

LETTER FROM A PARENT TO A TEACHER

He will have to learn, I know, that all men are not just, all men are not true. But teach him also that for every scoundrel there is a hero that for every selfish politician, there is a dedicated leader.

Teach him that for every enemy there is a friend.

Teach him that a dollar earned is of far more value than five found.

Steer him away from envy, if you can.

Teach him the secret of quiet laughter.

Teach him the wonder of books; but also give him quiet time to ponder the eternal mystery of birds in the sky, bees in the sun, and flowers on a green hillside.

In school teach him it is far more honourable to fail than to cheat.

Teach him to have faith in his own ideas, even if everyone tells him they are wrong.

Teach him to be gentle with gentle people and tough with the tough.

Try to give him the strength not to follow the crowd when everyone is getting on the band wagon.

Teach him to listen to all men, but teach him also to filter all he hears on a screen of truth, and take only the good that comes through.

Teach him how to laugh when he is sad. Teach him there is no shame in tears.

Teach him to close his ears to a howling mob; and to stand and fight if he thinks he is right.

Treat him gently, but do not cuddle him, because only the test of fire makes fine steel.

Let him have the courage to be impatient, let him have the patience to be brave.

Teach him always to have sublime faith in his Creator and faith in himself too, because then he will always have faith in mankind.

This is big order but please see what you can do.

He is such a fine little fellow, my son!

Abraham Lincoln

(Letter written to the Head Master of the school in which his son was studying)