

If you are going to get a job in that boys' training school, and if you intend to make a study and a life work of the delinquency and the rehabilitation of young boys, then it won't do any harm, and may be of some benefit, not only to yourself in your work, but also the youngsters that you will have to teach and guard; that's why I am offering you these few ideas and suggestions. You know that I spent several years in one of those places when I was a boy and the so-called Training that I received while there is mainly the cause of my being the degenerate beast that I am today. I have thought about that system of training young boys for all of my life and I know that the whole system is wrong. That system of beating goodness, religion, and Jesus into boys in 99 times out of 100 has the direct opposite effect of taking all of the goodness, kindness, and love out of them and then replacing those feelings with hate, envy, deceit, tyranny and every other kind of meanness there is. If you are really sincere in wanting to teach those boys how to grow up to be good men, then you will have to go at it far differently than the way I was taught. If you should be appointed the commander of one of the companies of boys, you will find when you start out that by far the largest majority of them are already in such a frame of mind that they will all be suspicious of you and your methods in handling them. You will find that their minds are already poisoned and twisted into believing the worst of everybody and you especially. You will never be able to accomplish much with any of them until you first gain their good will and confidence. You can ~~xxx~~ never gain either until you absolutely assure them that you're not a liar or a hypocrite. This you will have to prove by word and deed to them. Once you are able to convince them that you yourself are a good clean, honorable man, and that you mean only good to them, then they will listen and believe you. When you get there, you will find that they are all being taught ~~xxxx~~ a lot of bull by a lot of lying hypocrites just the same as I was taught when I was a boy, with just about the same results. I know now that if I had it all to do over again and if I had any choice in what subjects I should be instructed, then my real choice should be to disregard all hypocrisy and foolish impractical things, such as are taught today in the name of religion. That's the bunk The Golden Rule is religion enough to teach to any boy. Teach them the meaning of such things as truth, lie,

Have education and psychology
Notes & evidence

honest, thief; honor, dishonor; bravery, cowardice; clean, dirty; love, hate. For each lesson just take one word. For instance, take the word truth. Teach them the full meaning of that one word in all its tenses. Then ~~teach~~ teach them how to spell it, pronounce it, and speak and write it in every day usage. Teach them what it really means to be truthful, how they will be respected by all others and how they will respect themselves by being truthful. Teach them by example, word and deed until they thoroughly know that one word truth.

The next day for the next lesson, take the antonym of truth, the word lie or liar. Teach that word until it is thoroughly understood, and what a despicable thing a real liar is. Show them the harm it does, show them that it does no good and only harm to lie. How a liar loses his own self-respect and the respect for all others. Show them the contrast between a truthful person and a liar. How one has his own self-respect and the respect of all others and then on the other hand show them what a mean thing a liar is. After these two lessons are over with, let each boy write out a short composition of what he has learned and his belief and theories of same. Keep all of each boys' records on file. Keep track of each time he tells the truth or lies. Keep a separate record of each boy's conduct, give him credits for his truthfulness, and punish him for lying. Let these ~~xxxxxxx~~ records be the real standard to judge the boy by as to his fitness or unfitness ~~for~~ for release from the institution. Don't judge the boy because he learns or does not learn his Sunday School lessons or because he is mischievous and misbehaves by having a fight with another boy or breaking something or because he does not do his work or some of the other standards they use today in the judging of boys' fitness or his unfitness. Only a fool will judge another person for what he does. They should be judged not for what they do but for How they do it and why they do it.

One or two words like these each day will do more to make better men out of young boys than all the long-haired wind bags and all the Bibles in the world.

You will find that the boys will all be interested. Their new words will be in their vocabularies in every day usage. They will believe in these lessons because they will be true and something they can see. Their rewards will be something that they can see, feel, taste, or wear or keep always, and not merely a piece of paper full of hot air that they have no real belief in.

You will find that when you go to that place to work they will have some sort of a credit system, that they ~~use~~ to judge the boys by. So many credits to each for each days good behavior. When a boy has earned a certain amount, he is eligible for parole. The boys who get their credits the soonest are usually the most despicable ones of the lot. They are the clever liars, the hypocrites and the stool pigeons. But they sure do learn their Sunday School lessons all right. And they know how to be very polite stool pigeons by saying, Yes sir, No sir, and please sir, good morning and how do you do, sir. But all these are merely surface feelings, and their real feelings are hidden out of sight where you will have a hard time discovering them. If you have a book of synonyms and antonyms, you just get it out some time and make out a long list of words such as I have written down and then you study each one and teach what you have learned to those boys. When you get that place, you will find out that there are several hours each day when the boys have nothing to do except to plan mischief. Those hours you could take and put to good use. You could accomplish more if you should follow my suggestions than all of the rest put together.

Teach them how to be gentlemen; Teach them the first rule of conduct of a gentleman is to have consideration for the other fellow.

Such things as these you can easily teach them. Get others if they will, teach them how to learn Sunday School lessons, scrub floors, work and be hypocrites, liars and rogues, as I was taught when I was a boy.