

I May Be Quiet but I Listen Very Loud

On my shirt I would put: “I may be quiet but I listen very loud.”

As many people know I am a quiet person. Not many people know me very well. Several reasons for this are: I don't need to hear my voice all the time to know I'm alive. I feel and breathe, thus I know I'm around. Another reason is I don't need to monopolize conversations to get attention, or to interrupt people all the time so I can be the center of attention—I know who I am, what I need and how to get it. I don't need to hurt others to build myself up.

But I do hear well, I hear others cutting “friends” of theirs apart, saying unkind things just to make themselves seem better. I hear people's feelings being hurt by others ignoring them. I hear when no one speaks to me because I choose to be more considerate of others and not to follow the crowd. I hear tears on faces, because they aren't accepted by some because they don't have the right looks, the right clothes, or they are not cool enough to be popular. I hear the loneliness of people sitting in the folding chairs at a school dance because they are not loud enough to be heard.

I plan on listening to my children like my own parents are listening to me. Surprisingly they were the ones that taught me to listen.

Grade 6

Source: Anonymous student work.

My Best Thing

The thing I am best at is science. And the way I learned it is through hard work, concentration, studying, and the ability to think hard. It takes a lot of research and observation to truly make it stay in your mind. You also have to be patient for this kind of activity, because no one gets an experiment right on the first time. So that means test after test until you get it right. When you get into science you have got to keep the bad things in mind such as: all the stress, taking your job home, the sleepless nights, and the chances of dying from your own experiment.

I think that science is the best job field to get into, because it is high paying, interesting and filled with entertainment. In this job field there is always something new to do. One day I'll be in the science field, and I'll be famous.

Grade 6

Source: Anonymous student work.

Junk Food

Everything in the world has to have food may it be good food or junk food. Junck food is one of the more populare food. Most people like soda pops, hambriger, popcorn, shakes itc. Some of the places you can get these at is at 7 eleven stores, Mcdonalds, Dariy Queen etc.

Some Health food nut say that you will get fat if you eat hamburgere. You will but if you just at health food al the time, your body will get to meny vitimens and you can die. Health food is a food that will give your vitemans and cleans out yore iners.

Eny whay you nead junk food to get your adrenal gland working. Junk food like hamburger is good food. Some people say that it is bad for you or is it. I don't think it is so bad for you because you get tomatos, lettice, musterd, relish and meat. Shakes. Shakes are made out of mile, ice, and aritvial flaver and suger.

Some people say that fried chiken is good for you but is it. the chiken is fried in nothing but oil. It is one of my favorit food so I don't care what eny one thinkes. If it is food it is food.

If you just had a candy bare out in the desert would you just throw it a way hec no. If you were out on the dessert you would take one bite of it and keep it in your mouth for days.

If you don't eat eny food you will die in 63 days of what is called starvation. Starvaison ocures wen you don't get enough food and you don't get eny oxegen to your bones.

Grade 8

Source: Anonymous student work.

Fox

I don't get along with people to good, and sometimes I am alone for a long time. When I am alone, I like to walk to forests and places where only me and the animals are. My best friend is God, but when I don't believe he's around sometime's, my dog stands in. We do every thing together. Hunt, fish, walk, eat and sleep together. My dog's name is Fox, 'cause he looks like an Arctic Fox. Fox and I used to live in this house with a pond behind. That pond was our property. The only thing allowed on it (that we allowed) was ducks & fish. If another person or dog would even look like going near that place, Fox and I would run them off in a frenzy. There was a lot of rocks around, so I would build forts and traps for any body even daring to come near. The pond had a bridge that was shaded by willows, so on a hot day me and Fox would sit on that bridge & soak our feet, well, I would soak my feet, Fox just kinda jumped in.

At night, the pond was alive with frogs, so I would invite this kid over, (he was a guy like me) and catch frogs. After we had a couple each, we would pick the best looking one out of our group and race them. The winner gets the other guys frog.

In the winter, the pond would freeze over, and I got my iceskates out. The pond was now an ice skating rink. Fox would chase me as I went round & round the pond.

After about a year, I was riding my bike patrolling the area around the pond. With Fox at my side, I raced downhill toward the pond. I tried to stop, but my back tire went into a skid. I went face first into murky, shadowy waters. When I went down, a minute later I felt something pull on my shirt, I grabbed it, not knowing what to think, when I hit the surface, I saw that it was Fox, pulling on my shirt as if he was trying to save me. He was to little to save me if I was really drowning, but it was the thought that counts, I owe him one.

Another year passed. One day my mom got home from the store, and she bought me a rubber raft. It was just a cheap one, but it was mine. I blew it up with a tire pump. It was just the right size for me & Fox. Out of respect for Fox, I named it the USS Fox and christened it right in the pond.

On sunny days, I would take the raft out & lay in the sun with Fox on my legs. One day, when I was asleep in the raft, the wind blew pretty hard and blew my raft right into a bunch of sticks and rocks, the USS Fox was given a sad salute, and then was no more.

Another year passed, and this would be our last year by the pond. I admired and respected that pond more than I ever did that year. But, at long last, all good things must come to an end, we moved to another town. Fox & I still visit the pond, but it'll never be like them 3 years when she was mine.

Grade 8

Source: Anonymous student work.

“THE TOURNAMENT”

One afternoon at 6:00. I had to get ready for a tournament I had to wrestle two times at the tournament to see what place I would get but the thing was I was wrestling heavier people by ten pounds.

When I got on the mat I had butterflies in my stomach then the referee said, “Wrestle!” I did a double leg takedown and it worked I got two points. He did a reversal on me and got one point, we both struggled then I won the match. I had one more match, I was very frightened that I might lose my next match.

They announced my name and I was matched with a one-year experienced person and I pinned him in twenty seconds we shook hands. Then they announced the medals I was one of the first because I got a gold medal. Then I left the building a happy wrestler.

Grade 9

Source: Anonymous student work.

Television 1

The television can be helpful sometimes, especially when people watch the news, but of course we all know that you can't get everyone to watch the news. Some people watch television to learn about things that go on in our world. And there's people that watch it cause there's nothing else to do. People that watch television because there's nothing else to do are making television harmful because almost all of the shows have something wrong with them like the language, their actions, and some of the things that they show. And most of the kids that watch these shows want to be the same way. Like say that a teenager killed someone, the kids that watch it and think that's cool and do the same thing when they get older.

Some shows are learning experiences like a show on saving our economy, if you watched this you could help save the economy. I think that there are too many people using television in the harmful way such as gaining weight from sitting in front of the television too much.

There are also a lot of people who stay away from television as often as they can and try to be more active, but still do watch the educational way of shows and that is the education way of doing it.

There are also a lot of controversy going on about some of the things they on television. But if you think about it television is very helpful.

Grade 10

Source: Anonymous student work.

Television 2: Helpful or Harmful?

Is television helpful or harmful? That depends partly on the viewers. Take my Aunt Marva, for example. The minute she enters a room where there's a television, she turns it on. The very minute. Does she know what's on? It doesn't matter. It might be a soap opera or a football game or one of those animal shows on red ants in Africa. She sits there mesmerized. Sometimes she even forgets to take off her coat.

Marva does watch the news. But the interesting part is that she doesn't watch the news for the news. She doesn't his sort of running critique on the news casters: "Oh, look at Paula's hair tonight. She's gaining a little weight, isn't she? Who picks out Peter Jennings' ties anyway?" In other words, she doesn't listen, so details on what the President said or how the stock market did that day are all lost on her.

It seems to me that if you choose what you watch, pick good shows, and then listen while they are on the air, TV might be pretty helpful and pretty entertaining, too. For instance, lets' say you get ready for work or school between 6 a.m. and 8 a.m. You listen to the morning news while you brush your teeth. You would then be able to carry on an intelligent conversation later. If someone asks you about the war in Bosnia, you won't stare blankly and say, "Where's Bosnia?" You'll know if the economic indicators are up or down, how the Blazers (or your favorite team) played in the latest game, and whether to take your umbrella or take off your snow tires. You'll be a informed person.

But to be really well-informed, you also have to watch the shows that are part of our culture. Shows like Roseanne or NYPD Blue. I know these shows get criticized for language and for violence. But a lot of the criticisms come from people who do not ever even watch these shows. If they did, they would see that even though Roseanne yells a lot and fights with her family, she also really cares about them. Police officers on NYPD might go out of their way to help a friend or help a teenager who is part of a gang or on drugs. The values these shows encourage are more important than the words they use. Plus, there is more violence in most Saturday morning cartoons (and even in a lot of commercials!) than there is on NYPD Blue.

All in all, I think television is a good influence in our lives. Without it, we could not have access to lots of important information. We would not have the same window on our world. But as a viewer, you have to be responsible. Switch the channels if you don't like what you see, or turn the television off. Better yet, if there is nothing on worth watching, don't turn it on in the first place!

Grade 10

Source: Anonymous student work.

The Redwoods

Last year, we went on a vacation and we had a wonderful time. The weather was sunny and warm and there was lots to do, so we were never bored.

My parents visited friends and took pictures for their friends back home. My brother and I swam and also hiked in the woods. When we got tired of that, we just ate and had a wonderful time.

It was exciting and fun to be together as a family and to do things together. I love my family and this is a time that I will remember for a long time. I hope we will go back again next year for more fun and an even better time than we had this year.

Grade 11

Source: Anonymous student work.