

"What are some of the things that prevent our making friends with a person? Does physical appearance matter much? Do people change and develop through friendship? In what ways?"

Points that should eventually be covered are:

1. Everyone wants and needs friendship, even those who appear to be rejecting it.

2. Often people are reaching out to us, wishing to be our friends, if we will only notice them.

3. It is foolish to dismiss a person because of superficial qualities we dislike. It is possible to miss many potential friendships in this way.

4. Often pride and fear of rejection hold us back from forming new friendships.

5. A good friendship requires time and care, and perhaps some pain, in its development—but it is well worth the trouble.

Friendship ②

A PERSON WITHOUT FRIENDS

Egocentricity: A boy (or girl) is painfully shy and self-conscious when confronting others. He either behaves foolishly, or has nothing at all to say. He is so worried about the impression he will make on others that he cannot think of them at all except in this regard. They, sensing his lack of interest in them, do not like him, and he remains friendless.

Egoism: The same boy decides that he will not bother to try to make friends. He tells himself that the others are all inferior to him, that he needs no one but himself. If he makes this choice freely, he is exhibiting egoism.

EXCLUSIVE FRIENDSHIPS AND CLIQUES

Egocentricity: A girl (or boy) is unsure of herself, lacks self-confidence. She feels accepted by one person (or a certain group) and hardly notices anyone else.

Egoism: The same girl meets another girl and likes her. However, fearing that her friend (or the other members of her crowd) will not like her new acquaintance, she does not allow a friendship to grow between them.

BOYS AND GIRLS "USING" ONE ANOTHER

Egocentricity: A boy goes out with a girl, not because he really likes her, but because she is pretty and popular, and he knows his friends will admire him when they see him with her.

Egoism: A boy sets out to date every pretty girl in his class, dropping each one as soon as he is sure she likes him. He only wants to prove to himself and his friends that he can get each girl to like him.

TEENAGERS AND PARENTS

Egocentricity: A girl feels she should be free to choose her own friends. Her parents strongly disapprove of the boy she is dating. She cannot see any of the faults they point out to her, and insists

that because she has chosen him, she should be allowed to see him as often as she likes.

Egoism: The same girl decides that since her parents disagree with her, she will lie to them. She tells them that she has given up the boy, but meets him secretly, thus closing off any further discussion with her parents.