

Exercise 5

In this world of human affairs, there is no worse nuisance than a boy at the age of fourteen. He is neither ornamental nor useful. It is impossible to shower affection on him as on a little boy; and he is always getting in the way. If he talks with a childish lisp he is called a baby, and if he answers in a grown-up way he is called impertinent. In fact, any talk at all from him is resented. Then he is at the unattractive, growing age. He grows out of his clothes with indecent haste; his voice grows hoarse and breaks and quavers; his face grows suddenly angular and unsightly. It is easy to excuse the shortcomings of early childhood but it is hard to tolerate even unavoidable lapses in a boy of fourteen. The lad himself becomes painfully self-conscious. When he talks with elderly people he is either unduly forward, or else so unduly shy that he appears ashamed of his very existence.

Yet it is at this very age when in his heart of hearts a young lad craves for recognition and love; and he becomes the devoted slave of one who shows him consideration. But none dare openly love him, for that would be regarded as

undue indulgence, and therefore bad for the boy. So what with scolding and chiding, he becomes very much like a stray dog that has lost his master.

For a boy of fourteen his own home is the only paradise. To live in a strange house with strange people is little short of torture, while the height of bliss is to receive the kind looks of women and never to be slighted by them.

A Boy at the Age of Fourteen

A boy at the age of fourteen is no longer considered as a child nor is he considered as an adult. He is at uncertain age of growth, where there are inevitable blunders that make boy himself conscious. He hesitates while talking to elders. Besides, a boy of fourteen yearns for love and become attracted towards anyone showing him affection. But no one fully shows him love and he feels lonely. He desires to be loved by members of opposite gender.