMINI - May 22/Jun 21

Gemini, try to avoid focusing on just one issue for too long. Sometimes you simply must trust your instincts and forge ahead anyway. Let past experience guide you this week.

CANCER - Jun 22/Jul 22

Cancer, avoid the temptation to take on too many responsibilities this week. If you don’t, you might not get much done. Think before you accept more work.

LEO - Jul 23/Aug 23

Financial matters are looming and a decision must be made, Leo. Don’t be overcome with anxiety, as all you need to do is carefully examine your finances to come up with a solution.

VIRGO - Aug 24/Sept 22

Spontaneity beckons, Virgo, even though you are a careful planner who puts a lot of thought into your decisions. Overthinking is more hassle than it’s worth this week.

LIBRA - Sept 23/Oct 23

Someone may catch you off guard this week, Libra. This person will bring a welcome surprise, so look forward to this unexpected encounter.

SCORPIO - Oct 24/Nov 22

Back up your promises with decisive action, Scorpio. That’s the only way to prove to others that your word means something and you are committed to honoring your commitments.

SAGITTARIUS - Nov 23/Dec 21

There may be more to the big picture than you are seeing, Sagittarius. Gather the facts before you jump to any conclusions. You may just see things from a different perspective.

CAPRICORN - Dec 22/Jan 20

Capricorn, you are riding high and looking to share your good fortune with others. Make the most of this chance to improve the lives of those around you.

AQUARIUS - Jan 21/Feb 18

Aquarius, you have an idea about how to tackle a difficult obstacle, but someone crosses your path with a different agenda. Perhaps there’s a way to work together.

PISCES - Feb 19/Mar 20

Pisces, avoid open conflict without being a pushover this week. Find the middle ground and try to understand another’s perspective.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

DECEMBER 7
Sara Bareilles, Singer (35)

DECEMBER 8
Ingrid Michaelson, Singer (35)

DECEMBER 9
Judi Dench, Actress (80)

DECEMBER 10
Gonzalo Higuain, Athlete (27)

DECEMBER 11
Teri Garr, Actress (70)

DECEMBER 12
Steven Hawley, Astronaut (63)

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Poet

Whitman

5 Tube tops

9 Egypt

neighbor

10 Modify

12 Seize by

force

13 Baseball

manager

Joe

14 Implore

16 Big

racket

17 Language

suffix

18 Chandler

or Burr

20 “Silk-

wood”

star

22 Crumb

carriers

23 Skilled

25 Cushy

28 Skin woes

32 Ballroom

dance

34 Court

worker:

Abbr.

35 Road-

house

36 New York

university

38 Enticed

40 Not as

green,

maybe

41 Pickup,

e.g.

42 Tinker-

Chance

go-

between

43 Match

parts

44 Bears’

lair

DOWN

1 Most

sagacious

2 Addict

3 Harp’s

cousin

4 Came to

a point

5 “Aack!”

sayer,

in the

comics

6 Commo-

tion

7 Forgive

8 Quick run

9 Garage

jobs

11 Cares for

15 Frolicked

19 Wrestling

spots

21 Chow

24 Did the

walls

25 Wading

bird

26 They

have

titles

27 Dipping

dish

29 Occur

30 Some

solvents

31 Mixes up

33 Refinery

sights

37 Exist

39 Fall mo.

P	A	D	D	E	D	A	C	H	E
G	R	I	E	V	E	P	O	O	R
A	M	E	L	I	A	P	L	E	A
			A	L	L	I	E	D	
A	S	H				M	A	I	L
F	L	O				I	N	P	R
O	I	L			C	H	E		G
O	D	D	B	A	L	L		H	U
T	E	T	O	N		O	T	I	S
			I	N	T	E	R	N	
R	I	G	G			V	I	T	A
E	C	H	O			E	L	A	T
B	E	T	S			R	E	P	E

Previous Puzzle

THOMAS CROSSWORD BOOKS 1 AND 2! Send \$4.75 (check/m.o.) for each book to P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		
9								10	
									11
12								13	
14								15	
									16
17								18	
									19
20								21	
									22
								23	
									24
25	26	27						28	
									29
30									31
32								33	
									34
35								36	
									37
38								39	
									40
41									42
									43
									44

12-6

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Airplane

wing parts

6 State of

mind

10 Make fresh

11 Possessed

13 Sheeplike

14 Make

baskets

15 Ready

to go

16 She sheep

18 Even

score

19 Enterprise

grabber

22 Chick’s

mother

23 Past due

24 Ice cream

parlor

extra

27 Made well

28 Freshman,

usually

29 Airport

sched.

abbr.

30 Piece of

gymnas-

tics

equipment

35 Quarter-

back

Manning

36 Greek

vowel

37 Grow

older

38 King

march site

40 Jason of

“How I

Met Your

Mother”

42 Character-

istic

43 News item

44 “Get lost!”

45 Pub

pastime

DOWN

1 Window

coating

2 Prying tool

3 Singer

Baker

4 Corral

5 Add sugar

to

6 Yard

cutter

7 Have