What do adolescents respect in parents?

Parents are often upset when their children praise the homes of their friends and regard it as a slur on their own cooking, or cleaning, or furniture, and often are foolish enough to let the adolescents see that they are annoyed.

They may even accuse them of disloyalty, or make some spiteful remark about the friends' parents.

Such a loss of dignity and descent into childish behavior on the part of the adults deeply shocks the adolescents and makes them resolve that in the future, they will not talk to their parents about the places or people they visit.

Before very long the parents will be complaining that the child is so secretive and never tells them anything, but they seldom realize that they have brought this on themselves.

Disillusionment with the parents, however good and adequate they may be both as parents and as individuals, is to some degree inevitable.

Most children have such a high ideal of their parents unless the parents themselves have been unsatisfactory, that they can hardly hope to stand up to a realistic evaluation.

Parents would be greatly surprised and deeply touched if they realized how much belief their children usually have in their character and infallibility, and how much this faith means to a child.

If parents were prepared for this adolescent reaction and realized that it was a sign that the child was growing up and developing valuable powers of observation and independent judgment, they would not be so hurt, and therefore would not drive the child into opposition by resenting and resisting it.

The adolescent, with his passion for sincerity, always respects a parent who admits that he is wrong, or ignorant, or even that he has been unfair or unjust.

What the child cannot forgive is the parents’ refusal to admit these charges if the child knows them to be true.

Victorian parents believed that they kept their dignity by retreating behind an unreasoning authoritarian attitude; in fact, they did nothing of the kind, but children were then too cowed to let them know how they felt.

Today we tend to go to the other extreme, but on the whole this is a healthier attitude both for the child and the parent.

It is always wiser and safer to face up to reality, however painful it may be at the moment.

The author characterizes as ‘childish’ the behavior that parents exhibit when they accuse their children of disloyalty or make spiteful remarks about their children’s friends’ parents.

According to the author, it is inevitable that adolescents should become disillusioned with their parents because their ideal parents can’t stand up to realistic evaluation.

Our attitude towards adolescents differs from that of the Victorians in that they treat their children with an ‘unreasoning authoritarian attitude’ while we ‘tend to go to the other extreme’.

When he described me as a ‘part-time artist’, I regarded it as a slur on my profession.

She is an unpleasant person who often makes spiteful remarks about her neighbors.

The accident made me resolve to be a lot more careful in the future.

Many young people suffer a certain amount of disillusionment when they have been in their first job for a while.

The tragic end to the whole story was to some degree inevitable.

We are waiting for a full evaluation before we can go ahead with the project.

I was deeply touched to receive the present you sent.

Catholics are required to believe in the infallibility of the Pope.

While resentful of having to obtain their permission, I realized that it was necessary.

The man faced three charges of burglary and one of receiving stolen property.

Many teachers in the past have been accused of retreating behind an unreasoning authoritarian attitude.

When children praise their friends’ homes, parents are often upset and might show that they are annoyed by accusing the children of disloyalty.

This behavior makes children decide not to talk to their parents about things in the future, which in turn makes the parents complain about their children’s secretiveness.

Thus, disillusionment with parents is inevitable.

Children have a high opinion of their parents, which can hardly stand up to a realistic evaluation.

If parents realized how high this opinion was, and if they understood adolescence, they would not be so hurt by adolescent reactions.

Do all older generations say that children seem to grow up more quickly nowadays than they did in the past?

Almost certainly.

Parents in 1900 would have said it, parents in 1950 would have said it.

The only difference is that it seems to be truer now, going into the twenty-first century, than it ever was before.

And if it is true, if children really are growing up more quickly than they used to, what can account for it?

The Industrial Revolution, which took place in Europe in the middle of the nineteenth century, had a profound effect on society.

Changes brought about by the computer and advances in technology have had further profound effects in the past fifty years, not least on television and other media and in education.

Children today are born into, and grow up in, a world in which you could, if you wanted to, watch television twenty-four hours a day in many languages from a variety of satellites and other channels from all over the world.

Communications and transport are such that now us can go out today and buy a newspaper published in a country halfway across the world only yesterday.

In many homes and schools, PCs are more than machines; they are part of the furniture.

Pupils learn from them, they play games on them, and they communicate through them.

For many children, ‘pen and ink’ letters to ‘penfriends’ in other countries are being replaced by notes and letters on the Internet.

Many have parents who understand the new technology; all have (or had) grandparents for whom PCs are ‘magic boxes’.

And it is this generation gap, this technology gap, which makes us see why children grow up more quickly.

Children nowadays, however, also seem to have a more adult attitude to human relationships, especially those between the sexes.

Is this the result of more enlightened education in schools and the media, or is it the result of greater exposure to films, adult literature, and so on?

If this is true, is it good that children grow up more quickly now in this respect?

Growing up should involve acquiring a sense of responsibility, and it does seem that young people in general nowadays have a greater sense of responsibility than people of the same age a few years ago.

Is this a good thing?

Who knows?

In later life, they regret that they were not allowed to remain children longer.

He’s old enough to go on holiday on his own.

Have you got enough money for your bus fare?

They let us use their bicycles for the weekend.

We made them wait for us.

Will you let him borrow your tennis racket?

Why make me address those letters when you could do them yourself?

What I most wanted to ask him was how he felt when his team won the championship.

What annoys me about him is the way he always knows the answers to questions in class.

What the girl wanted most for her birthday was a new computer.

It was a mistake on the part of Jones (= Jones was mistaken) to sign the contract without reading it.

The firm agreed to refund one customer his money, and before very long hundreds of others were asking for refunds.

Most children learn quite early in life that they have to stand up to people who try to bully them.

The boy was accused of stealing a book from the shop, but he had done nothing of the kind.

‘On the whole,’ said the teacher, ‘I’m very pleased with John’s progress.’

In the end, we all have to face up to our responsibilities.

I’m rather busy at the moment, but I promise I’ll do it later.

The water is warm enough to swim in.

The water is fairly warm.

Our company made a big loss last year.

Try not to lose your ticket.

The pilot managed an emergency descent and landed in a field.

Decent citizens have nothing to fear from this legislation.

Try to have more belief in your ability.

Family loyalty makes it impossible for him to say anything negative about his relations.

What do you want to do when you grow up?

Livia grows all her vegetables.

I'm sorry if I hurt your feelings.

I banged against the table and hurt my knee. My knee hurts.

I had such a pain in the stomach after eating oysters.

A journalist’s refusal to identify his source of information has landed him in prison before now.

He gave the statement an unqualified denial.

The journalist’s denial that he had handled stolen documents was not believed at the inquiry.

Adolescents often fail to communicate in response to negative behavior from their parents.

When adolescents feel disillusioned with their parents, it’s often a sign they’re developing into maturity.

Adolescents are likely to show more respect for parents who don’t think they’re always right.

In Victorian times, adolescents were too afraid to show their true feelings.

If parents are unsatisfactory, children won’t have high ideals of them.

Such a loss of dignity makes them decide that they won’t talk to their parents.

Disillusionment with parents, however satisfactory they may be, is inevitable.

Most children have such a high ideal that they can hardly stand up to a realistic assessment.

The adolescent always respects a parent who confesses that he is wrong.

Parents are often so foolish as to show they are annoyed.

They may even make spiteful remarks about the parents of their friends.

Soon, parents will complain that the child never says anything to them.