

6

You seemed at first to take no notice of your school-fellows, or rather to set yourself against them because they were strangers to you. They knew as little of you as you did of them; so that this would have been the reason for their keeping aloof from you as well, which you would have felt as a hardship. Learn never to conceive a prejudice against others because you know nothing of them. It is bad reasoning, and makes enemies of half the world. Do not think ill of them till they behave ill to you ; and then strive to avoid the faults which you see in them. This will disarm their hostility sooner than pique or resentment or complaint. I thought you were disposed to criticize the dress of some of the boys as not so good as your own. Never despise any one for anything that he cannot help—least of all, for his poverty. I would wish you to keep up appearances yourself as a defence against the idle sneers of the world, but I would not have you value yourself upon them. I hope you will neither be the dupe nor victim of vulgar prejudices. Instead of saying above "Never despise anyone for anything that he cannot help," I might have said, "Never despise anyone at all" ; for contempt implies a triumph over and pleasure in the ill of another. It means that you are glad and congratulate yourself on their failings or misfortunes.



You have hitherto been a spoilt child, and have been used to have your own way a good deal, both in the house and among your playfellows, with whom you were too fond of being a leader ; but you have good nature and good sense, and will get the better of this in time. You have now got among other boys who are your equals, or bigger and stronger than yourself and who have something else to attend to besides humouring your whims and fancies, and you feel this as a repulse or piece of injustice. But the first lesson to learn is that there are other people in the world besides yourself. The more airs of childish self-importance you give yourself, you will only expose yourself to be the more thwarted and laughed at. True equality is the only true morality or wisdom. Remember always that you are but one among others and you can hardly mistake your place in society. In your father's house you might do as you pleased ; in the world you will find competitors at every turn. You are not born a king's son, to destroy or dictate to millions; you can only expect to share their fate, or settle your differences amicably with them. You already find it so at school, and I wish you to be reconciled to your situation as soon and with as little pain as you can.

—William Hazlitt

QUESTIONS

1. Can you tell who is writing to whom in this passage ? What would you call this kind of writing—a speech, a diary, a letter, a sermon ?
2. What reasons does the author give for not harbouring a prejudice against others ?
3. What are some of the blessings of living with others in the same class or the same school?
4. Paraphrase :—
 - (a) True equality is the only true morality or true wisdom.
 - (b) To be the dupe or victim of vulgar prejudices.
 - (c) Settle your differences amicably with them.
5. "Contempt implies a triumph over and pleasure in the ill of another." Who are those who feel like this and why ?
6. The author says that "in the world you will find competitors at every turn." But competition is a very good thing. Why does he seem to warn his son about it?



Wren & Martin Exercise #06

(1)

In this passage, a father is writing to his son. He is advising him on how to behave with his school-fellows. This kind of writing is usually known as a letter.

(2)

The author gives a number of reasons

for not harbouring a prejudice against other. Firstly, he says that never harbour a prejudice against others because you do not know them. Secondly, he says that it is a bad practice and it can make you a lot of enemies. Lastly, he goes on to say that do not think ~~of~~ bad about anyone till he behaves badly to you. This can save you from a lot of troubles.

(3)

There are multiple blessings of living with others in the same ~~cat~~ class or the same school. To start with, it ~~can~~ helps foster leadership skills. It also gives an opportunity to meet with the like-minded people and build long-term relationships with them. Moreover, it provides a competitive environment to test your strengths and to become aware of your weaknesses. Lastly, it humbles you as a person ~~that~~ by giving a sense of equality.

(4)

(a) It means that considering yourself

a normal human being and equal to others is the true form of morality or wisdom.

(b) It means not having any prejudice against others and neither letting others to have any ~~prejudice~~ prejudice against yourself.

(c) It suggests to settle the differences with others in a good manner.

(5)

These are the type of people who celebrate or feel happy ~~at~~ on the failures of others. They feel this way because they are also not able to get any success in their own life. This is the reason they despise other's success and feel happy at their failures.

(6)

The author seems to warn his son about the competition because he wants him to understand that ^{he is} you're not so special. Also, he is just like

any other member of the society. As he moves forward in life, he is going to face a lot of competition. ~~The better way to~~ He wants him to understand that the better way to compete is accepting your fate or settling ^{your} differences in a good manner.
