

What Will You Find?

Two boys were waiting in the principal's office to be enrolled as new students in the school. "What are the kids like at this school?" asked the first boy as he talked to the principal. "First, let me ask you a question," answered the man. "What were they like at the school from which you came?" "Well," answered the lad, "they were mean and selfish, always trying to get each other in trouble." "I'm afraid, then, that you'll find them just the same here," the principal warned him.

The second boy asked the man the same question as the first. "What were they like in your school?" asked the principal. "I found them very friendly," answered the boy. "They were kind and unselfish and were always ready to help a fellow get along." "That is just the kind of pupils we have here, I am happy to tell you," answered the wise man, "for if you could get along at Riverdale I am sure you will like Millvale."

Was the principal being honest when he gave the boys two different answers? Yes, he was, for he knew that if the first boy was looking for trouble he would surely find it. The second boy, he knew, would get along, for he was always looking for something good in people. People are just about the same the world over, and our ability to get along depends entirely upon our determination to get along with them. We usually find what we are looking for.

(a story from Chicken Soup for the Soul)