

Youngster Wanted

A Youngster who stands straight, sits straight, acts straight, and talks straight.

A Youngster who listens carefully when spoken to, who asks questions when he does not understand, and does not ask questions about things that are none of his business.

A Youngster whose fingernails are not in mourning, whose ears are clean, whose shoes are polished, whose clothes are brushed, whose hair is combed, and whose teeth are well cared for.

A Youngster who moves quickly and makes as little noise about it as possible.

A Youngster who whistles in the street but not where he ought to keep still.

A Youngster who looks cheerful, has a ready smile for everybody, and never sulks.

A Youngster who is polite to every man and respectful to every woman and girl.

A Youngster who does not smoke and has no desire to learn how.

A Youngster who never bullies other Youngsters or allows Youngsters to bully him.

A Youngster who, when he does not know a thing, says, "I do not know"; and when he has made a mistake says, "I'm sorry"; and, when requested to do anything, immediately says, "I'll try."

A Youngster who looks you right in the eye and tells the truth every time.

A Youngster who would rather lose his job or be expelled from school than tell a lie or be a cad.

A Youngster who is more eager to know how to speak good English than to talk slang.

A Youngster who does not want to be "smart" nor in anywise attract attention.

A Youngster who is eager to read good, wholesome books.

A Youngster whom other Youngsters like.

A Youngster who is perfectly at ease in the company of respectable girls.

A Youngster who is not a goody-goody, a prig, or a little Pharisee, but just healthy, happy, and full of life.

A Youngster who is not sorry for himself and not forever thinking and talking about himself.

A Youngster who is friendly with his mother and more intimate with her than with anyone else.

A Youngster who makes you feel good when he is around.

This Youngster is wanted everywhere. The family wants him, the school wants him, the office wants him, the boys and girls want him, and all creation wants him.

Adapted from “Boy Wanted” by Dr. Frank Crane (1861–1928)