

## How Strong Is Your Will?

Adapted from the book  
**You Can't Make Me!**  
**(But I Can Be Persuaded)**  
by Cynthia Ulrich Tobias\*

### The SWC (Strong-Willed Child):

- \_\_\_ 1. almost never accepts words like "impossible" or phrases like "it can't be done."
- \_\_\_ 2. can move with lightning speed from being a warm, loving presence to being a cold, immovable force.
- \_\_\_ 3. may argue the point into the ground, sometimes just to see how far into the ground it will go.
- \_\_\_ 4. considers rules to be more like guidelines ("as long as I'm abiding by the spirit of the law, why are you being so picky?").
- \_\_\_ 5. almost never automatically takes no for an answer.
- \_\_\_ 6. When given the ultimatum, "Do it or else," my first reaction is, "Or else *what?*"
- \_\_\_ 7. uses creativity and resourcefulness—usually finds a way to accomplish a goal.
- \_\_\_ 8. can turn what seems to be the smallest issue into a grand crusade or a raging controversy.
- \_\_\_ 9. often resists unconditional obedience in order to offer a "just a few" terms of negotiation before complying.
- \_\_\_ 10. is not afraid to try the unknown, conquer the unfamiliar (although each SWC chooses his or her own risks).
- \_\_\_ 11. can take what was meant to be the simplest request and interpret it as an offensive ultimatum..
- \_\_\_ 12. may not actually say the exact words to apologize, but is almost always willing to make things right.

Total \_\_\_\_\_

### How much strong will do you have?

- 0-3 You've got it, but you don't use it much.
- 4-7 You use it when you need to, but not on a daily basis.
- 8-10 You've got a healthy dose of it, but you can back off when you need to.
- 11-12 You don't leave home without it—and it's almost impossible not to use it.

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by Cynthia Ulrich Tobias, Waterbrook Press/Random House.

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