

TITLE: Little Ladies on Parade

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Envision a girl putting on a gorgeous, red bikini that looks marvelous on her spray-tanned skin. Next she applies her make-up, false eyelashes and hair extensions included. Lastly, she takes a few sips of her favorite alcoholic beverage to ensure that she conserves her courage as she heads to the stage to perform. She has to be the most beautiful and entertaining in order to maximize her earnings. Many readers would assume I am describing an exotic dancer who is twenty-one years old, but Alana Thompson is neither. Alana Thompson is seven years old, yet replace the alcohol with an energy drink and the routine of these two girls is almost identical. Alana Thompson is a participant in child beauty pageants (“Precious Moments Pageants”). My essay, "Little Ladies on Parade" argues that child beauty pageants promote the sexualizing of young children, negatively alter a child’s personality, discourage children from establishing good behavior, and encourage bad parenting. In my presentation, I will assess the conduct of both the parents and their children while discussing the problem with child beauty pageants and some possible solutions.