

TV Parental Guidelines

Pre-reading



Questions:

- What do you know about the subject of this reading?
- What are TV Parental Guidelines?

Definitions:

- Character – a person in a movie, TV show, play, or book
- Guideline – a statement
- Guide – a book that gives facts about something or shows how to do something
- Guidance – direction or advice
- Mature - suitable for an adult

Reading

19 Rosa is the mom of four children. Her oldest child is nine. She has 5 year old twins. Her
20 youngest child is three. She wants her kids to be kind and caring. She wants her kids to behave
38 well. She wants her kids to use respectful language.

47 Rosa knows the TV programs her children watch affect their behavior. Kids **mimic** what
61 they see on TV. They act and behave like the TV characters. They repeat the words TV
78 characters use.

80 Rosa does not have much time to watch TV with her children. How can she know if a
98 program is a good one for her kids? Rosa asked her child's teacher for help. The teacher told
116 her about the TV Parental Guidelines. The guidelines are shown at the start of every TV show.
133 They are found in the upper left corner of the TV screen. They can also be found in TV guides.

153 Two guidelines are used for children's TV programs. A TVY program is okay for all
168 children, even young ones. A TV7 program is okay for children ages seven and above.

183 Four guidelines are used for general programs. A TVG program is okay for all ages,
198 general viewers. A TVPG program may not be okay for younger children to view. Parental
213 guidance is needed for these shows.

219 A TV14 program is not okay for any child under the age of fourteen. A TVMA program is
237 not okay for children under 17 years of age. It is a program for mature viewers only.

254 Understanding the TV Parental Guidelines has helped Rosa choose better TV shows for her
268 children. She wants her children to be kind and respectful. She lets them watch kind, respectful
284 programming.
285

Understanding

1. What does the word **mimic** mean? _____

2. What are TV Parental Guidelines? _____

3. What is the difference between a TVY program and a TV7 program? _____

4. What does a guideline of TVMA mean? _____

5. Which programs would be okay for Rosa's nine year old to watch? _____

6. Which programs are okay for Rosa's youngest child? _____

7. How does TV affect children? _____

Writing

Option A: Summarize Rosa's experience with TV and what she has learned.

Option B: Write about your own experience in choosing TV programs for your children. Do you think it is important to know what your children are watching? Why or Why not?
