

Tekst 8

De volgende tekst is het begin van een verhaal uit het autobiografische boek Me talk pretty one day geschreven door David Sedaris

Genetic Engineering

- MY FATHER ALWAYS STRUCK ME as the sort of man who, under the right circumstances, might have invented the microwave oven or the transistor radio. You wouldn't seek him out for
- 5 advice on a personal problem, but he'd be the first one you'd call when the dishwasher broke or someone flushed a hairpiece down your toilet. As children, we placed a great deal of faith in his ability but learned to steer clear while he was working. The experience of
- 10 watching was ruined, time and time again, by an interminable explanation of how things were put together. Faced with an exciting question, science tended to provide the dulllest possible answer. Ions might charge the air, but they fell flat when it came to charging the imagination — my imagination, anyway. To this day, I prefer to believe that inside every
- 15 television there lives a community of versatile, thumb-size actors trained to portray everything from a thoughtful newscaster to the wife of a millionaire stranded on a desert island. Fickle gnomes control the weather, and an air conditioner is powered by a team of squirrels, their cheeks packed with ice cubes.
- 20 Once, while rifling through the toolshed, I came across a poster advertising an IBM computer the size of a refrigerator. Sitting at the control board was my dad the engineer, years younger, examining a printout no larger than a grocery receipt. When I asked about it, he explained that he had worked with a team devising a memory chip
- 25 capable of storing up to fifteen pages' worth of information. Out came the notepad and pencil, and I was trapped for hours as he answered every question except the one I had asked: "Were you allowed to wear makeup and run through a variety of different poses, or did they get the picture on the first take?"
- 30 To me, the greatest mystery of science continues to be that a man could father six children who shared absolutely none of his interests. We certainly expressed enthusiasm for our mother's hobbies, from smoking and napping to the writings of Sidney Sheldon. (Ask my mother how the radio worked and her answer was simple: "Turn it on and pull out the
- 35 *&@#\$\$% antenna.") I once visited my father's office, and walked away comforted to find that at least there he had a few people he could talk to.



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- 3p **32** Geef van elke van de volgende beweringen aan of deze wel of niet in overeenstemming is met de tekst.
- 1 De vader heeft enkele geniale uitvindingen gedaan, maar daar weinig waardering voor gekregen.
 - 2 De vader wilde met rust gelaten worden als hij aan het werk was.
 - 3 De vader probeerde zijn fascinatie voor techniek op zijn kinderen over te brengen.
 - 4 De vader waardeerde de verklaringen die zijn zoon bedacht voor de werking van apparaten.
 - 5 De vader en de moeder hadden vaak ruzie.
 - 6 De vader was zo druk in gesprek met collega's dat hij niet doorhad dat zijn zoon hem kwam opzoeken op kantoor.
- Noteer "wel" of "niet" achter elk nummer op het antwoordblad.
- 1p **33** Which of the following words best describes the relationship between the narrator and his father?
- A approval
 - B envy
 - C incomprehension
 - D indifference
 - E irritation
- 1p **34** Welk van de volgende fragmenten bevat beeldspraak?
- A "he'd be the first one you'd call when the dishwasher broke or someone flushed a hairpiece down your toilet" (regels 5-7)
 - B "Ions might charge the air, but they fell flat when it came to charging the imagination" (regels 12-13)
 - C "I prefer to believe that inside every television there lives a community of versatile, thumb-size actors" (regels 14-15)
 - D "examining a printout no larger than a grocery receipt" (regels 22-23)
- "Genetic Engineering" (titel)
- 1p **35** Welke zin uit dit fragment maakt duidelijk waarom het verhaal deze titel heeft gekregen?
Citeer de eerste twee woorden van deze zin.