

## Crooked Thinking

*It gives us no pleasure to present this section, for it is a clear indictment of education. The youngsters writing these statements may get good marks in reading, writing, and arithmetic. Their teachers may think they are teaching them to think, but here is evidence to the contrary. These statements of children are more telling than any results of objective tests could possibly be. Fortunately there is another type of evidence which is presented following this, but it does not negate the statements of this section. Is it possible that youngsters in your school are employing crooked thinking?*

### *We're Taken in by Stereotypes*

- It's usually the Jews who start the black markets. They cheat you out of every penny.
- The Japs are unsivilised people. They should send them back to there own land. As fore the negroes they are savages.
- I don't like the Jews they are no good I like the chinese because they are good. The Japines is no good they are rats yellow face Babones. I thank you should send the negroes back to Africa.
- I don't like Negroes because they cut people's throats and stab people in the back. My mother and father said that they always start race riots.
- The Jews are worst than most white people I think they always want to cheat someone well I don't say they only cheat my race but they cheat the white race too. In fact if there is a nice Jew I would like to meet him.
- I think some of them [white people] are quite nice but the white people who come from the South are no good.
- I would not like to go to school with a colored boy or girl because they don't smell good.
- Why I would not want to live next door to a negro because I know about them. They [Negroes] are fairly nice people, some of them. They are ok until they get drunk or mad. If they lived next door to me they would come home drunk at night and wake us up at night, they also neglet the house they live in and are very dirty people on the whole. If I lived next door to them I'm afraid they would stab me in the back like in the

race riot in 1943—I just don't truste them.

- Germans I do not like them becaus they try to run over little people AND DO NOT BY BONDS. specily our enimes. Japs I do not like them because they push and do every thing they do dirty specily they fight dirty.
- I don't like the German because they will double crosser. Japanese I don't like because they tell lies. I like Chinees, because they tell the troath and do not kill any one on purpos.
- I hate the Japanese because they look funny; their eyes look funny; they have long funny teeth; and they are sneaky people.

### *We Believe Rumors*

- That Catholics right now are plotting a gigantic world war of religion to conquer the world for the pope is a statement which I believe may come true in the years to come as the Catholics have always been such a headstrong religion that they would, as in times before, have the so-called religious belief enough to try to bring a whole world of individual believers to their religion and their pope.
- Jews run all large stores and money making outfits while gentiles do the work in factories. When our present precident was called a Jew he didn't denie it and it sort of looks that way seeing that all the key men in Washington are Jewish. The Jews aren't in the army fighting but are sitting home or in the army ordinance. The gentile boys give up lives fighting for continuance of Jewish race. England is also controlled by Jews and we help England every time she has an argument and yet we fought her for our freedom.

**THE WHOLE FUTURE** of the world depends on the teacher, who in that class room can teach the leaders of tomorrow brotherly-love, and Democracy. Our teachers must uproot the seed of prejudices that has already been planted, and in its place sow the seed of brotherly-love, so in the future the world may harvest truth, honor, and love among men.

- There are so many negroes living on welfare money and driving around in classy looking cars and when the white people try to get it they have to go through a lot of red tape.
- Why you always see so many children in every Catholic family? They want their population to top the Protestants. About a half a year ago the Catholics were petitioning for peace.
- Everything that the colored people got they worked hard for it. But as for the white as they call it, everything they got they stole, robbed and killed for it. That's why they have everything they want now. If it weren't for colored people this world wouldn't hardly be anything.
- I haven't ever seen a Jew face to face but I have heard they are dirty.
- In the next race riot, there are going to be a lot of killings. The niggers now attack white girls; they won't touch their own kind. They smell everything up. If I had my way, I'd kill everyone I saw.
- I do not like Negroes because they started riot.
- Well I have seen this happen if a Jap comes from Japan and said that he escape he'll be taken into the white house and given military word I don't like it one bit.
- In Chicago the negroes declared a different day in every week, "Pusher Day." Whenever they meet a white man on the streets they push him off if they can. They say, "You'll have to live with us after the war. You may as well get used to it now."
- It is a known fact that the Jewish race is slowly taking over the most sacred thing in American Democracy, the White House at Washington, D. C. The gentleman who said in a recent statement that America is being run by a cripple and six Jews was perfectly right. The Jews have set themselves up as a superior race ever since the beginning of time. The Jewish lust for money is deep in their heart and can never be stamped out. The Jewish race should be working in farms, thankful for the chance of living in America

instead of maybe living in Germany or Italy. Over in Germany the Jewish people would not dare to invade and try to control the Reich. They have tried to control the White House because they believe America is soft. We Americans must drive the Jews back to the farms where they belong

*Emotional Reactions Lay Reason Low*

- I despise colored people. I can't stand being around them. All colored people are so dirty. Their hair looks dirty and stiff. I get the creeps when I'm around them. No matter how clean they may be, I just can't stand being around them.
- Negroes think they run the world, and Bigtown is giving them their own way too much. In Bigtown here sometimes you can even see a white person and a nigger together. White people shouldn't even be made to associate with them, shows and public places, buses and street cars should not allow colored people to ride with us. All they care about is nice clothes and a big shiny car. And their houses are even filthy. Even if we did treat them decent they would still knife us in the back.
- Where I came from the people hate all Japanese and that goes for me to.
- One day I heard a boy from a parochial high school call a group of nuns from the school, "Jews." He didn't like them and this was the word he chose to express himself. I've never seen a Jewish nun, and neither has he, but like so many others he has the wrong idea about Jews, Catholics, and people of other religions.
- When the Negroes were invited over [to visit the school] I didn't like them then, and I don't like them now. I don't think I ever will.
- There's always someone who say that God said that all men are created equal well he did say that, they were created equal. Yes, Sure they all have 2 arms, legs and etc. but he didn't say that they should all be treated the same.

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THE LORD SAID that we should love thy neighbor as theyself and do unto all men as you want them to do unto you. It is hard to love everybody because everybody won't do right, but do the best you can toward all men no matter what nationality.

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### *We Generalize From A Single Instance*

• I would object living next door to a negro, because during the race riot my grandfather had a store in the colered section his stored was destroyed and he lost a lot of money. Also because I think you can not trust them. My mother had the maid over. She stoled a pair of curtains and we never saw them again. Also when I got on a street car I bumped into a negro I said excuse me but he sworeed at me and that is why I object to live next door to a negro.

• I like the negroes because when I was on a bus my hat blew off my head and a negro got it. He caught up with the bus and gave it back to me.

• I don't think a kid sitting on the bus should get up and give his seat to a negro lady because one time I saw a negro boy sitting in the bus and a woman standing up with a baby in her arms and he wouldn't give her his seat.

• I have a great prejudice against Italian people. When I was about seven years old we lived on a farm and next door to us was an Italian family. Whenever we went out on Sundays they would steal our chickens. They were unclean and their house was always in a mess.

### *We Rely on Inaccurate Sources*

• I don't like the Japanese because they are sneaky. In the funny books they say that they are dirty and they would stab you in the back.

• The common people say all of the shortages of products we have are because of the Jews, that they are holding up these products until they can raise the prices.

• I've heard people talking about the Negroes. They say that they are not worth the ground they walk on or the soles they have on their shoes.

• The only ones (prejudices) I ever had were those that I have heard people say for a fact were true. One is that all negroes are dirty and filthy people and never take a bath as often as we do because you can't see the dirt anyway.

### *We Don't Face the Issues*

• I don't like Negroes because I just don't like them. They are always trying to pick a fight or something. The Negroes are O K if they would attend to their own business and go to their own schools. I don't think white people should get acquainted with them, at least I don't want to because me mother doesn't want me to.

• I think all people should stay where they belong, also the *Hoosiers*.

• I just don't like the Negroes. I try to feel different, but I can't. I just don't like them.

• I do not like the negroes and hillbillies because they not only live dirty but are very rude. They think they can push anyone around they please. If they were sent back down south I think there would be less trouble here.

• I've got Southern blood in me so you probably know how I feel toward the negro. I don't believe in colored and white mixing. There yellow when you get right down to it. When a negro sits by me on the bus I get up.

I think something ought to be done about the negroes. I think they ought to be put in their place. They are beginning to think they are as good as we are. Down south if your walking down the street they get off the sidewalk and let you pass. But in the north if you walk down the street and a bunch of negroes are too you have to get off for them. We fought a Civil War because of them. We let them go and now there getting out of hand. If they would stay on their own side of town maybe things would be better. They put the Indians on reservations why not let the negroes have towns of their own.

### *Our Generalizations Don't Jibe With our Experience*

• I don't like Negroes because they started a riot and kill many of our men in the arm forces over a girl and kill many policeman and because they are dirty and try to run the

white people and every time they fight they pull out a knife and in school they dont mind the teachers and they are not to have there own way because if they do they may run us and we will be there slaves but there is a very nice Negroes girl in my room and she is clean there is some Negroes that is very nice when my mother was sick there was a Negroes lady that came and took care of our family and took care of my mother.

- My cousin up in Michigan is a State Patrol, and he has told me many a story about the Negroes. I have read in the papers about how the Negroes get people in allays and cut them up. From then on I just don't like some of them. I do like Miss Bee who is our wash-woman, but we think of her as we think of our family.

- There is only one prejudice that I may have and that is against the Negroes. It seems to me as though they are to a certain extent, lazy and have no concern for anything but their own feelings and happiness. As usual though there are many things which contradict this feeling. For instance, George W. Carver, Booker T. Washington and the all Negro outfit which is doing so well in this war.

- During one of our class discussions Tommy raised his hand to volunteer. When called upon he took a knife from his pocket. When it was closed this knife measured four inches.

TOMMY: Look, this is a toadstabber. It is the kind of knife that niggers carry.

TEACHER: Stop a moment, Tommy, who did you say carries knives like that?

TOMMY: I mean colored people. They do, Miss ——. They say that the children carry them, too.

TEACHER: Bring the knife to me, Tommy. It looks very dangerous, doesn't it?

We opened the knife. We measured it and found that when it was open it measured more than eight inches. We decided that it was too dangerous for Tommy to carry around with him. Tommy volunteered the information that another boy in class had the same kind of knife.

TEACHER: How does it happen that you have this knife?

TOMMY: It is one that we have had at home for a long time.

TEACHER: But, Tommy, you told me that only colored people carried knives.

TOMMY: They do.

By this time other members of the class saw the point. Bob was called upon.

BOB: I have a pen-knife and so has my dad. I think that most all of our dads carry some kind of knife and a great many of us have them, too, even though we don't bring them to school.

TOMMY: I never thought of that. I'm not colored and I have a knife and so does my dad. I guess colored people are not the only ones who carry them.

The class felt that Tommy's last statement was the true one and the first one was false.

### *We're Confused*

- When the teacher talks about the Negroes, I feel that I like them; but when I get home and hear other people talk about them I feel they way they do.

- Well some white people are kind of nice and some are nasty about the dark people so I haven't much chois about this question.

- What's the use of our saying that all people should be free and equal when our own parents won't agree? You should hear my father on the subject.

- My parents brought me up to believe that I'm not better than anybody else and that color doesn't make any difference. They have taught me to believe that if you are consid-

*OWI Photo by Gordon Parks  
Negative in Library of Congress*



### **Who's the Minority Here?**

The prejudice I have most trouble now is girls. I'm not perfect, but they seem to try to annoy you. There is this boy and we go around together quite often, but everytime we start some place there is always one or two girls who try flirting or messing around as we call it. I guess maybe there's a bit of jealousy to.

Then on negroes my opinion of them has never changed. I like them. My mother had two negro girls as friends when she was a girl and liked them.

ered bad it is your own fault. I disagree with them in that point because people aren't judged for what they are, they are judged by other people who think they are better and have set up themselves as a model.

• In my mind funny things occur. I find myself thinking that negroes are dirty and that they destroy things; that they are lazy and rude. Then all of a sudden my other self says, "Now wait a minute, the negroes are just as human as you. If you were colored and couldn't go to certain schools, or states for a vacation, and had to live in places not fit to live in, were mistreated and kept down, what would you do?"

Then I realize that I live in America—all races, religions and different languages. That is what makes us strong. Then I think, "Would I sleep or eat or swim with a negro?" I said, "No", but I do not know why. I am trying to get this 'no' out of my mind. That surely can't be any worse than swimming with some other people at certain pools.

• The teacher invited some Negroes over to visit our school. They sang for us. They were nice children. While they were here I liked them very much, but after they had gone I started disliking them. People started saying that they were going to start them in this school.

• I don't want any racial group to be treated like some are in parts of the world today but if I never see another Negro it will be too soon for me.

• My parents are strongly prejudiced against them, but I don't know the exact cause for it. My brother is overseas and he wrote home and told us that if you happen to get hurt you don't care who picks you up and takes you to the hospital as long as you get there and recover. It doesn't matter whether it is a

Negro or a white man, just so it's not a Jap. That is why I can't understand why the people over here feel so strongly against working beside a Negro. Our boys are over there fighting side by side.

• I think that Negroes should not have as much privilege as white the reason why is because that God put them on earth for slaves not exactly slaves but to work for white. I think that we should send most of them down south. I think that Negroes should stay on one side of the city or town. Up here they have much more privilege they go to the same shows, schools, and resurents and even in some churchs. Some are not as bad as others but some are very mean. I know that they can not help their color or race. How would you feel if you were in their place, awful wouldn't you.

• The negroes should have a few priviliges that the whites have. I, in my days, have treated them mean myself, and wish I wouldn't have done so. Such as calling them "Snowballs, Black Pies, Burly Headed Negroes" and see what a fool I made of myself. Everyone hates the negroes, and I, myself, hate them too, but for some reason I am beginning to like them.

Well, I called them names and thought I was smart but people only laugh at me. So one day I said something to a negro and he said, "That's O.K. pal." For some reason he was a real pal until the whites began to treat them badly.

• One must learn to pick out the good points in others. From experience I know that is a mighty hard thing to do. Sometimes it is so hard that I just give up and say to myself that I'll have to be tolerant of that person even against my will. Try as I do, often I end up with a strong dislike for a person.

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