What Does It Take To Be A Hero?

The world 1) __________________________ (seem) to have many heroes these days, but the number of potential heroes has been increasing lately. That’s because every one of us, ourselves, our friends, even our kids, has heroic potential. There 2) __________________________ (be) so much we can do to develop that unused greatness and to ensure that the next generation gets the heroes it needs. Therefore, we shouldn’t miss any opportunity to encourage potential heroes.

Although our personal heroes differ, a common vision of heroes 3) __________________________ (share) all around the world. Temple University psychologist A.&B. Frank Farley has created a list of six character traits of heroes. Not every hero has all of them, but the more one has, the better one becomes. If you seek greatness, either in yourself or in your children, you should strengthen the following aspects of personality:

Courage and strength: Whatever heroes are, they aren’t cowards or quitters. Heroes maintain their calmness and even succeed when they are in danger. Heroes 4) __________________________ (give up/ never) when they face danger or endure a long struggle or series of hardships.

Honesty: It’s not a coincidence that in the United States, Presidents Abraham (“Honest Abe”) Lincoln and George (“I cannot tell a lie”) Washington 5) __________________________ (be/still) among the country’s most beloved heroes. Also, it is known that C. deception harmed the concept of heroism in the 20th century. Famous political figures like Richard Nixon and Bill Clinton are the two well-known examples of such dishonesty.

Kindness, love, and generosity: D. Great people always fight for what they believe. However, a hero is compassionate toward friends and enemies alike once the battle is over. A true hero demonstrates kindness to others.

Skill, expertise, and intelligence: A hero’s success 6) __________________________ (come) from his or her talents alone. There is the factor of intelligence, as well, rather than chance. However, for the sake of modesty, heroes can attach their hard-earned achievements to luck.

Risk-taking: “Even though many people don’t take risks in their own life, they admire risk-taking in someone else,” notes Farley, much of whose research has focused on Type-T personalities – people who are continuous thrill-seekers. No matter what they do, heroes are willing to place themselves in some sort of danger. For example, E. Atatürk and Martin Luther King were among the greatest risk-takers of their time.
Objects of affection: We 7) __________________________ (affect/usually) on an intellectual level by somebody’s accomplishments, but admiration is not enough. Heroes must win our hearts as well as our minds.

Farley warns parents and teachers, “Today, schools 8) __________________________ (deal) enough with studying the lives of people who changed the world and did great things.” F. A recent survey reveals that nearly half of the kids have no heroes at all. This has serious implications. How can our children hope to rise above hard times – such as poverty or racism – without the example of the great men and women who came before them?

Adapted from www.psychologytoday.com/articles/199511/how-be-great

PART B. Ask questions for the given answers below. The original sentences are underlined from A to F in the text.

A. ____________________________________________________________________________?
   Frank Farley.

B. ____________________________________________________________________________?
   He has created a list of six character traits of heroes.

C. ____________________________________________________________________________?
   Yes, it did.

D. ____________________________________________________________________________?
   Yes, they always do.

E. ____________________________________________________________________________?
   Atatürk and Martin Luther King.

F. ____________________________________________________________________________?
   That nearly half of the kids have no heroes at all.

GOOD LUCK! 😊
INTERMEDIATE GROUP
ANSWER KEY

A.

1. doesn’t seem
2. is
3. is shared
4. never give up
5. are still
6. doesn’t come
7. are usually affected
8. aren’t dealing / don’t deal

B.

A. Who has created a list of six character traits of heroes?
B. What has Frank (Farley) done/created?
C. Did deception harm the concept of heroism in the 20th century?
D. Do great people always fight for what they believe?
E. Who were/was among the greatest risk-takers of their time?
F. What does a recent survey reveal?