

Mike Kimmel

## Pretty Little Pageant Princess

A Is your sister really doing that dumb beauty pageant?

B It's not dumb. She's really excited about it.

A Isn't she a little young for a beauty pageant?

B Not really. They have a Little Miss category. That's the one she's in.

A Isn't it kind of stupid and old-fashioned, though?

B Honestly, that's what I thought too. But you wouldn't believe how much it's helped her.

A Helped her how? Teaching her how to walk? How to wave?

B Since she started practicing for this pageant, she's like a whole new kid. She's super polite. Her grades have improved. She does all her homework now. It's unbelievable.

A You're right. I don't believe it.

B I didn't believe it either. But she even *looks* happier now.

A All that from a pageant?

B I think it's because they set goals.

A Then they reach them?

B Well ... not always. We can't win at everything.

A But working at it is good for her self-esteem, you mean?

B It's good for my self-esteem! Now I've got the coolest little sister in the whole world!