Interview Questions

1. Weakness (ACTIONS)/strength

2. What things do you like most at school

3. ⁠What do you see yourself doing in 6 years

My weakness is public speaking because whenever I feel confident before doing a speech the second I step up on stage my mind blows up. I look at the people and they stare into my eyes. Stage fright is one main reason why I wasn’t good at public speaking. But now I am better at controlling myself the second I step up on stage and the reason for that is encouraging friends, before I go my friends encourage me. Before the first words come out of my mouth my friends are there in the crowd.

Things I like best at school are participating in competitions, getting into extension groups and participating in co-curricular activities because I can make friends and those friendships last throughout my entire time studying. Now I get to know new people and work with people I have never worked with before. I can also have fun chatting with teachers and staff members I have rarely talked to and socialize during the activities learning crucial life lessons like teamwork, service, influence, encouragement, giving everything a go and never giving up.

I see myself standing in the middle of science equipment, microscopes, shelves of bacteria and medicines being put to the test. Or papers around me each documented with theories. Maybe even being surrounded by lab tubes and deadly fumes. Maybe even metals or chemicals. I see myself as a scientist in 12 years time because I am very keen in science from the e=mc2 to string theory. The world of science is endless. New discoveries in space. New theories being proposed and the Nobel prize that is handed out yearly for physics.

**Writing** **Homework :** Continue the story of “The Great Central Park Challenge,” starting from the moment Mia reads the news about the development proposal. Describe her efforts to save the park, the challenges she faces, and how she works with her friends to make a difference. Include at least one major obstacle they must overcome and a moment where Mia must make a difficult decision. Use at least 5 words from the vocabulary list in your writing.

The Great Central Park

Prologue:

In the heart of New York City, 13 year old Mia Rodriguez is determined to save her well-loved Central Park from being partially industrialized into a corporate zone. As the daughter of a park ranger and environment lawyer, Mia knows the importance of green spaces in urban areas. With help of her diverse group of friends, she embarks on a season-long initiative to raise awareness, gather support, and find contemporary solutions to protect the park. Along the way, they will encounter various challenges, from bureaucratic red tape to competing interests, all while exploring the hidden gems and famous landmarks of New York City.

Mia’s sneakers pounded the pavement as she dashed through the winding walkways of Central Park, the early morning mist still clinging to the trees, her mind reeling and re-reading the news headline she’d just read on her phone: “City Council Considers Proposal to Develop 10% of Central Park for Corporate Use.”

Mia stood stunned to the core of her heart near Bethesda Fountain, watching as a group of suited landscape architects gestured enthusiastically at the green expanse around them. Their words drifted over…penthouse estate…increased the country’s GDP… Then she heard. “But where will the squirrels live?”a young boy asked his mother who was overhearing the news. Mia’s heart skipped a beat. It wasn’t just the squirrels at stake — it was the whole of New York City itself.

The bell above Tom’s Restaurant’s door jingled as Mia’s friends filed in. “Okay, team,” she said, sliding into the iconic booth, “Operation Green Apple is a go.”

“I can handle YouTube, Instagram, Facebook, all those kinds of social media related things,” said Zack, already typing like a mad man on his phone. “My cousin works at the Guggenheim,” added Leila. “Maybe we can get some artist to contribute to this?” Mia grinned. This might just work.

Midway into their planning session they were interrupted by a wild, chaotic commotion outside. Unions of pro-development protesters marched like soldiers, chanting about stimulating the economy and local business. Mia’s smile faded. They had their work cut out for them.

At Times Square the sea of tourists parted as hundreds of green-clad dancers erupted into a choreographed routine. Mia watched from the sidelines, heart pounding, as confused faces turned to smiles of understanding. At the Top of the Rock, Mia and her friends lined up for the CentralParkChallenge. “Show us your favorite park memory!”Zack yelled out, his drone camera hovering to capture the majestic Manhattan skyline - and the green oasis at its center. She then overheard a stern voice boom “these kids don’t understand economics,” from a nearby radio. Mia held her fists, fighting back tears. She understood plenty including the value of things that money couldn’t buy.

Mia made herself look as bold as possible as she shoved open the door to another Fifth Avenue boutique. “Hello,”she said, summoning up all her courage. “I’m here to discuss why Central Park is vital for your building.” The New York Public Library’s majestic halls echoed with whispers as Mia and her team pored over urban planning documents. All of a sudden, Leila gasped. “Guys, look at this fine print. The developers had more support than we thought.”

The roar of the crowd at Yankee Stadium was deafening, but Mia could hardly believe her ears. “And now,” the announcer boomed,”let’s hear it for the Central Park challenge team! These young New Yorkers are fighting to keep our city green!”

Mia’s voice stuttered as she addressed the City Council. “Central Park isn’t just trees and grass,” she said. “It’s the lungs of our city, a place where memories are made, a place with a long history, a place where friends and family or strangers and other strangers can meet up and where nature and city citizens can coexist.

An awkward silence set in over the chamber as the votes were being tallied by the hundreds. Mia held her breath feeling the weight of millions of New Yorkers— past, present and future—on her shoulders.

Months passed by, Mia stood on Gapstow Bridge, looking down at the children playing on the newly refurbished playground - funded by a compromise that had saved the park and satisfied the need for development. She smiled. Sometimes, you need a change and it could be a good one.