

It's not worth the pain

I WISH I knew then what I know now.

Unfortunately, I started my daughter modelling in the child pageants because I thought it would build her confidence.

It did for a while. She was excited winning the teddy bears; even at that young age she was very pretty.

However, I soon noticed a gradual difference in her attitude. At 10 years old, she started acting as if she were a teenager. She also became obsessed with her body weight. If she ate a big dinner she would feel guilty.

Once, after we spent hours preening her and making her look irresistible, she lost the competition. She was devastated. She did not have the mental toughness to realise that it was just a game.

I can understand why child psychologists warn against allowing youngsters to compete at an early age. They start to think that if they are not dolled up to look like a china doll, then they are worthless. My daughter did. Now she spends half her life at the psychologist building up her confidence — all over again.

I realised, to my peril, that it wasn't just a bit of girlish fun. *Amanda Suttcliff, Bentleigh*

Fashion fun at 12 years old

IT'S pretty obvious the judges were just looking for controversy when they picked a Year 7 student, Emily Johnson, to be an ambassador for the first Coolabar Fashion Week. She's only 12 years old.

She's still a child, and is too young to have people treating her like a sex object, or like the Barbie dolls she has just outgrown.

There's a host of problems, too, that confront young models, not the least the obsession with body image at such a young age.

It's a well-known fact that the photographers are lechers and their creative demands upon models are legendary. It's very hard for the young ones to take a stand.

I know one model who was told when she was 14 years old by the photographer that she was "too fat". She took three years to get over it and nearly died.

Let them be kids. Don't catapult them into the adult world before they're ready. Just because their parents are looking for some prestige.

It's good to see that some headway is being made. At the recent Melbourne Spring Fashion Week models under 16 years old were banned, and were counselled about health issues. *Jack Smar, Treehorn*



Forget the fuss!

I CAN'T honestly see what all the fuss is about.

Girls mature at different rates so it's best left up to the individual.

Emily's mother said she was a very mature girl who always knew what she wanted and was dying to be a model.

Girls will be girls and just love dressing up and showing off.

So I say, why not! I think there's a lot of sour grapes out there.

Meg Haffner, Snowcoast

Tone List (pp 74-75)

adamant, assertive (confident and positive)
high-minded (having or characterised by high moral principles);
sententious (pompous moralising)
solicitous (anxious or concerned)
earnest (serious or sincere);
candid (honest, frank)
poignant (keenly distressing to the feelings)
defensive (acting as if you are being attacked or are feeling threatened)

1. Explain each author's views about young models. What is their tone? How do they describe the models and why?

- i.
- ii.
- iii.

2. Find examples of the following language tactics/choices:

- i. anecdotal evidence: (p. 7)
- ii. stereotype/generalisation: (p. 29)
- iii. cliché (p. 17):
- iv. simile (p. 17):

3. The authors target a range of emotions. Find examples of words and phrases that aim for the following impact.

Purpose

Purpose and impact	Example of words, phrases and/or techniques
1. elicit sympathy for young models	
2. arouse parents' fears	
3. make young models feel insecure and anxious	
4. allay (relieve) parents' concerns	
5. make parents feel indignant and/or outraged	
6. impugn (question) parents' motives; shame them	