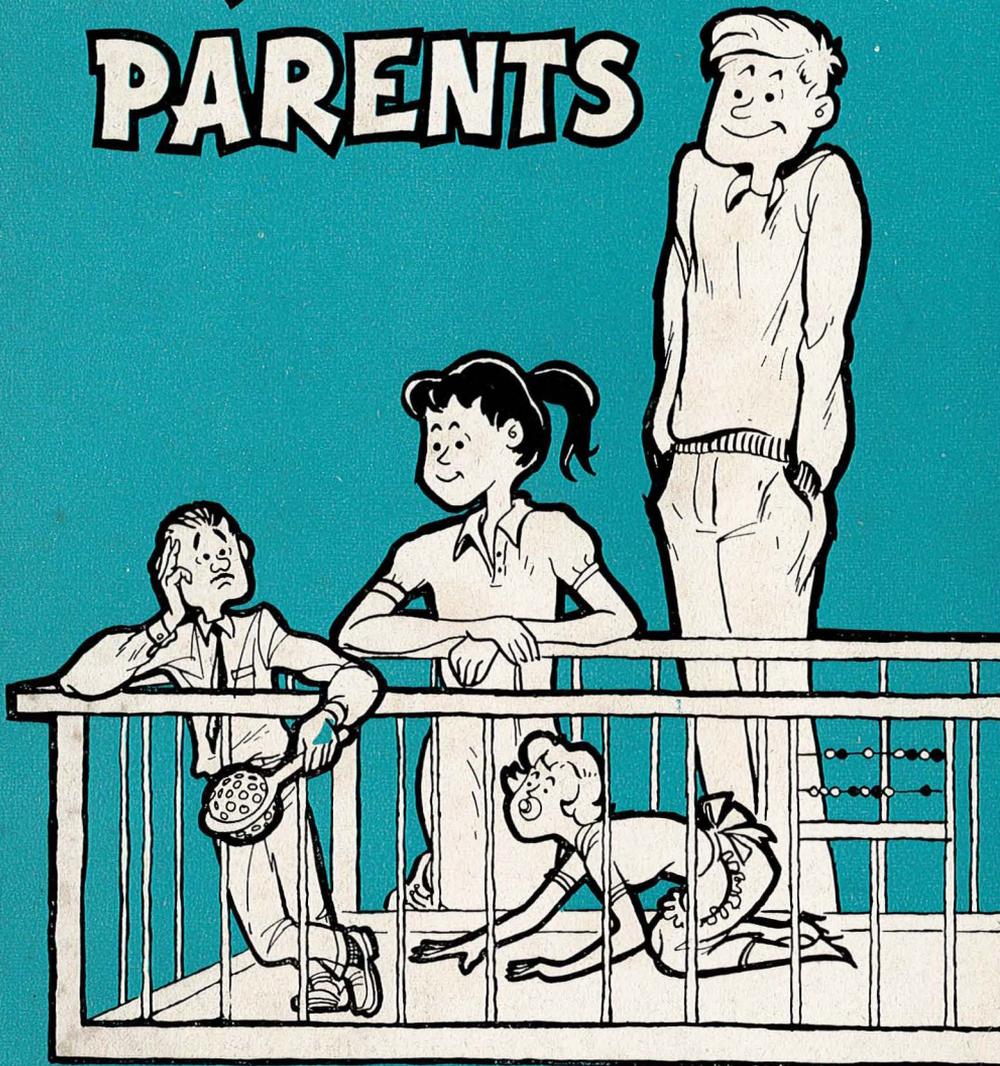


BRINGING UP PROBLEM PARENTS





FOR THOUGHT



Assume they are completely out of date and let them know it. It produces quite an effective sense of inferiority if you press your point home.

"Times have changed"

But some parents won't move with the times;
And don't want their children to do so either.

Children

However demand to be the same as their friends.
Fashion means a great deal to a boy or girl.
This is the social instinct at work.

Parents

Naturally discriminate and tend to ask about any new
fashion they don't like particularly,

"Is it sensible?"

"Is it healthy?"

"Is it becoming?"

"Is it right?"

This is what every mature person does.

This is what their children will one day be doing.

The Home

Meanwhile much patience is needed on both sides.

The ideal of course is to judge each "fashion" by the principles that guide your family life—honesty, purity, modesty, courage, unselfishness, etc.

"But", you say, "Mum and Dad don't know anything about the way I and my friends live!"

Then why not tell them? You will find them more understanding than you might imagine for such "out of date" people!

FOR THOUGHT



Make them ask every time they want your help in washing up or cleaning the car—and if possible, many times. They must be made to realise how unreasonable the request is, and how busy you are.

The happiness of the home is the responsibility of all.

If you want it to be happy then set out personally to make it happy. Become the sort of person who never shirks unpopular chores.

Whoever you are quickly get rid of the idea that the home was specially created for your comfort and convenience so that, if it functioned properly, it would pivot around your activities and desires first and foremost. At least get rid of that idea if you want a happy home for yourself or anyone else.

Everyone is in a rush at 7 A.M. and everyone is tired at 7 P.M. Everyone, like you, wants to relax, stretch their legs, and look at the comics, the T.V. or the Encyclopaedia Britannica according to their taste.

Especially is this true when the evening meal is over and the washing up remains to be done!

Some families make a roster (which includes everyone capable of handling a plate without dropping it!) as the fairest way of tackling the washing up problem (and everything else unpopular for the matter of that).

Or you may have a better idea still.

But it takes unselfish love to make ideas work.

FOR THOUGHT

Music is great fun and of great value.

It is used for an enormous variety of things.

Here are some of them:

1. To stir up patriotism.
2. To make a party cheerful.
3. To banish care.
4. To worship God.
5. To extol love and the beloved.
6. To express the mood of the moment.
7. To exhibit the skill of the musician, &c.

What kind of music do you prefer?

The human voice? piano? orchestra? organ? trumpet? banjo? violin? ukulele? flute? saxophone? mouth organ? recorder? penny whistle? or the infinite variety offered by records?

Such variety has grown up because people like different things. One of the problems in a family is this difference in taste. In some things it wouldn't matter so much but music reaches to the farthest corner of the house!

How then can we overcome the problem?

1. Respect each others' taste.
2. Frankly talk it over together.
3. Meet each other half way.



Whenever you have a session of jazz or hit tunes on the radio, turn the volume well up. If they don't care for it much, they obviously need to be educated, and must be made to listen wherever they are in the house.

FOR THOUGHT

All members of the family

When going out at night leave details of where you are going and when you hope to be back. Few things are more disturbing to a Mother's peace of mind than to have someone out at night with no knowledge of where he is or when he hopes to return.

It is also safer in case of accident to know these facts.

Girls

Your parents will want to know that satisfactory arrangements have been made for your transport. If you are going out with a boy make sure that he discusses such details with them, otherwise you are aiming for trouble.

Also if you promise to be back at a certain time, make sure you are. It makes the next outing more pleasant.

It's only a question of common sense and co-operation. Like traffic lights—peace of mind and safety for everyone so long as the green and red are observed!



If you want to arrange an evening out with a friend do your level best to work it so that they don't know who it is, where you are going, or when you will be back. If they insist on knowing these things make a real fuss about them not trusting you.

FOR THOUGHT

When you begin to get interested in boys here are some ideas to think over:

1. Don't you think it is better to be on good terms with many boys rather than living in the pocket of one?

(Going steady can wait for several years.)

2. Don't you think it is better to make up parties rather than just the two of you going out together?

3. Don't you think it is wrong of a boy who has taken you out to expect you to repay him by allowing petting?

4. Don't you think it makes all the difference when making friends with a boy if you can respect his character? (Later on this respect is one of the most important things in marriage).

5. Don't you think it is vital for you to become the sort of person a really nice boy could respect?

(God can help you here.)

6. Don't you think that the boy who isn't interested in the things you admire most, but only wants to get a kiss, is not worthy of your friendship?



If you get a boyfriend when you are thirteen and they say it's too young for you to be thinking seriously about boys, go off the deep end They must be shown that you've no intention of letting them arrange your friendships.**



Make a habit of going to the local cinema with the gang each Saturday night. It doesn't matter what's on. They may talk a lot of stuff about your mind being poisoned by bad films, but they must be taught that open mindedness is what matters.

FOR THOUGHT

Would you not be wise to choose your films carefully?

The Sydney Morning Herald (June 6th, 1960) reported that the President of a certain famous American Film Corporation, when speaking to a hundred Theatre Managers in Canada, promised them films to compete successfully with T.V.

What sort were they to be? "Perverse, suggestive pictures, with blood, guts and sex" was what one manager asked for, "provided the studios keep producing some artistic movies".

He was promised what he asked for, with "once in a while a good clean picture". This attitude is not true of all film producers, obviously. Some do their best to keep the standard up. But it seems to be sufficiently common to expose regular cinema fans to vice in all its forms — often dressed up most attractively.

The film business wants your money and believes that this is the best way to get it.

If the average film makes it more difficult for you to be a really fine person and easier to sink in character to a third rate level they couldn't care less.

The trouble is some parents couldn't either.



Be ashamed of your parents and home. Let them know you couldn't possibly bring your friends back with you, and that you would be most embarrassed if they turned up at school.

FOR THOUGHT

What makes you ashamed of your home and parents?

Wrong neighbourhood?

Too small?

Too poor?

Too uninteresting?

Not friendly enough?

Too old fashioned?

Food too ordinary?

Sometimes, of course, your refusal to bring your friends back is a cloak to cover either the sort of people they are (you don't think your parents will like them) or the sort of person you are (a poor host and too lazy to make yourself into a good one!).

But remember that this sort of shyness (sometimes snobbishness) on your part will make a poor impression on the very friends you are trying to impress.

Of course your parents may need to pull up their socks. Why not have a frank talk with them about it? They may be more ready than you imagine to co-operate. But don't be surprised if you discover you also need to pull up your own!

FOR THOUGHT

Visitors to Australia always comment on a difference they notice between the boys and girls of our schools. It is this:—

The boys tend to dress badly, speak badly, and lack good manners.

The girls tend to dress well, speak well, and have good manners.

This, of course, is a generalisation which has many exceptions. But there is enough truth in it to make the boys sit up.

It is **NOT** sissy to speak good English.

It is **NOT** sissy to wear decent clothes when going out with an adult or to a party, and to be tidy in your dress always.

It is **NOT** sissy to cultivate good manners so that other people feel at ease in your presence, and you in theirs.

The typical Australian man likes to be thought "tough". But notice this does not necessitate being "rough" in speech, appearance or manners. It means being thoroughly fit in body and resourceful in mind so that no situation can get you down.



Make a point of not being a sissy about your dress and manners. Be tough. This will probably make them ashamed of you, and hurt them a good deal, but it is a necessary part of their education.

FOR THOUGHT

Aren't day dreams wonderful? You can do such incredible things in them without any effort or delay—capture the game and set you want; capture the boy you want!; pass the exam you want; have the party you want.

It's all so simple!

But life is so difficult—so much "nose to the grindstone", so many delays, arguments, disagreements, disappointments (interspersed with fun of course!). Why bother to get a good pass in Intermediate or Leaving for you will get married anyway! (Is that your best day dream?) And then what good will your books be?

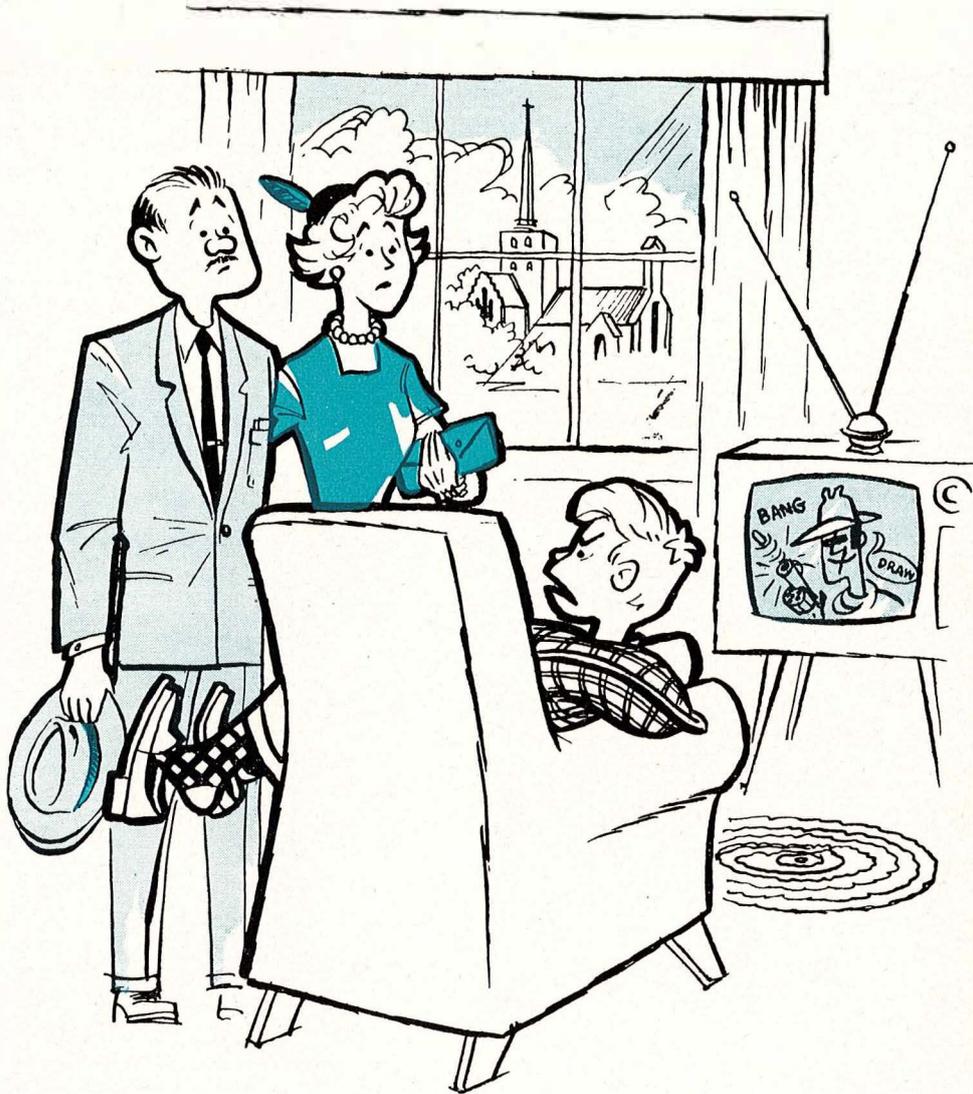
Just this:—The **way** you do your work now is forming your character. What you are making yourself now you will probably always be.

Day dreams are an escape from the realities of life. Do you want to be an escapist? If so it is very easy to succeed, and in the end no one will rely on you for anything difficult.

Facing up to real life is much better fun, much more difficult, and much more satisfying.



Get away with as little homework as possible, and when you are actually doing it feel free to dream happily about your next game. A low place in class will add to their sense of inferiority, for they will be sure to ask which of them you take after.



Make a row if they want you to go to church with them. Let them know that none of your friends are forced to go, and that unless it is entirely voluntary you will grow up to hate it.

FOR THOUGHT

The parents who are too strict about Church, are outnumbered in our modern world by about 99 to 1.

Most children get no lead at all from their parents in Church going, Bible reading or prayer. Of those who do only a very small proportion are given an overdose of religion.

Sunday School and Church should not be entirely voluntary otherwise, youth being what it is, the Churches would be empty and the beaches full. This is no reflection on the Churches. The Schools would fare exactly the same were they voluntary.

Let the parents seek for and find a living faith in Jesus Christ that sets them free from their self seeking, self love, and self righteousness, and many of their children will want to discover the same secret of victorious living.

For Real Christianity is catching.



If they get sentimental and talk about gratitude for all they've done for you, you've always got the pointed rejoinder—"I didn't ask to be born anyway, and certainly not into a home like this.**

That'll really squash them!

FOR THOUGHT

Parents

Don't appeal to their gratitude.

They are quite right. It's not fair!

What you are yourselves will hold or lose their love and respect in the long run.

Children

Ask God to make you grateful.

When you've got children of your own you will certainly want them to be!

The other attitude will isolate you terribly. **No one** will want you for a friend—and rightly so. Do you admire conceit and ingratitude in others?

Of course not. Then why expect to get away with it yourself?

What You Need

Frankly what you need is to be changed completely on the inside. You need to become the sort of person who not only co-operates with his parents in making the home happy, but gets a great kick out of doing it.

Who **likes** doing it!

You can't remake yourself but Jesus Christ can. (Read St. John 3. He calls it being "born again"). This will mean that you will not only **know** what is right, but **love** what is right, and also have the **power to do** what is right.

Welcome Him then into your life and begin to take your orders from Him. That is when **real life** begins.

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