

Listen to the first 28 minutes of episode #129, "[Autumn](#)," of the *Reply All* podcast, and answer the questions below.

FYI: The Sims is a life simulation game series, in which players create virtual people called "Sims," place them in houses, and help control their moods and satisfy their desires.

Helpful Vocabulary for this Episode	
• Special ed (short for <i>special education</i>) classes for children who have special needs because of physical or learning problems • Baby shower (n.) a party that is held for a pregnant mother before her baby is born • Hospice (n.) a place that provides care for people who are dying • Poignant (adj.) important (usually in a sad way) • Tweak (v.) to change (something) slightly in order to improve it : to make small adjustments to (something)	• Therapeutic (adj.) producing good effects on your body or mind • Toddler (n.) a young child who is just learning to walk • Grim Reaper (n.) death thought of as a man or skeleton holding a scythe and wearing a dark cloak with a hood • Urn (n.) a container that is often shaped like a vase with a closed top and that is used to hold the ashes of someone who has been cremated

1. Briefly describe who Autumn is: what she does, how old she is, where she lives, what makes her happy.

2. ____ Which person made Autumn feel the most loved and most special when she was a child?

- a. Her mother
- b. Her father
- c. Her grandmother
- d. Her friend who she met at the baby shower

3. When she was an adolescent (approximately 11 - 13 years old), how often did Autumn play *The Sims*?

4. TRUE / FALSE When Autumn's grandmother passed away, her (Autumn's) mother did not talk to her about it very much.

5. What tool did Autumn use to remember her grandmother?

6. (Level 5 & 6) Based on Autumn's description (around 10:50 - 11:15), how could you define the word "trait" in the context of this story?

7. TRUE / FALSE Autumn did not tell anyone about what she was doing in her *Sims* world.

8. TRUE / FALSE The Sims speak English.
9. (Level 5 & 6) About a year after Autumn changed her *Sims* world, she started to notice that it was not making her very happy anymore.
- a. What does she say the problem was for her at this point? (Paraphrase)
- _____
- _____
- b. What did Autumn do to help solve that problem? (Paraphrase / Summarize)
- _____
- _____
10. ____ At around 21:13, Wallace asks, “Why didn’t you just decide to keep it off? You know, that would’ve been so much easier...” Which idiom below best matches the meaning of Autumn’s response?
- a. You can say that again!
- b. That’s the way the cookie crumbles.
- c. Hang in there.
- d. Get out of here!
11. (Level 6) From around 21:00 - 24:30, Autumn becomes very emotional discussing her *Sims* world. Although she is crying, what benefit did Autumn get from creating the *Sims* world that she created?
- _____
- _____
- _____
12. (Level 6) Nowadays, when Autumn misses her grandmother, *where* does she go?
- _____
- _____

Questions?