

# Sticks and Stones Part 4 and 5

**WALT: Make inferences using prior knowledge and text examples.**

Your task: Answer the questions below using the short answer response format. Reread the extracts of text, where provided, to help you and highlight the information from the text that supports your thinking.

1. In the Explorer Leader interview Mr Todd said he was looking for someone who would *“Grab the bull by the horns”* and *“Take no prisoners.”*

What did he mean by this?

*“I think it would be great for you to be in the show sweetie,” Mum told me in the car, “but I think we should just have a double-check that it’s a good idea. You know, there have been a lot of bad words popping up lately, and that Explorer Leader contest didn’t go as well as we would have liked. Maybe it would be smart to lie-low for a while.”*

2. What is Elyse’s Mum afraid of and why?

*“I see your concern completely,” Dr Patel said. “It’s risky. The show could go badly, definitely. Not that I am doubting your piano playing skills or anything Elyse.” He flashed me a quick smile. “But it could also go really well. Get her more nice words, boost her confidence.”*

*He looked at me again. “The only certain thing in life is doubt. A performance might not go well. The floor of this office might crack open in the next minute and we could all fall through it.*

*“What does that have to do with anything?” I asked*

*"I'm just saying, none of us know for sure what's going to happen. Ever. Anytime. With anything. So it comes down to how comfortable you are taking the risk. What's the worst thing that could happen?"*

3. What does Dr Patel say about her fears? Do you agree with the doctor? Why or why not?

*My palms were so sweaty that I couldn't touch anything without leaving a disgusting liquid trail behind. My heart was lurchy like whoa, and it pounded so hard and so fast that I thought it was actually going to leap out of my body and do some laps around the room with me. And mixed with all of that was the terrible feeling that I was going to throw up or forget how to breathe or both at the same time. My hands were shaking so much that Dad had to put my seatbelt on for me like I was a little kid. I couldn't even say two words without feeling my whole body was going to collapse.*

4. How was Elyse feeling on the day of the show? Give examples from the text to show how you know.
5. What impact did performing in the show have on Elyse? How do you know?
6. What does Elyse do to get even with Jeg for not inviting her to her birthday party? Do you think this was the right thing to do? Why/why not?