

## The Dream House

"I'm planning my dream house," said Clara to her sisters.

She has three sisters and she is the youngest. She is 8.

In America, parents can have more than one child, even more than two!

"My house will have a water park, a movie theater, a salon, a library and 5 guest rooms..."

"Where will you get the money," asked Esther. She is 10 and good at math.

"I'm not done," said Clara, ignoring the question, "There will be a ball pit, an exercise room, an amusement park and two fancy kid bedrooms."

"You will have kids?" asked Helen, her 13 year old Chinese sister. Helen was adopted when she was a baby. She is always asking questions.

"I will have two girls," said Clara, reading off her list – she is good at making lists. "Their names will be Olivea and Sidney."

Clara was not done, "There will be 10 master bathrooms, a grandma room, a craft room, a Bible room, a painting room, a big bedroom with small beds for slumber parties, a science room. a Jacuzzi..."

"But that will cost millions of dollars," said Esther.

"I will be a billionaire," said Clara, and considered the question answered.

Clara was still not done, "A grandpa room with computers, a storage room, a snack room..."

Laura came around the corner with an open book in each hand. She is 15, has red hair and reads all the time.

"Who will clean the house? You don't even keep your room clean," she said, not even taking her eyes off the two books.

"I will have 30 maids and 15 butlers," said Clara.

"But don't you need a husband?" asked Helen, "You are going to have children." She does not easily give up on unanswered questions.

"I don't want to talk about that," said Clara.

"How can you not talk about it?" asked Helen. She is a good reporter. She keeps asking until she gets the whole story.

"Well," said Clara, "A husband is like the apple in a kids' meal."

"What do you mean by that?" asked Helen.

Clara planted her feet and gave a little stamp. "It's something they give you because it is supposed to be good for you. But not something you really like."

"And, I guess you just have to take it."

"It would take you over a year to count to a billion," said Esther. She had done the math.

"I will have 10 accountants," said Clara. And she considered the matter settled.