

Tekst 2

Parental guide to living with teenagers

1 “I HAVEN’T told him that
he’s made me feel like
jumping in front of a train,
but I feel anguish, rage,
5 misery, humiliation and, yes,
suicidal at times,” says
Rosamund, mother of a 16-
year-old son. *The Terrible
Teens* is full of quotes like
10 this. Kate Figes seems to
have had two main
objectives: to reassure
parents that they are not
alone in finding life with
15 adolescents challenging and
difficult; and to show parents
how to learn to live with their
teenagers.

2 But she focuses on the
20 former, reproducing many
depressing tales from parents.
Gita, mother of 16-year-old
twins, says: “Trying to be
nice to your children when
25 they’re not very likeable –
that’s the hardest part,
because they’re not people
that you want to be around.”
Thanks for that, Gita; I’m
30 sure your children enjoy
being with their mother too,
if that’s how you talk to
them.

3 The subtitle of this book
35 is “What every parent needs
to know”, which seems the
tiniest bit arrogant. How can
she know what every parent
needs to know? A big fan of
40 stereotypes, she finds “all”
adolescents self-centred,
moody, difficult and prone to
obsession. She is so fond of
the image of the
45 dysfunctional teen that she



► The Terrible Teens

Kate Figes
Penguin, £9.99

was “staggered by the
number of healthy family
homes” she found. But you
cannot generalise about *every*
50 teenager like this. I know
loads of perfectly fine
teenagers who don’t need to
be treated with the caution
Figes recommends.

4 55 Nor does she offer any
advice on living with your
“egotistic ... narcissistic ...
hypocritical” teenage son/
daughter other than to say:
60 “Teenagers need under-
standing, guidance, empathy
and a sense of security from
parents”. This is true but, as a
teenager myself, I feel that
65 most parents should be able
to understand their children
and guide them through life
without having to read about

it in a guidebook.

5 70 Don’t worry. Figes admits
that adolescents have some
good points. They sleep a lot,
which cuts down the amount
of time that you have to
75 spend with them. They go out
a lot, so you don’t have to see
them much. And they can
cook beans on toast, so you
don’t have to worry about
80 them starving.

6 If you want to hear about
the problems other people
have with older children, then
The Terrible Teens is a useful
85 window into a world of
moaning mothers (strangely
enough, almost no men seem
to have volunteered similar
horror stories). My advice is
90 to talk to your children, not
read about them. Besides, if
they catch you reading a
book called *The Terrible
Teens*, you’ve had it anyway.

SOPHIE HART-WALSH

The Independent

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- 1p **2 ■** What is the function of lines 1-10 (“I haven’t ... like this.”)?
- A To describe the reviewer’s first impressions of *The Terrible Teens*.
 - B To explain why Kate Figes felt the need to write *The Terrible Teens*.
 - C To highlight a striking characteristic of the book Kate Figes has written.
 - D To illustrate the amount of trouble parents of teenagers have to put up with.
- “But she focuses on the former” (regels 19-20)
- 1p **3 □** Welk doel lijkt Kate Figes *vooral* te hebben met *The Terrible Teens*, te oordelen naar alinea 1 en 2?
- 1p **4 □** Welke zin in alinea 1 of 2 is sarcastisch? Citeer de eerste twee woorden van deze zin.
- 1p **5 ■** What is Sophie Hart-Walsh’s main criticism of *The Terrible Teens* in paragraph 3? Kate Figes
- A does not produce any evidence to back her claims about teenagers.
 - B presents a one-sided, negative view of teenagers.
 - C shows little understanding of the teenage mind.
 - D suggests that parents have no idea how to deal with teenage children.
- “Teenagers need ... from parents” (regels 60-63)
- 1p **6 □** Welk bezwaar brengt Sophie Hart-Walsh hiertegen naar voren?
- 1p **7 ■** Which of the following could replace “They sleep a lot...” (line 72)?
- A And they sleep a lot...
 - B But they sleep a lot...
 - C For they sleep a lot...
- 1p **8 ■** What conclusion does Sophie Hart-Walsh reach about *The Terrible Teens* in the last paragraph?
- A It can contribute to solving the problems parents have with teenage children.
 - B It is incomplete because it only concentrates on the problems of teenage children’s mothers.
 - C It is not likely to improve the relationship between parents and their teenage children.
- 1p **9 ■** Which of the following paragraphs is mainly sarcastic in tone?
- A Paragraph 3.
 - B Paragraph 4.
 - C Paragraph 5.
 - D Paragraph 6.