

Our Parents Get Us Started Wrong

In trying to understand their own minds, many youngsters are inclined to blame racial prejudices on the teachings of their parents. This may be partially rationalization, but it crops up so frequently in the children's writings—both those of majority and minority groups—that it must be considered as an important factor in establishing attitudes.

I THINK the race dispute should be settled first by having the parents stop teaching their children that certain races are inferior.

IF YOU WERE to leave the white boys and the Negro boys in one yard together they would get along fine. Their parnts teach them to hate each other.

IF WE COULD KEEP the grown people from hating the negroes like they do the children would not fight with them.

I FOR ONE am not allowed to associate with Negroes but I do go with Spanish people and live among them. My mother was born in the south and maybe that is where I get my dislike for them.

MY GRANDMOTHER believe in people working. She is on my mother's side and she also believes that nobody should be seen walking down the street or be seen any place with a colored person unless it is of the same race. She is also very superstitious and she believes that when you wear pearls that they will bring you bad luck. And she is old fashion. When I was staying with her on my vacation she wanted me to wear my dresses below my knees. Grandfather (on my father's side) was borned in Holland and he was also very superstitious. he died befor I was borned he believes the same as my grandmother—he also believes in work and he believes that if you don't go to sunday school it is a sin, unless you stay out because of illness.

I BELIEVE that the only way that people can stop having prejudices is for the parents to stop discussing theirs in the presence of the younger children. Children should be taught early in school and in the home to respect every race, religion, and nationality; not to make fun of anyone; and to study the problems of race relations in grammar and high school.

I DON'T DISLIKE or hate white children. It's not the children, but it's the mothers and fathers that teach them to call us "nigger."

I HAVE no real hate for the white race. Most of us are reared to dislike the white race because of no reasons at all; it has just been passed down through generations. The other race has been taught the same way.

IN THE KINDERGARTEN, boys and girls don't fight about different races. They get along fine. We bigger boys and girls could get along fine, too, if we didn't listen to our parents.

I BELIEVE if the white mothers would tell their children to say hello to the negroes they could become friends. Then the negroes could say hello and act right.

WHEN WE who are children are growing up our parents should let us play and associate together, no matter what race we belong to. Our parents are the people that hold us back.

Parents, I beg of you with all my heart please don't teach us to hate the people of the other races. Teach us to love the children of the other races the same as the children of our own race. Teach us to love each other no matter what race we belong to. We love each other now but teach us to love more.

A NEGRO'S QUESTIONS

Why do some scoff when I pass on the street?
Why does a white turn his back?
Why do the white women hurry away?
Is it because I'm black?

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