

**Answer Key: Causes and Consequences of Poverty**

*Instructions: Read the comic strip. Then complete the chart to analyze the differences in the lives of Richard and Paula:*

Richard		Paula
His house is warm, dry, and full of books and food.	Living Conditions	Her house is crowded, damp, and noisy.
He feels comfortable.	Health	She keeps getting sick.
His parents will do anything for him. Family connections help him get jobs and promotions.	Family Support	Her parents have to work two jobs, leaving her home alone. She takes care of her sick parent.
His school is great with lots of resources, good kids, and teachers who love their job.	Education	Her school is underfunded, rundown, and has many students in each class. Her teachers are tired and stressed.
His parents pay for his education. He is able to borrow money from bank. He does not worry about money.	Money	She works in order to pay for school. The bank does not want to help her. She is worried about money.
People have high expectations for him. He has good connections through his family and is treated with respect.	Social Status	People have low expectations for her. She works low paying jobs and is treated disrespectfully.

**Use the comic, your chart, and your own knowledge of the world to answer these questions:**

Hard work and determination are related to success. How are both Richard and Paula hardworking and determined?

- Richard studies at university, gets a job, and gets promoted.
- Paula takes care of herself, studies, takes care of her family, and works.

Do Richard and Paula have equal opportunities? Explain.

- No.
- Richard's parents are able to provide him with everything he needs, so he can focus on his education. His family connections help him get a good job and promotions.
- Paula's home and school are chaotic. She has to take care of herself and her sick dad, so she has little time to study. Her family isn't able to help her get money or jobs.

What responsibility, if any, does someone with Richard's opportunities have for someone with Paula's opportunities?

- Treat everyone with respect
- Be honest about his advantages
- Be generous with his time and money to help those who have less opportunities

What could the government do to improve the opportunities for children like Paula?

- Childcare and preschool for children living in poverty
- Better funding for schools in poor neighbourhoods
- Loans for students