I. Do you agree that our character is what we do when we think no one is looking?

As well as I know this saying belongs to Jackson Brown. I don't fully agree with it.

There is an ongoing confusion between behavior and character, so defining each one should help clear this up. Behavior is a means by which man expresses himself; it is something that can be learned through training, it is something that may be governed by one's emotions. For example, we have to be patient, respectful and obedient with our parents and teachers but we may be completely different with our peers. So, people's acts are aimed at a certain reaction of people around them. In my opinion, a person's reputation is what the world thinks the person is; a person's character is what this person really is. Moral character, or character, is an evaluation of a particular individual's durable moral qualities. The concept of character can imply a variety of attributes including the existence or lack of virtues such as integrity, courage, fortitude, honesty and loyalty.

We all put on a different face when we are in front of people. If we want to know who we really are, we should look at what we do when no one is looking. There are things we all know we shouldn't do. But when alone and no one is looking, most of us tend to loosen up our value system. We tend to be more open to doing things that we would never do.

However, character isn't something that should disappear because you are alone. It is something that should be the same no matter who you are with or what you are doing. So what is it?

I consider myself to be kind-hearted, hard-working, honest, intelligent and reliable. I have high self-esteem. However, sometimes I'm a bit hot-headed. These features of my character are stable.

I want to be a success in life and that's why I study hard at school, staying late hours and sometimes burning my candle at both ends. I never leave things half-done. I may say I'm persistent and I put much effort to achieve my aim. I want other people to respect me. I want to be strong and self-organized in front of them. That's why I have to keep my emotions inside and although some of my classmates are jealous, I never show how offensive the things they say can sometimes be.

But when I come home, I give way to my emotions. And even though 1 may be a little naughty and rude and sometimes I quarrel with my mother, my character remains with me. I always try to help my mother about the house; I never lie to her as I'm concerned that "Honesty is the best policy". It makes me really happy when my nearest and dearest are happy.

I always look forward to meeting my friends. I relax and we have a lot of fun together. But with them I don't have to control myself very much. Sometimes I lose my temper easily and I speak my mind. But, as a wise proverb says, "When a friend asks there's no tomorrow". I never let my friends down. When they ask for help, I give them my helping hand immediately and never leave them at a loss. They keep on giving me cacti as they say I'm like a cactus myself: not very friendly outside but full of nice surprises.

To my mind, character is the sum of those actions, tendencies and qualities which distinguish one man from another. Character does not include personality, at the same time personality includes character. If you want to develop a winning personality, you must have the character to back it up. But *you cannot dream yourself into a character; you must hammer and forge one for yourself. And you should always remain true to yourself in your actions.*

2. When you first meet people what do you look at? What does it tell you about the person?

3. What features of character do you find annoying?

4. Would you call yourself a leader or a follower? Why?

5. What would you advise a person who is shy and indecisive?