

- If we see kids as needy, we'll provide for them.
- If we see them as revolutionaries, we'll rally them.
- If we see them as adults, we'll have greater expectations of them.
- If we see them as children, we'll protect them.
- If we see them as assets, we'll recruit them.
- If we see them as buyers, we'll exploit them.
- If we see them as problems, we'll reform them.
- If we see them as hooligans, we'll avoid them.
- If we see them as wayward, we'll control them.
- If we see them as hopeless, we may give up.

Our actions and responses toward teenagers are very revealing. Yet, we can take that one step further: By looking at kids, we can learn an awful lot about ourselves. Research shows that although many people view adolescents as a problem in society ("Just look at them!"), they're actually an unfiltered reflection of society ("Just look at us!"). In other words, what we really see in teenagers is... ourselves. They're mirrors.