



Why You Should Read This Book...

Message for tweens/teenagers:

Being you isn't easy, is it? Being a person between the ages of 10 and 14 isn't easy. I'm sure that you already know this by now. It can seem like no one understands you. You may be thinking that your parents don't know anything about what it is like being a kid your age, or that times were very different when they were a child. It is true that the world is a much different place than it was when your parents were young. But it is also true that the path your parents had to take when they were kids is essentially the same path that you are getting ready to take...you just don't know it yet. Your parents thought that their parents (your grandparents) didn't know what they were talking about. They also thought that their parents didn't remember what it was like being a kid. Just to set the record straight, the same little boy or girl that used to be your parents when they were younger, is still somewhere inside your mom and dad. A couple of things have changed though. Mortgage or rent payments, jobs, bills to pay, food to buy and make, diapers for your little brother, lunch money for you....the list goes on and on. All of these things that have to be taken care of by your parents makes it sometimes impossible for the little girl or little boy inside them to come out and play. Doesn't mean that they don't want to, just that there never seems to be enough hours in the day for them to BOTH work AND play.

You may think that you don't yet have a place here in this world. There is a cartoon on Cartoon Network that many of you have probably seen before. It's called Codename: Kids Next Door. In case you've never seen the show, it is about five 10-year olds who have one mission in life: to save kids all over the planet from the unfair rule of adults. Many of you have probably watched or heard of this show and wondered to yourself "Yeah, why is it that adults have to rule the world...why can't kids rule the world?" I won't bore you with charts, graphs and speeches on why

you can't rule the world. What I will tell you is that your place right now is not to rule the world (maybe you'll rule a company or our country later though). You are growing, learning and living so that one day, you will be an adult who has responsibilities....but who lives, loves and hopefully leaves this world in better condition than it was when you came into it. I hope that this book answers some questions for you and helps you to find your way (and your place) in this world. The future of us adults depends on YOU.

Message for parents/guardians/adults:

This book was written with your children and their parents in mind (YOU), and your parents, for that matter. One of the ideas that is covered in this book is "If you want something different, then do something different." Keeping that thought in mind, this book is my gift to children and you parents that do so much for them (regardless of their age). It is my hope that any person of any age who picks up this book and reads it will at least learn one thing that can help them through their life. The world has become quite different than the days of my childhood in York, PA. Gone are the days of leaving your front door unlocked, and watching your child leave the house in the morning and having them not return until the streetlights begin to flicker on (and not having any idea where they've been all day or who they've been with). My mother has always told me that she does not envy my having to raise a child (and a boy at that) in these days and times. People always say that kids are so resilient and can get through almost anything. Though my son Kaleb is only 10 years old at the time of this writing, there isn't a day that goes by that I don't realize that my actions and decisions today will forever affect his life and times tomorrow. I, like you, want the best for my child, and want him to grow up to be the confident, successful and happy man that I've seen in his eyes ever since I first looked into them on the day he graced my life with his appearance in it. Fortunately, he has people in his life that equally share concerns about his future abilities to fare well in a

society and world that is so different from that in which we were raised. I'm sure your son/daughter has similar people. Someone who wants him to be able to handle the streets and the people that can sometimes be so mean, unfair and at times somewhat vindictive. Others, who do their best to make sure that your child has some exposure to and gets some spiritual defenses from a church, synagogue or other institution. And still others (like teachers and caretakers) who work hard each day to show your child love and compassion while trying to educate them about the ever-changing and challenging world that lies ahead for them.

How do you raise a child in these days and times? You arm them with as much knowledge, love and opportunities that you possibly can. The rest, as they say, will be up to your child's willpower, desires, and the hand of God (or whatever you believe your Higher Power to be). I didn't have a book like this when I was growing up. I've read many inspiring and helpful books as an adult, but when my own son started asking me questions and became conscious of the start of the many complexities and situations of life, I realized that I had to try to condense what I've learned as an adult into useful packets of information that could help him. Hoping that I'd find something written that would eliminate him saying, "Oh mom, you don't know everything" or "Oh, how long is this speech going to take", I searched in Border's and at Amazon.com to no avail. I found wonderful books and titles for teenagers, but nothing short and sweet enough to hold the attention of my 10 year old. I hope that this book fits the bill for my son, for your child, and for you. Maybe you will pickup one or two new ideas in the process that you will find to be helpful for you. Enjoy!

P.S. I always enjoy hearing from people. If you'd like to comment on anything that I have written, offer suggestions for things you'd like to see included in book 2, just email me at mjareaux@hotmail.com.