

HARRY H. HARRISON JR.

1001



Things Your



Kids Should

See & Do



(or Else They'll Never Leave Home)

HARRY H. HARRISON JR.

1001



Things Your



Kids Should



See & Do



(or Else They'll Never Leave Home)

1001 Things
Your Kids
Should See & Do

(Or Else They'll Never Leave Home)

HARRY H. HARRISON JR.



THOMAS NELSON
Since 1798

NASHVILLE DALLAS MEXICO CITY RIO DE JANEIRO BEIJING

1001 Things Your Kids Should See & Do
Copyright © 2007 by Harry H. Harrison Jr.

Published by Thomas Nelson Publishers, Inc., Nashville, Tennessee
Thomas Nelson is a registered trademark of Thomas Nelson, Inc.

All rights reserved. No portion of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted by any means—electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or any other—except for brief quotations in printed reviews, without the prior written permission of the publisher.

Project Editor: Lisa Stilwell

Designed by ThinkPen Design, LLC

ISBN-10: 1-4041-0418-6

ISBN-13: 978-1-4041-0418-1

Printed and bound in China

www.thomasnelson.com

Table of Contents

Introduction

1. They Need to Visit Mister Rogers' Neighborhood
2. They Need to Grow Up
3. They Need to Exercise
4. They Need Culture
5. They Need to Be Good in Science
6. They Need to Learn to Cook for Themselves
7. They Need to Learn about Money
8. They Need to Be a Computer Geek
9. They Need to Understand What Is Going on in Today's World
10. They Need to Know God
11. They Need to Travel
12. They Need to Prepare for College
13. They Need to Read 100 Books
14. They Need to Be Good Citizens
15. They Need to Learn to Handle Life
16. They Need to Know What to Do in an Emergency
17. They Need to Know the Facts about Alcohol and Drugs
18. They Need to Know More about Sex than They Think They Know
19. They Need to Become Responsible
20. They Need Encouragement

Introduction

The purpose of childhood is training for adulthood.

All kids talk about how they are “so out of here” after graduation. They announce they’re going to college, going to Borneo, traveling around Europe, spending time in New York City.

These are the same teenagers who get so turned around on their way home at night, they call you wondering if taking the highway to North Dakota was the right exit. And they know home means free food. Air conditioning. Nice bed. Mom’s shoulder. Dad’s money. And as long as they stay home, they can avoid the messy complications of adulthood.

That’s when many start saying, “I’m so out of here after a year or two of junior college.”

Later, “I’m so out of here after my MBA.” Then, “You’ll never see me again once I get my second PhD.”

That’s typically when parents resign themselves to reality, build a bedroom over the garage, and move into it.

There are over a thousand things every kid needs to see and do to have the faith and courage and skills and confidence to walk out that door when adulthood beckons. And you can either start preparing them for adulthood early in their life, or deal with a thirty-year-old waiting for dinner downstairs. In their pajamas. •

They Need to Visit Mister Rogers' Neighborhood

1. They need to see that you love them completely. The way they are.

•

2. They need to catch moonbeams.

•

3. They need to see you light up when they get home from school. Or when you get home from work.

•

4. They need to tell the truth.

•

5. They need to read. Fast. And remember.

6. They need to dig a hole to China.

•

7. They need to take a nap with their dog.

•

8. They need to search for the end of a rainbow.

•

9. They need to trust, at a very early age, that home is safe.

•

10. They need to see your face in the crowd at their soccer games and band concerts. Cheering. Not yelling.

11. They need to build a birdhouse.

•

12. They need to develop their curiosity about things.

•

13. They need to look at a leaf through a magnifying glass.

And see wonder exists out of ordinary sight.

•

14. They need to collect a jar of lightning bugs at night.

15. They need to tell the difference between cicada and cricket sounds. They'll be hearing things all their lives that sound like one thing, but are actually another.

•

16. They need to play flashlight tag with their friends and discover the joys of summer nights.

•

17. They need to develop a sense of adventure. The younger the better.

18. They need to be assigned chores. Even if it's just cleaning their rooms.

•

19. They need to spend hours building a sand castle on the beach, then watch the evening tide wash it away.

•

20. They need to climb up the inside of a lighthouse.

•

21. They need to watch a chrysalis turn into a butterfly. You can buy them on-line.

22. They need to find their way out of a maze.

•

23. They need to watch a windmill.

•

24. They need to see you reading your Bible. At home.

•

25. They need to learn proper grammar.

26. They need to know who they are: their full name, address, their mom and dad's full names, and phone number.
(Ask them this all the time.)

•

27. They need to learn when to call 911.

•

28. They need to see you struggle with difficulties.

•

29. They need to go to camp. To learn they can live without you. And you, without them.

30. They need to listen to a storyteller at the library.

•

31. They need to pray. First with you. Then without you.
(And hopefully for you.)

•

32. They need to get along with their brothers and sisters and other kids. This will pay dividends in adulthood.

•

33. They need to ride a bike. And fall down. And get up and ride some more.

34. They need to conquer their fears.

•

35. They need to learn life is not all about them.

•

36. They need manners. This will carry them far in the adult world.

•

37. They need to go fishing. And learn the mystery of anticipation.

•

38. They need to hear for themselves that a Monster Truck Show just may be the noisiest thing in the world.

39. They need to bait a hook. And take a fish off one. Learn that life is messy. Even some of the best parts.

•

40. They need to learn to not keep secrets from you.

•

41. They need to take care of another living thing. A goldfish is the beginning of responsibility.

•

42. They need to stand up for themselves.

43. They need to do the hokey-pokey on Rollerblades.

•

44. They need to roll in the snow. Even if they live in Florida.

•

45. They need to share an apple with a horse.

•

46. They need to stare into the eyes of a gorilla. Either in Africa or at a good zoo.

•

47. They need to say nice things about people instead of hurtful things.

48. They need to make a best friend. And be one.

•

49. They need to sit on the roof and get another perspective of their world.

•

50. They need to sell cookies for their team or club or band.

•

51. They need to sleep outside and watch for falling stars.

52. They need to sit around a campfire and hear ghost stories that will keep them scared witless all night.

•

53. They need to listen to Mozart or Beethoven every morning before school.

•

54. They need to write to pen pals. Across the state. Across the country. Across the world.

55. They need to watch a tree grow from a seedling over several years. And see that pretty much describes the mystery of life.

•

56. They need to watch a colt find its legs.

•

57. They need to open a Kool-Aid stand.

•

58. They need to learn to say, "I'm sorry."

59. They need to develop the courage to support a friend.

•

60. They need to grow a vegetable garden. And battle birds,

grasshoppers, and bugs.

•

61. They need to eat weird foods: Tofu. Miniature corn. And dried bananas.

•

62. They need to spend time with their grandparents. To hear stories about you.

63. They need to see you at work. (Right now, they think you just read a newspaper all day.)

•

64. They need to respect their “curfew.” Television curfew. Computer curfew. Be-home-by-9-p.m. curfew.

•

65. They need to develop minor culinary skills. Like the ability to make a butter sandwich.

66. They need to sign with a deaf person.

•

67. They need to learn how to cross a stream. There will be plenty in life.

•

68. They need to learn to dry their hands on towels. Not the walls or furniture.

•

69. They need to learn what’s flushable. Tissue is. Root beer bottles, dolls, and toy cars are not.

70. They need to develop the art of listening. Without interrupting. And remembering what’s being said.

•

71. They need to change their underwear without being told.

•

72. They need to stop eating when they're full. Not when their plate is clean.

•

73. They need to see pictures of themselves when they were babies.

74. They need to see pictures of you when you were their age. Expect howls of laughter.

•

75. They need to body-surf in the ocean.

•

76. They need to ride a train.

•

77. They need to leave a hornet's nest alone.

78. They need to keep a journal as early as grade school. Both of you will love reading it twenty years later.

•

79. They need to catch butterflies.

•

80. They need to learn most barking dogs are just saying "hello."

•

81. They need to figure out time and direction by using the sun.

82. They need to see the moon, Mars, and Jupiter through a telescope.

•

83. They need to watch an eclipse.

•

84. They need to find books that keep them reading under the covers with a flashlight.

85. They need to stand up when meeting an adult. And shake hands while looking them in the eye.

•

86. They need to explore the attic. It's probably the most mysterious place they know.

•

87. They need to make cookies. This involves reading, hand-eye coordination, and self-denial when it comes to the cookie dough.

88. They need to learn how to find their way home.

•

89. They need to see a sea horse swimming underwater.

•

90. They need to turn off the television.

They Need to Grow Up

91. They need to overcome disappointment and failure.
While you stay out of the way.

•

92. They need to use deodorant in their armpits. Not room
spray.

•

93. They need to use soap. All over their body.

•

94. They need to clean up a room before they leave it.

95. They need to get themselves organized. If you do it for
them, they'll never learn.

•

96. They need to watch their language.

•

97. They need to take dance lessons. Probably not from you.

•

98. They need to see poverty. To understand its impact. And
how education is usually the cure.

99. They need to have a cause: baby seals, whales, energy
conservation.

•

100. They need to learn to not take anything personally.

•

101. They need to be able to talk to adults. Not just cross

their arms, stare at the floor, and mumble something.

102. They need to eat without food falling out of their mouth. This usually requires swallowing before stuffing more in.

•

103. They need to keep their hands out of their nose, mouth, ears, and hair.

•

104. They need to write a letter to the editor. Any editor.

105. They need to give up their bedroom to visiting friends and relatives. It's good practice for future giving.

•

106. They need to baby-sit kids for money.

•

107. They need to learn to control their emotions.

•

108. They need to deal with the bully in their life.

109. They need to apply for a job at McDonald's. To see all the career options open to an uneducated person.

•

110. They need to take a mission trip with you to a Third World country. See how people in abject poverty have not lost their joy.

•

111. They need to do introductory algebra and a considerable amount of geometry.

112. They need to give away clothes they last wore two years ago.

•

113. They need to quit wearing their Christmas socks by March.

•

114. They need to think positive.

•

115. They need to store their Social Security card someplace besides their wallet.

•

116. They need to show gratitude.

117. They need to clean out their closets. Pitch the useless stuff that's just cluttering them.

•

118. They need to deal with the flat tires in life.

•

119. They need the simple math skills required to figure out if they have enough gas to pass up the next gas station.

•

120. They need to see someplace so fantastic they can always return to it in their mind to feel at peace.

121. They need to change their bed sheets. Or they could study the interesting forms of life that are growing there under a microscope.

•

122. They need to see a utility bill. To become aware there's a cost for just sitting in the bedroom staring out the window.

•

123. They need to see an old person with an old tattoo. You don't really need to comment.

124. They need to reset their clocks the night before daylight

saving time changes. Not the week after.

•

125. They need to wash their underwear. Not wear their parent's.

•

126. They need to mow and edge a yard. In one afternoon. Stopping only for water. Without complaining.

•

127. They need to be able to discuss fine literature.

128. They need to wire up a DVD to a satellite TV and speakers. And not blow up anything.

•

129. They need to find authors they love to read.

•

130. They need to learn the secret to packing and organizing a school backpack. This is the only way homework makes it home and finished assignments make it back to school.

131. They need to write a short story about their life that lets you see them in a new way.

•

132. They need to write and shoot a thirty-second movie using a digital camera.

•

133. They need to clean the garage. And help you figure out what in the world all that stuff is for.

134. They need to disinfect their toilet. They'll gag and say they're grossed out. Stick a scrub brush in their hands anyway.

•

135. They need to turn off the iPod and listen to a thunderstorm.

•

136. They need to go to ball games with you. It's a chance to yell and scream, see friends, and occasionally ask about the score.

137. They need to learn what clothes go into the washing machine, what clothes go to the dry cleaners, and what clothes to give away.

•

138. They need to be home for dinner.

•

139. They need to use fabric softener sheets as intended, not as paper towels.

•

140. They need to hold the starch when ironing underwear.

141. They need to wash clothes with laundry detergent, not pet shampoo.

•

142. They need to bleach their hair without it turning orange.

•

143. They need to learn how to order a nonfat, decaf, double hot, white chocolate mocha latte. Whatever that is.

•

144. They need to find a favorite place to study. Not socialize, study.

145. They need to compare prices of fast food against preparing meals at home.

•

146. They need to develop excellent English language skills: to talk without using made-up words, foul words, or poor grammar.

•

147. They need to be conversational in Spanish or another foreign language.

148. They need to “RSVP.” It doesn’t matter what it stands for, it simply shows whether they were raised by wolves or not.

•

149. They need to make friends with people who don’t look like them. Or speak their language.

•

150. They need to know that if they change their thoughts, they change their lives.

151. They need to develop the habit of brushing. Flossing. And mouth washing. Really, for everybody’s sake.

•

152. They need to eat if they find themselves tired, hungry, or in a bad mood.

•

153. They need to enter the spelling bee. And only lose on words like “ambidextrous.”

•

154. They need to develop great study skills: lights on, phone off, and eyes open.

155. They need to dress appropriately for different occasions.

•

156. They need to start saving money. Some adults never get

the hang of this.

•

157. They need to put lids back on everything.

•

158. They need to be on time.

•

159. They need to learn to go heavy with the Pine-Sol while cleaning the kitchen and bathrooms.

160. They need to organize, file, store, and somehow preserve their school papers, pictures, and memories.

•

161. They need to learn what SPF 15 means, before their skin is flaking off their back.

•

162. They need to give thanks. Every morning. Every night. Every meal.

•

163. They need to trace their family tree. Learn who the nuts are in the family.

164. They need to develop the inclination to inquire.

•

165. They need to know how to lift something heavy.

•

166. They need to avoid self-deception. A little brother or sister can help here.

•

167. They need to act like they're happy. (Especially useful when there's nothing to be unhappy about.)

168. They need to be courteous to other people. Start with family members.

•

169. They need to take a water life-saving course.

•

170. They need to develop the math skills to compare credit card offers with different interest rates and annual fees.

•

171. They need to read newspaper editorials. And voice an opinion.

172. They need to learn to make a point by looking people in the eye, without twitching or scratching. Or using the word “like.”

•

173. They need to be up on current events: the energy crisis, global warming, and international terrorism.

•

174. They need to think for themselves. Even if they’re spectacularly wrong.

175. They need to write thank-you notes. Even for the orange and green-striped puffy shorts their grandmother thought were so cute.

Thank-you notes for even those.

•

176. They need to remember the appearance of their body is not as vital as the development of their mind.

•

177. They need to try new things even though they’re afraid.

178. They need to see that their friends will help shape their life. So choose wisely.

•

179. They need to see that following the crowd is pointless if the crowd is headed in the wrong direction.

•

180. They need to get things done without your help.

•

181. They need to stay away from their friends when their friends are acting stupid.

182. They need to defend their position without yelling, cursing, or name-calling.

•

183. They need to see that the supermodel doesn't look as good in person as she does in a fashion magazine.

•

184. They need to realize they're not sad or depressed.
They're tired. They need a nap.

185. They need to be able to live without TV. It could result in making the college dean's list.

•

186. They need to see what happens to people who throw up, starve themselves, or use drugs to lose weight. Bad things.

•

187. They need to see that change is inevitable. The popular girls will lose their looks, the jocks will get fat, the class clowns will become doctors, and the nerds will run the world.

188. They need to learn memory techniques.

•

189. They need to collect their thoughts before speaking,

especially in class or in stressful situations. It's a way to keep from babbling nonsense.

•

190. They need to practice the fine art of not talking ill of anyone.

191. They need to learn to drive. In rush hour. In the rain. On tight roads. And if you can't ride with them without stroking out or having a panic attack, they need more lessons.

•

192. They need to pay for any accidents or damages. They need to know this is a condition of driving.

•

193. They need to watch you buy a car to learn how it's done.

194. They need to see a Kelley Blue Book and learn to use it before they buy any car, new or used.

•

195. They need to buy liability insurance for their car. They'll discover the unique joy of being barbequed by an insurance company.

•

196. They need to learn how to get their car an inspection sticker and new tags. And then to do this every year. On time.

197. They need to take care of their car: get the oil changed every 5,000 miles, keep tires properly inflated, and throw everything out of the trunk once a month.

•

198. They need to wear their seat belts. This needs to become a habit.

•

199. They need to use the right grade of gasoline. Not to use premium in a car that takes regular. Or vice versa.

200. They need a game plan for a late-night flat tire.

•

201. They need to know how to pack and use jumper cables.

•

202. They need to make sure the car is in “PARK” before they pull out the keys. Or have a tow truck number handy.

•

203. They need to get the name of a good traffic lawyer.

204. They need to learn they’re the ones responsible for the fees of their new friend, the lawyer. And any fines.

•

205. They need to read everything before they sign. And have a lawyer read it as well.

•

206. They need to file an income tax return if they made any money this year. On time.

•

207. They need to plan ahead. Start with lunch.

208. They need to develop a firm handshake.

•

209. They need to learn the odds of becoming a movie star, celebrity, or rich athlete are greater than being hit by a satellite.

•

210. They need to accept life isn’t fair. That mileage may vary.

•

211. They need to speed read with comprehension. It's a trick that will get them to law school.

212. They need to learn about delayed gratification. It's what can keep them studying while everybody else is partying.

•

213. They need to set goals. Start small— finish tonight's homework.

•

214. They need to learn how to checkmate in four moves.

•

215. They need to learn what to do with a cloth napkin. And it isn't blowing their nose in it.

216. They need to learn at fine restaurants, they can order a meal that isn't on the menu.

And have it prepared a certain way.

•

217. They need to take off the corn shuck wrapper before they eat a tamale. This is a food that has stumped presidents.

•

218. They need to learn to not be intimidated by any waiter. Or be rude.

219. They need to just eat a raw oyster. And not look at it too long or comment on what it looks like.

•

220. They need to learn how to tip: 15 percent to waiters and cabbies, a couple of dollars a day to hotel maids, and a dollar or two to baggage handlers.

•

221. They need to talk softly. Especially in public places.

222. They need to learn how to crack and eat shellfish.
Before they're left alone with a lobster and a nutcracker.

•

223. They need to let the other person win the argument. It's
all about whether they would rather be happy or right.

•

224. They need to learn to talk to teachers in a different tone
of voice than the one they use with their friends.

225. They need an opinion on things besides their curfew
and appearance. And discuss them.

•

226. They need to pay attention. This trait will enable them
to pay rent one day.

•

227. They need to form a well-read, well-thought-out
opinion on evolution.

•

228. They need to be able to change even the best-laid plans
when the situation changes.

229. They need to fix the relationship with the teacher
they're fighting with. It's time to make up, kiss up, and
button up.

•

230. They need to learn the rules. Especially if they intend to
break them.

•

231. They need to learn to pay bills before their due date.

232. They need to be neat. Neat in appearance, neat in
organization, neat in thinking, neat in their actions. Neatness

will always beat the alternative.

•

233. They need to learn to deal with corporate voice mails and operators. They'll be dealing with them the rest of their lives.

•

234. They need to be able to order a nourishing meal in a fast-food restaurant. It may be where they eat for the next ten years.

235. They need to stay in contact with friends. Even ones they haven't seen in years.

•

236. They need to sharpen their negotiation skills. With someone other than their parents.

•

237. They need to resist high pressure. Whether it's kids their own age, salespeople, or adults.

•

238. They need to sell something on eBay that doesn't belong to their sister.

239. They need to hide a spare key. And remember where they put it.

•

240. They need to be able to listen to other people, especially adults, without commenting until asked.

•

241. They need to remember silence is golden. Especially if they don't know what they're talking about.

•

242. They need to say "hors d'oeuvres" correctly.

And know what they are.

243. They need to vacuum their room. Regularly.

•

244. They need to use mouthwash. People of the opposite sex will sit closer to them.

•

245. They need to not compare themselves or their possessions or their accomplishments to other people. This is a key to happiness. And humility.

246. They need to learn how to use saran wrap. It won't be a pretty lesson.

•

247. They need to have good posture. Especially around adults. Nothing says "junior high" like some kid slouching around.

•

248. They need to be able to introduce themselves to strangers in all situations: weddings, parties, business affairs, college tours. This ability is a mark of future success.

249. They need to check their teeth after a meal. There's usually something brown dangling from the bicuspid.

•

250. They need to get organized and plan ahead, instead of worrying.

•

251. They need to practice basic etiquette or people will think they just fell off the turnip truck.

252. They need to put a crease in their shirts or jeans or pants with an iron. On an ironing board. Not while they're wearing them.

•

253. They need to wash their face. It will help their zits go away.

•

254. They need to take CPR lessons. Just have them use Listerine before they practice on you.

255. They need to join the debate team and develop the ability to speak to a group without breaking into hives and stutters.

•

256. They need to recognize phish or spam when they see it.

•

257. They need to learn the dangers of visiting gambling or sex Web sites.

•

258. They need to learn the name of a good auto mechanic.

259. They need to learn a person's integrity is a mirror of their relationship with God.

•

260. They need to make a "to do" list. Every day.

•

261. They need to back off when a fight is likely to break out. This is called "maturity."

•

262. They need to fend off grubworms in a garden.

263. They need to live off cash. Not a debit card or credit card.

•

264. They need to understand the term "finite resources,"

especially when it comes to oil in the ground, trees in the forests, and money in their parents' checking account.

•

265. They need to shake talcum powder on their feet to kill the smell. This could bring the family back together.

266. They need to follow instructions. This is usually the deal killer to succeeding in the adult world.

•

267. They need to go bird watching with people who know what they're doing. Soon they'll be able to spot an olive-sided flycatcher.

•

268. They need to develop resilience.

•

269. They need to call a cab when the only other way home is with a drunk driver.

270. They need to learn how to drive in the snow.

•

271. They need to gift-wrap a present without it looking like it was a project accomplished by a mental patient.

•

272. They need to get things done. Homework assignments. Tasks. Chores. College enrollment forms.

•

273. They need to buy only those clothes that fit. No matter the price, the label, or the store.

274. They need to do things well without expecting praise.

•

275. They need to accept blame. Not pass it on.

•

276. They need to win arguments through persuasion.

•

277. They need to know how to mail a letter. You think they know. They don't know.

278. They need to return their overdue library books. Even the ones three years past due.

•

279. They need to read *The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People*. Developing one good habit could be life changing.

•

280. They need to view themselves as a smart, ambitious leader who gets things done. Because how they see themselves is precisely how the world will view them.

281. They need to program their cell phone. Then yours.

•

282. They need to pick strawberries or apples or oranges or watermelons at a nearby farm. And learn how the earth supplies everything we need.

•

283. They need to figure out who they want to be. And begin acting as if.

•

284. They need to learn what interests them. By trying new things.

285. They need to learn the price of independence is rent, auto insurance, utility bills, groceries, cable, Internet access, car maintenance, commuting costs, and more. After computing all that, a curfew sounds like a fair trade.

•

286. They need to not be afraid of the competition.

287. They need to grasp the sacrifices their parents have made to get them this far.

•

288. They need to finish what they started.

•

289. They need to smile.

They Need to Exercise

290. They need to run a 10,000-meter race. Even if they have to walk part of the way.

•

291. They need to see the men's and women's U.S. Olympic soccer teams in action.

•

292. They need to play on a team. (They run, they yell, they kick, they push other kids around, they get knocked down, then they get snacks afterward. Sweet deal.)

293. They need to keep a soccer ball in the air for a minute using only their head, legs, knees, chest, and feet.

•

294. They need to hit a nonreturnable serve.

•

295. They need to learn to swim.
Before they can walk.

•

296. They need to jump off a high diving board without landing on their back. This will take several weeks of practice and a few sore backs.

297. They need to go to gymnastics class. So you don't have to demonstrate a cartwheel.

•

298. They need to excel at one sport. Archery, badminton, football, Ping-Pong—there's a sport waiting for them.

•

299. They need to deal with defeat and be humble in victory.

•

300. They need to hit a golf ball over a lake. This will require clubs, lessons, and many, many golf balls.

301. They need to take downhill ski lessons from someone besides you. And conquer the double black, double diamond course while they're still young.

•

302. They need to keep track of their own athletic and dance stuff.

Not depend on Mom or Dad.

•

303. They need to find a cardio workout they'll stick with. Running, dancing, biking, swimming, even walking.

304. They need to be able to pop a wheelie.

•

305. They need to train with weights. And with somebody who knows what they're doing.

•

306. They need to snowboard down a half pipe. These are not found in most states.

•

307. They need to push themselves physically. And learn to trust their body's strength.

308. They need to bike their age in miles beginning at six years old.

•

309. They need to race somebody. Using anything but a car

or motorcycle.

•

310. They need to climb. A jungle gym. A tree. One day, a career ladder.

•

311. They need to dog paddle at least five minutes in deep water. (Tell them some people spend their lives in deep water.)

312. They need to climb a twenty-foot rope.

•

313. They need to be able to run or do vigorous aerobics for an hour. (A two-year-old can do this. Teenagers might have to work up to it.)

•

314. They need to jump on a trampoline. To feel the thrill of being airborne.

•

315. They need to hit a fastball. And realize fast balls will be coming at them all their life.

316. They need to hold their breath underwater for sixty seconds. Not their brother's breath. Their breath.

•

317. They need to dribble a basketball with either hand. Failing that, they need to pass.

•

318. They need to be able to throw a baseball where they're aiming it. Without whacking anybody or breaking anything.

319. They need to shake off bumps and bruises.

•

320. They need to eat less junk food and exercise more.

•

321. They need to hit a kill shot in volleyball. And return one.

•

322. They need to swim a quarter of a mile. Without having to be rescued.

323. They need to water ski. Everyone at some time in their life finds themselves being pulled around a lake by a boat.

•

324. They need to run a mile in under six minutes. At least once.

•

325. They need to hike up a mountain.

•

326. They need to climb a wall.

327. They need to ride a horse. Without injuring themselves or the horse.

•

328. They need to learn how to disable an attacker. Karate will give them confidence and maybe save their tush one day.

•

329. They need to coach younger kids. This is great preparation for life.

They Need Culture

330. They need to develop a personal vision.

•

331. They need to shape, fire, and glaze a plate or a vase in grade school that you'll proudly display in your living room.

•

332. They need to visit museums and galleries regularly. To see what others believe is rare and beautiful. Soon, they'll have their own opinion.

333. They need to take an intensive, advanced arts class, like 3D graphic design or animation.

•

334. They need to mix colors on a palette.

•

335. They need to take a photography class. Learn to work with light, shadows, film speed, and contact prints.

•

336. They need to sculpt a figure. Out of clay or wood or stone.

337. They need to make a 3D model of a building.

•

338. They need to shoot and complete a Claymation film.

•

339. They need to write and produce a graphic novel.

•

340. They need to take piano lessons and bring the audience to their feet at the end of a recital.

341. They need to tour science museums. And let themselves be in wonder.

•

342. They need to feed the giraffes.

•

343. They need to learn why Michelangelo did all that religious stuff.

•

344. They need to take a drawing class.

•

345. They need to see live productions of an opera, a musical, a ballet, and a New York touring company. And bring binoculars.

346. They need to spend the summer in a museum camp. It's cheap, it's air-conditioned, and it can unlock the artist within.

•

347. They need to meet a writer or two. And see that second-period English just might have a purpose.

•

348. They need to recognize the difference between Impressionist and Modern paintings. Many adults have no idea.

349. They need to see DaVinci's art and learn he is not famous for his code.

•

350. They need to see MOMA in New York.

•

351. They need to visit the Louvre. Even if it's just on the Internet.

•

352. They need to be able to sing a few John Lennon songs.

•

353. They need to hear a symphony the way it's supposed to be heard. In a park. Over a picnic dinner. While the sun sets.

354. They need to try out for the school play or musical. Be a tree if that's all they can do.

•

355. They need to swim with a porpoise.

•

356. They need to dance with a sidewalk-performing artist.

•

357. They need to cut down their own Christmas tree at a tree farm.

•

358. They need to watch sharks eat. And remember there are human beings with similar characteristics.

They Need to Be Good in Science

359. They need to develop an understanding of the natural world: the seasons, plants, motion, energy, chemicals, and matter.

•

360. They need to chase each other through an arboretum. Over the years, they'll start noticing what they are running past.

•

361. They need to be able to answer the question, "Who was Galileo?"

•

362. They need to understand global warming better than most congressmen.

363. They need to learn why the temperature is warmer in the summer than the winter.

•

364. They need to recognize the difference between a scientific fact and a scientific opinion.

•

365. They need to hunt pecans. And their success will increase when they learn what a pecan tree looks like.

•

366. They need to identify the Big Dipper, Orion, and Leo without a sky map.

367. They need to enter the high school science fair with a

project their parents can't comprehend.

•

368. They need to learn about the Human Genome Project.
And figure out if they are a human genome.

•

369. They need to appreciate how Copernicus stood up to
the church.

•

370. They need to enter the Invention Convention at school.
And create something never seen before.

371. They need to stay up late and witness a meteor shower.
This is how astronomers are born.

•

372. They need to see stars through a planetarium telescope
and realize they've just traveled back in time.

•

373. They need to be able to intelligently discuss the big
bang theory.

374. They need to calculate how far away lightning is by
timing the seconds between the flash and the thunder.

•

375. They need to take cover when lightning storms
approach soccer fields, golf courses, and baseball diamonds.

•

376. They need to understand the principles of electricity.
And not by sticking a nail file into an electrical outlet.

377. They need to learn how to use a compass.

•

378. They need to identify different cloud formations. And

know which ones mean to take cover.

•

379. They need to spot poison ivy. And then take another route.

•

380. They need to tell the difference between tulips and roses.

381. They need to understand all living things need water.

•

382. They need to learn which berries are edible. And why no one eats berries found on the bottom of bushes.

•

383. They need to dissect a frog. Without getting sick. Think of it as a rite of passage.

384. They need to suck honeysuckle.

•

385. They need to understand where oil comes from . . . and how, until further notice, our world runs on it.

•

386. They need to trek deep into the earth to see stalactites and stalagmites. And wonder if this is what the earth looked like in the beginning.

387. They need to be able to tell the difference between a black widow spider, a stinging scorpion, and a cricket. The one that sprays dead bug juice everywhere is the safest.

•

388. They need to hear a coyote howl.

•

389. They need to see a bat cave. From a distance.

They Need to Learn to Cook for Themselves

390. They need to get in the habit of eating three meals a day. Most kids skip breakfast, have a Coke for lunch, come home famished, and eat all night. Not the most recommended dietary plan.

•

391. They need to bake bread. To learn that the best can't be found in grocery stores.

•

392. They need to read the ingredients.

393. They need to compare prices of eating out versus home-cooked meals. This alone could reduce their college loans by about a third.

•

394. They need to go shopping at the grocery store. Navigate their way around the vegetable aisles. Get stuck behind a person armed with fifteen coupons. And come home with change.

•

395. They need to fry some Spam. While suspicious looking, it can keep them alive in college.

396. They need to develop a taste for fruit.

•

397. They need to see that store brands are cheaper. And the most expensive brands are usually placed at eye level.

•

398. They need to learn how to boil water. And then all the amazing things you can do with it.

•

399. They need to preheat an oven. And not get in a hurry and just stick food in it.

400. They need to learn you can't substitute one "cup" for one "liter."

•

401. They need to roast a turkey. This includes yanking the neck parts out of the cavity and shoving stuffing back in. This has turned some teenagers into vegetarians.

•

402. They need to check the date on milk and eggs for freshness before buying or drinking it.

•

403. They need to compare the cost per ounce of food. Seventh grade math.

404. They need to be able to open cans without slicing their hands.

•

405. They need to know PAM isn't a room spray.

•

406. They need to intelligently discuss fats, carbohydrates, and protein.

•

407. They need to learn a healthy breakfast makes them smarter. And curiously thinner.

408. They need to peel a potato. Slice it. Boil it. Mash it. And serve it to their mom.

•

409. They need to see that *Joy of Cooking* isn't a biography of some Chinese chef.

•

410. They need to make something using a recipe found in their grandmother's cookbook.

•

411. They need to learn they can't bake something at twice the heat for half the time and expect it to be edible. Chances are good even the dog won't be interested.

412. They need to ice a cake. And not eat all the icing before it gets on the cake.

•

413. They need to discover oatmeal is truly a miracle food. And cheap. And can be made not disgusting.

•

414. They need to shop at a farmers' market. And sample the goods.

•

415. They need to develop skills with kitchen tools: whisks, sifters, pots, pans, spoons, and spatulas.

416. They need to baste a turkey or chicken without basting themselves or the oven.

•

417. They need to plan, shop, purchase, prepare, and serve dinner for the family at least once a month. Without Mom.

•

418. They need to prepare one pasta dish that doesn't involve spaghetti and red sauce.

•

419. They need to milk a cow. One time. And try not

squirting themselves.

•

420. They need to learn how to grill a cheese sandwich.

421. They need to follow the recipe. In the kitchen. In life.

•

422. They need to make a salad. Lettuce? Good. Tomatoes?
Okay. Fruit? Possibly. Peanut butter? No. Never.

•

423. They need to be able to use the microwave without
blowing up the kitchen.

•

424. They need to learn how to fry, scramble, soft boil, and
hard boil eggs.

•

425. They need to taste how bread and olive oil can make a
complete meal.

426. They need to prove they know what to do with a roast.
Besides give it to Mom to cook.

•

427. They need to see how leftovers are sealed and stored in
the refrigerator. Not left in a pot on the stove.

•

428. They need to spit out anything that tastes remotely
suspicious. Not just swallow it out of embarrassment only to
hurl later.

•

429. They need to learn to turn off the oven and stove-top
burners. Or enjoy a visit from the fire department.

430. They need to set a table. Understand the purpose of the

salad fork. And learn to use the settings from the outside in.

•

431. They need to learn that eating with chopsticks is about the most fun you can have with food.

•

432. They need to give thanks to God for every meal. And remember that not everyone is getting to eat today.

They Need to Learn about Money

433. They need to invest part of their allowance and summer earnings. Even if it's only a few dollars a week.

•

434. They need to see the inside of a bank. Get an idea of what the system is about.

•

435. They need to learn to budget.

•

436. They need to start tracking where they spend their money. It's the easiest way to gain control over it.

437. They need to watch the electronic ticker tape in a brokerage office.

•

438. They need to learn how to write a check and balance a checkbook.

•

439. They need to calculate the charge for bounced checks.

•

440. They need to start using their own money to change the world.

441. They need to see the magic of compound interest.

•

442. They need to learn the three keys to wealth: income, discipline, and time.

•

443. They need to develop the fine art of living without. A useful skill when tempted to pay with credit cards.

•

444. They need to learn that making the minimum monthly payment on a credit card means the credit card is never paid off.

445. They need to see what makes credit cards radioactive: late payment fees, inactivity fees, over the limit fees, and balance transfer fees.

•

446. They need to learn how to read and interpret a credit report.

•

447. They need to build a good credit score. It can impact the rest of their lives.

•

448. They need to use the words *Dow Jones*, *NYSE* and *NASDAQ* in a sentence.

449. They need to start buying stocks or mutual funds. A share at a time.

•

450. They need to meet with a successful investor.

•

451. They need to see your mortgage statement. To understand a thirty-year mortgage means paying two times the original loan.

•

452. They need to resist temptation when they walk into a mall.

453. They need to spend their time doing something besides shopping.

•

454. They need to save for something specific.

•

455. They need to tell the difference between a need and a want. A need is underwear. A want is \$150 French silk underwear.

•

456. They need to start reading the financial section of a newspaper.

•

457. They need to comparison shop.

458. They need to get real: nineteen-year-olds don't live in their own condo and drive a BMW.

•

459. They need to buy a certificate of deposit. Even a small one.

•

460. They need to buy a savings bond.

•

461. They need to be able to calculate interest on any loan or CD. Second semester, seventh grade math.

•

462. They need to learn how matching 401(k)s are as close to free money as they may ever get.

463. They need to memorize the following sentence: "I will never invest in a restaurant, or a club, or a time-share condo."

•

464. They need to learn that when most people are buying stocks, it's probably time to sell.

•

465. They need to grasp the importance of owning property.

•

466. They need to cash their paychecks at a bank. Not at a check-cashing store that legally holds them up.

•

467. They need to set financial goals. Besides just spending all their parents' money.

468. They need to base financial decisions on the here and now. Not what could be.

•

469. They need to watch how much money the person they are dating is spending. It's a clear sign of their values.

•

470. They need to see you give anonymously.

•

471. They need to learn to give 10 percent back to God. A fair trade.

They Need to Be a Computer Geek

472. They need to become a whiz with the computer. In the living room.

•

473. They need to develop great keyboarding skills. To type using ten fingers without looking.

•

474. They need to wire their computer to a printer and an Internet connection.

•

475. They need to learn how to do research on the Internet. They're not as good as they like to think they are.

476. They need to learn what a Pentium chip is.

•

477. They need to load software onto their computer. Without maiming the hard drive.

•

478. They need to set up a log-in name and different passwords on their computer and various sites.

•

479. They need to develop a system to remember all their passwords.

480. They need to create multimedia presentations using video, PowerPoint, text, audio, and slides.

•

481. They need to purchase and download songs off the Internet, then load them onto an iPod or other MP3 player.

•

482. They need to modify their own software.

•

483. They need to work with XHTML, Perl, JavaScript, and databases.

484. They need to calculate their family tree based on DNA sequences.

•

485. They need to know how to use Photoshop, even if they're planning a career in the wrestling business.

•

486. They need to set up a blog and keep it current.

•

487. They need to remove anything stupid they may have posted on MySpace. College and job recruiters are looking there too.

488. They need to be suspicious of any download that comes from someone they don't know.

•

489. They need to install a good virus blocker before they have to rebuild their hard drive.

•

490. They need to create a personal home page.

•

491. They need to develop great skills with Excel, PowerPoint, and Word. These are the tools of business.

492. They need to create a computer animation.

•

493. They need to learn how to post photographs on-line.
And what kind to post.

•

494. They need to play 3D computer games that strengthen
problem solving and spatial navigation skills.

•

495. They need to design and create computer games. Not
just play them.

496. They need to learn the locations of WiFi hot spots and
be able to safely use a computer there.

•

497. They need to learn how to scan photographs or
documents and then e-mail them.

•

498. They need to learn no Nigerian wants to give them 40
percent of \$25,000,000 for helping him get money out of the
country.

499. They need to store, display, and analyze data.

•

500. They need to use a reverse DNS lookup to find the
domain name of spammers. Then spam the spammer.

•

501. They need to learn that fraudulent charges and ID theft
happen to people who visit Internet gambling and porn sites.

502. They need to trash any e-mail asking for their Social
Security number, their mother's maiden name, or their
checking account number. Because the people who need that
information already have it.

•

503. They need to learn any email that says “Your account will be closed in forty-eight hours” or “Dear Valued Customer” is probably from Russia.

They Need to
Understand
What Is
Going on in
Today's World

504. They need to study the history of Rome. To learn how a country that once ruled the world lost everything.

•

505. They need to be able to find the following countries on a world map: England, France, Germany, Spain, Israel, Russia, China, Vietnam, Brazil, Argentina, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, United Arab Emirates, South Africa, Nigeria, and the Sudan. Most kids can't even find Louisiana. The boot.

506. They need to study how Jerusalem has been under Muslim rule for some 1,400 years.

•

507. They need to learn France was once more famous for its conquerors and rulers than its fashions.

•

508. They need to identify the seven continents. And know which continent they're currently standing on.

•

509. They need to study the Cold War. And know who won.

510. They need to be able to identify where the Mississippi begins and ends.

•

511. They need to have an idea what the Amazon is, and that it's not found in the United States. Or on the internet.

•

512. They need to visit Israel. In person. In books. They need to understand why the world is still fighting over this part of the world.

513. They need to learn the history of the Jewish and Palestinian people. Start with Abraham.

•

514. They need to visit a mosque and learn about Islam.

•

515. They need to find the Palestine territories on a map.

•

516. They need to read the Koran.

517. They need to make friends with Hispanic kids, Asian kids, European kids, Hindu kids, Muslim kids, and American-Indian kids.

•

518. They need to understand the illegal immigration issues facing the United States today. And that they'll be dealing with them tomorrow.

•

519. They need to walk along the Texas-Mexico border and ponder the forces that lead people to risk everything to come here.

520. They need to study Charles Darwin. And learn why we're still talking about him 150 years later.

•

521. They need to study how much Old Testament history occurred in Iraq ... once one of the most advanced civilizations in the world.

•

522. They need to learn why English is our native language, not Spanish or French. Or German.

523. They need to study the history of World War II and learn who the good guys were.

•

524. They need to see Auschwitz, Dachau, Treblinka, and Warsaw in person or in books.

•

525. They need to understand the term “concentration camp” does not refer to a camp for kids with ADD.

526. They need to comprehend the holocaust.

•

527. They need to learn terrorism led to World War I.

•

528. They need to talk to a veteran who was there, in Vietnam.

•

529. They need to serve dinner in a shelter.

•

530. They need to collect money and food for Africa.

531. They need to stand on an oil rig. Understand what goes into getting a barrel of oil out of the ground. And marvel how the earth supplies everything we need.

•

532. They need to name five countries that supply the world’s oil. Besides the United States.

•

533. They need to be able to articulate the difference between the U.S. government and that of China, Russia,

North Korea, and Cuba.

534. They need to identify five Islamic countries.

•

535. They need to read how Jerusalem is the holiest city to Christians, Jews, and Muslims. And wonder at God's plan.

•

536. They need to stand at the site of the World Trade Center. And listen.

•

537. They need to see footage about the Berlin Wall. And learn how it couldn't keep freedom contained.

538. They need to watch old film clips about the Atomic Bomb. They'll then understand why it must never happen again.

•

539. They need to read all sides— David Brooks, Maureen Dowd, Helen Thomas, Frank Rich, Bob Herbert, George Will, and Ann Coulter.

•

540. They need to watch *Saving Private Ryan* and *Band of Brothers*. To understand that war truly is in every sense of the word, hell.

They Need to Know God

541. They need to ask God to direct their lives every day.

•

542. They need to make amends.

•

543. They need to study Proverbs. And see some lessons are thousands of years old.

•

544. They need to look for wonder in every situation.

545. They need to comprehend the majesty of the universe.
Most kids can't comprehend the size of their zip code.

•

546. They need to read the Bible so, unlike a lot of people who argue about religion, they'll know what they're talking about.

•

547. They need to learn that anyone who says all religions lead to the same God has never studied any religion.

548. They need to do more than just believe in miracles.
They need to rely on the One who performs them.

•

549. They need to celebrate others' successes.

•

550. They need to let go of resentment. It makes life way too heavy.

•

551. They need to pray for the people they despise.

552. They need to be restless with the status quo. And believe things can be better.

•

553. They need to bring a date to worship service.

•

554. They need to help build a home with Habitat for Humanity. Even if all they do is fetch water.

•

555. They need to see you being faithful. To your marriage, to your faith, to your community.

556. They need to not take life quite so seriously.

•

557. They need to do good deeds without anyone finding out.

•

558. They need to know that labels say more about the wearer than they realize.

•

559. They need to practice self-denial. Perhaps the most difficult spiritual assignment in the teenage years.

560. They need to realize other people are hurting.

•

561. They need to see the world through compassionate eyes.

•

562. They need to start tithing. With their own money. Even if they only make \$10 a week.

•

563. They need to regularly do something for somebody for which they cannot be repaid.

564. They need to show love to someone who is unworthy of being shown love. This will bring them in touch with Christ.

•

565. They need to be wowed by a sunset. And a sunrise if you can get them up that early.

•

566. They need to actually listen to sermons.

567. They need to serve as an acolyte. There's nothing like putting on a white robe, picking up a cross, and marching down the aisle with an entire congregation watching to make an eight-year-old take worship service more seriously.

•

568. They need to fast during Lent.

•

569. They need to live their life so their faith is obvious.

570. They need to become friends with their own brothers and sisters.

•

571. They need to talk and joke with the kids who aren't cool.

•

572. They need to remember they are a child of God. Especially when they are hanging around people who would like them to forget that fact.

•

573. They need to ask the Holy Spirit for the words to say when talking to unbelievers.

574. They need to say grace before meals and actually feel

gratitude for God's provision.

•

575. They need to pray daily to exhibit the fruits of the Holy Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

•

576. They need to know the "truths" stated in *The DaVinci Code*, and similar books, are pure hokum.

577. They need to memorize Scripture.

•

578. They need to tell a friend they'll pray for them.

•

579. They need to ask their friends to pray for them.

And be honest about why.

•

580. They need to develop the habit of sharing God's gifts. And experiencing the miracles that go with that.

581. They need to stop blaming other people.

•

582. They need to forgive.

•

583. They need to understand that while God seems to be late, He is always on time.

•

584. They need to share their story of their faith.

585. They need to have an answer for people who say, "Christ was a great prophet who did wonderful things."

•

586. They need to trust God's will. He will never let them down.

•

587. They need to see the suffering of other people. And not look away from it.

•

588. They need to visit synagogues and temples of other faiths. See the similarities. See the differences.

589. They need to do things that build up their faith. And realize there will always be people trying to tear it down.

•

590. They need to resolve to stay in their faith. And not lose it over a bad experience, an atheistic college professor, or a friend who's angry at God.

•

591. They need to meditate nightly on God's word and wonder.

592. They need to learn all religions think they're right.

•

593. They need to keep a journal. Especially during hard times. And know God is there.

•

594. They need to pay attention to their conscience. And know if something feels wrong, it probably is wrong.

595. They need to not be afraid to question any part of the Bible. And not be too lazy to seek the answers.

•

596. They need to join a group like Campus Crusade for Christ. Put their faith in front of people.

•

597. They need to smile more. It will make their life more pleasant. And others'.

598. They need to teach a youth group or Vacation Bible School or work with grade-school kids as a camp counselor. A high moment will be when they come home and complain about kids.

•

599. They need to stand up for the unpopular student.

•

600. They need to let gossip die with them.

601. They need to know the history of their religion.

•

602. They need to grasp that once they ask the Holy Spirit to take up residence in their lives, He will. Even if they can't feel Him, He's there.

•

603. They need to remove the fear of failure from their consciousness. But to step out in faith.

604. They need to thank God. Especially when it's difficult to be thankful.

•

605. They need to dream big. The Holy Spirit specializes in the impossible.

•

606. They need to remember that another person may not hear the word of Christ all day. Except through them.

They Need to Travel

607. They need to ride a horse down a Rocky Mountain trail.

•

608. They need to be sprayed by Old Faithful at Yellow Stone.

•

609. They need to stand in a freezing glacier lake near a boiling, steaming, too-hot-to-touch lava pot. And wonder.

•

610. They need to see a bald eagle up close. And an owl. They're beautiful and fascinating birds. And may disappear in their lifetime.

611. They need to see New York City from the top of the Empire State Building. And wonder how in the world such a thing could be built in 1931.

•

612. They need to see salmon running in a mountain stream. And smell them cooking over a campfire.

•

613. They need to learn how to stand in a strange city on a street corner with a map, and figure out where to find the embassy, their hotel, or the police station.

614. They need to learn where to park their car at the airport or train station. And remember where they parked it.

•

615. They need to learn about airport shuttles. How to get off at the right terminal, not just circle helplessly around the

airport while their flight comes and goes.

•

616. They need to learn to make connecting flights at the airport they're landing in . . . not at the airport across town.

617. They need to stand in front of an English church founded in 600 AD to comprehend how new the United States is. (Of course, Roman ruins make England look like a new suburb.)

•

618. They need to pack mosquito repellent.

•

619. They need to decipher takeoff and arrival information posted in airport terminals. And trust it could be right half the time.

620. They need to learn what to do if a flight is cancelled. And that yelling is not going to solve anything.

•

621. They need to tour Washington D.C. Visit the White House, Congress, and the State Department. Get an understanding of the institutions behind our country.

•

622. They need to see the Lincoln bedroom.

623. They need to visit Arlington Cemetery. The Vietnam Wall. The National WWII Memorial. Get an idea of the price of freedom.

•

624. They need to stand on or read about the Great Wall of China. It says a lot about the country itself.

•

625. They need to look down at the sunken USS *Arizona* at

the bottom of Pearl Harbor. And realize sailors are still down there.

626. They need to explore the Smithsonian Museum. It's the most fantastic history lesson they'll ever have.

•

627. They need to tour an Indian reservation. And discuss if reservations are doing anybody any favors.

•

628. They need to see London, France, and Rome with you, so when they go back, they won't be wandering lost in a foreign land.

629. They need to walk to a glacier. And learn it's always further away than it looks.

•

630. They need to ice fish on one of the Great Lakes.

•

631. They need to stand on a mountaintop. Experience the thrill of airplanes flying below them.

•

632. They need to ride Amtrak from New York City to anywhere.

And be able to get back.

633. They need to watch the bears in Yellowstone Park. From their car. And know that teenagers who leave their cars to feed bears often wind up as bear food.

•

634. They need to take a picture of a moose. Not with a long lens.

•

635. They need to go to a state fair. Eat the corny dogs, ride

the rides, and watch the people.

636. They need to volunteer for an environmental conservation project anywhere in the world. Even down the street.

•

637. They need to pack an electricity converter when traveling outside the United States.

•

638. They need to stand under a waterfall.

639. They need to buy a globe and refer to it, when they hear of a war in the Sudan or a crisis in Bolivia. Learn where these places are.

•

640. They need to have their breath taken away at the sight of the Grand Canyon.

•

641. They need to stand on the Continental Divide and watch rivers run in separate directions.

642. They need to walk around Ellis Island. And realize the hope it gave to millions of people.

•

643. They need to walk Paul Revere's ride in Boston. And grasp how a few determined colonists defeated a world superpower.

•

644. They need to camp out in the mountains. And not sleep in the car.

645. They need to know to drink bottled water if they're in a foreign country. And to think of water in any U.S. lake or river or stream as a foreign country.

•

646. They need to explore a rain forest with old-growth trees. And realize this is what the world looked like thousands of years ago.

•

647. They need to walk the Revolutionary War battlefields at Lexington and Concord. The world was changed forever there.

648. They need to tour the Civil War battlefields where 600,000 soldiers died. And discuss how Americans could do such a thing to each other.

•

649. They need to travel Eastern Europe and see the suffocating impact of communism and dictatorship.

•

650. They need to discover America off the Interstate.

651. They need to know how to use public transit systems: decipher bus routes, train routes, subway routes, connections, and schedules. This will get them through any city in the world.

•

652. They need to get themselves vaccinated against diseases in foreign countries. And learn how not to bring them home.

•

653. They need to learn what to take on a trip. That it's not everything.

654. They need to know that showing up on time at the airport is, well, late. They need to show up early.

•

655. They need to learn to use computerized check-in.

•

656. They need to figure currency conversions before arriving in a foreign country. This will keep them from running out of money the first two days.

657. They need to come home with their passport.

•

658. They need to purchase a phone card to call home if they're overseas. Tell them you'll hang up on any collect calls.

•

659. They need to be able to snag a great deal on airfares using one of the travel sites.

660. They need to scan their passport, driver's license, important documents, and travel agent numbers, and e-mail all of it to themselves. Before they lose their wallet in a London taxicab.

•

661. They need to be able to hail a taxi in any city. And figure out if the taxi is legit or not, and if the driver is ripping them off.

662. They need to prepare for taxi drivers unable to speak the English language or read directions. They also need to realize this will happen in New York City.

•

663. They need to walk in the Atlantic surf. The Pacific surf. And the Gulf of Mexico surf.

664. They need to be bilingual if they want to explore all of Canada. And that doesn't mean English and Spanish.

•

665. They need to fly fish in a mountain stream. And not hurt themselves or others with the fishing rod.

•

666. They need to catch and release a trout. Even though they spent all day in the water waiting for it to bite.

667. They need to watch a windmill generate electricity. And wonder how many windmills it would take to propel a neighborhood.

•

668. They need to ride a street car in San Francisco. And hear how, for some reason, most cities that had them dismantled them.

•

669. They need to be able to keep themselves amused on an airplane. Or learn to sleep on one.

They Need to Prepare for College

670. They need to attend a career camp. There are great ones all over the country in engineering, aerospace, computer science, arts, science, and more.

•

671. They need to leave high school with a copy of their transcript. They will be asked for one the next five years.

•

672. They need to learn to research and write a tenpage paper. In five days.

673. They need to use a comma correctly. Or it will haunt them all their lives.

•

674. They need to take the time to write an outline.

•

675. They need to be able to find the plot point. In a book. In life.

•

676. They need to study the history of English literature. They don't have to be excited about it. Just know it.

677. They need to be able to navigate any library in the world using the electronic databases or card catalogues.

•

678. They need to be able to stand up for themselves. University professors and admissions counselors don't really care what parents think.

•

679. They need to read history's most influential thinkers, like Aristotle, Plato, and Marx. Their head will be filled with wild ideas. Perfectly normal.

680. They need to be a foreign exchange student. This will change the way they see the world.

•

681. They need to run for student office. Give speeches. Glad-hand the voters.

•

682. They need to be conversant in Spanish. About 30 percent of the country already is.

683. They need music lessons. Musicians in piano, guitar, band, or orchestra make great students. No one really knows why.

•

684. They need to have an idea of what they want to be when they grow up. It really helps in choosing classes, picking majors, and so on.

•

685. They need to take at least four AP and college prep courses while everyone else is taking the easy way out.

686. They need to put aside childish notions of "doing what they love to do" in college. They're going to learn how to make a living, how to change the world, how to make a difference.

•

687. They need to do more than just study. They need to have a life.

•

688. They need to develop the habit of reading papers aloud before turning them in.

689. They need to be proud of their mind.

•

690. They need to handle a large, complex, diverse workload. In the time allotted. Without complaining.

•

691. They need to take high school math beyond Algebra II and three classes in laboratory science (biology, chemistry, and physics). Do well here, and universities assume they'll do well there.

692. They need to proofread what they write. And at least use spell checker.

•

693. They need to understand the importance of structure—of words, sentences, thoughts, ideas, books, paragraphs, projects, institutions, cultures, religions, even the universe.

•

694. They need to support any claim with evidence. This means they must know what they're talking about.

695. They need to apply to Harvard. Who knows?

•

696. They need to visit at least five campuses, two out of state.

•

697. They need to study Western Civilization.

•

698. They need to pick a college based on what they want to do in five years.

•

699. They need to fill out a college application. They would rather stick needles in their eyes than do this.

700. They need to make a file with a copy of their birth certificate, transcript, Social Security number, and teacher references, then guard it with their life until they're out of college or until they're thirty, whichever comes first.

•

701. They need to apply for financial aid. No matter how rich they think their parents are.

702. They need to call a college admissions office and confirm the price of a four-year education, with scholarships, before accepting. Get it in writing.

•

703. They need to register with CollegeBoard.com. Here they can register for the SAT, take practice SAT tests, and get information on over 3,600 colleges. This could impact the rest of their lives.

704. They need to price out graduating in four years versus five or six. Four is significantly cheaper.

•

705. They need to pick a major they can actually earn a living with, not just study "voice" in college.

•

706. They need to log onto Collegeboard.com to find graduation rates, costs, demographics, and just about every other fact about any college in the United States.

707. They need to learn about ramen noodles. At three dollars a day, this is what they'll live on for four years.

•

708. They need to take a "basic skills" assessment to identify potential major and career choices. This is how someone

with a head for engineering doesn't find themselves writing a thirty-page paper on feminist literature.

•

709. They need to develop the skill of taking lecture and class notes.

710. They need to listen and retain what they've heard. Any mother can tell you a teenager doesn't remember half of what they hear.

•

711. They need to develop superior memorization skills. Before they start cramming all night for a final.

•

712. They need to be able to prioritize things. This will serve them well at 3 a.m. while studying for two tests and a paper due the next day.

713. They need to score at least 1900 on their SAT to have a shot at a top school. (There are hard and easy schools, hard and easy teachers, hard and easy classes, and hard and easy tests. There is only one SAT.)

•

714. They need to read the *U.S. News & World Report* college rankings, based on the SATs and grade points of last year's admissions classes.

715. They need to develop solid time management skills so a report that takes fifteen hours isn't started three hours before it's due.

•

716. They need to use a daily planner. Not just carry one.

•

717. They need to learn how to handle themselves in a college interview. Eliminate the "you know"s and the drama,

but look sharp and answer questions with more than one-word answers.

718. They need to schedule their initial interview at a second-choice college.

Get a few practice ones out of the way.

•

719. They need to hang out with smart kids this summer attending “education camp” like the ones at Phillips Exeter or Mt. Hermon, as well as most every college campus.

Topics include computer visualization, earthquake engineering, tissue engineering, plant genetics, and prescription drug discovery. Yes, these are subjects high school kids are studying!

720. They need experience in scouting. Great kids are molded here.

•

721. They need to join the Key Club. Or any other organization that promotes citizenship, academics, and charitable works.

•

722. They need to make the debate team. They’ll learn to think and talk at the same time.

723. They need to work on the school newspaper. Combines writing, proofing, responsibility, time management, and maybe finding a cause.

•

724. They need to make the National Honor Society. The kids who make this aren’t necessarily the smartest kids, but the hardest working ones.

•

725. They need to mentor an elementary student.

726. They need to learn to study in a group. Not talk. Study.

•

727. They need to not cheat.

•

728. They need to learn to argue without emotion, but with facts. This involves, of course, actually knowing the facts.

729. They need to realize that studying in bed just leads to falling asleep.

•

730. They need to ask every college admissions office this question: “How many of your students found jobs in fields relating to my degree six months after graduation?” In business, this is called the money question.

•

731. They need to gain cheap college credits using the College Level Examination Program (CLEP).

732. They need to go to class in high school. Works every time.

•

733. They need to understand that they’ll have to take a minimum of four years of English, three years of math, two of science, two of social science, and two of a foreign language to catch a college recruiter’s attention.

•

734. They need to excel at taking standardized tests.

735. They need to take a leadership role in extracurricular activities. Not just show up for credit.

•

736. They need to memorize a thousand lines of poetry. They’ve already memorized a thousand phone numbers.

They can do it.

•

737. They need to write five short stories, ten pages or longer. This is a small homework assignment in college.

738. They need to participate in an academic decathlon. It's where all their competition for a top college can be found.

•

739. They need to evaluate the function $f(x)=(x+3)(x+1)$ at $x=-1$. Parents will look at this problem and just go to bed.

740. They need to identify the archetype for Sherlock Holmes found on today's most popular detective shows.

•

741. They need to take hard classes. Colleges don't care too much if they get an A in Home Economics.

•

742. They need to graduate.

They Need to Read One Hundred Books

They need to challenge their mind and elevate their thinking with great literature. A ton of it. This is a starter list from CollegeBoard.com. But a lot of teens will double and triple this.

•

743. Achebe, Chinua *Things Fall Apart*

•

744. Agee, James *A Death in the Family*

•

745. Austen, Jane *Pride and Prejudice*

746. Baldwin, James *Go Tell It on the Mountain*

•

747. Beckett, Samuel *Waiting for Godot*

•

748. Bellow, Saul *The Adventures of Augie March*

•

749. Brontë, Charlotte *Jane Eyre*

•

750. Brontë, Emily *Wuthering Heights*

751. Camus, Albert *The Stranger*

•

752. Cather, Willa *Death Comes for the Archbishop*

•

753. Chaucer, Geoffrey *The Canterbury Tales*

•

754. Chekhov, Anton *The Cherry Orchard*

•

755. Chopin, Kate *The Awakening*

756. Conrad, Joseph *Heart of Darkness*

•

757. Cooper, James Fenimore *The Last of the Mohicans*

•

758. Crane, Stephen *The Red Badge of Courage*

•

759. Dante *Inferno*

•

760. de Cervantes, Miguel *Don Quixote*

761. Defoe, Daniel *Robinson Crusoe*

•

762. Dickens, Charles *A Tale of Two Cities*

•

763. Dostoyevsky, Fyodor *Crime and Punishment*

•

764. Douglass, Frederick *Narrative of the Life of Frederick
Douglass*

•

765. Dreiser, Theodore *An American Tragedy*

766. Dumas, Alexandre *The Three Musketeers*

•

767. Eliot, George *The Mill on the Floss*

•

768. Ellison, Ralph *Invisible Man*

•

769. Emerson, Ralph Waldo *Selected Essays*

•

770. Faulkner, William *As I Lay Dying*

771. Faulkner, William *The Sound and the Fury*

•

772. Fielding, Henry *Tom Jones*

•

773. Fitzgerald, F. Scott *The Great Gatsby*

•

774. Flaubert, Gustave *Madame Bovary*

•

775. Ford, Madox *The Good Soldier*

776. Goethe, Johann Wolfgang von *Faust*

•

777. Golding, William *Lord of the Flies*

•

778. Hardy, Thomas *Tess of the d'Urbervilles*

•

779. Hawthorne, Nathaniel *The Scarlet Letter*

•

780. Heller, Joseph *Catch 22*

781. Hemingway, Ernest *A Farewell to Arms*

•

782. Homer *The Iliad*

•

783. Homer *The Odyssey*

•

784. Hugo, Victor *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*

•

785. Hurston, Zora Neale *Their Eyes Were Watching God*

•

786. Huxley, Aldous *Brave New World*

787. Ibsen, Henrik *A Doll's House*

•

788. James, Henry *The Portrait of a Lady*

•

789. James, Henry *The Turn of the Screw*

•

790. Joyce, James *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*

•

791. Kafka, Franz *The Metamorphosis*

•

792. Kingston, Maxine Hong *The Woman Warrior*

793. Lee, Harper *To Kill a Mockingbird*

•

794. Lewis, Sinclair *Babbitt*

•

795. London, Jack *The Call of the Wild*

•

796. Mann, Thomas *The Magic Mountain*

•

797. Marquez, Gabriel García *One Hundred Years of Solitude*

•

798. Melville, Herman *Bartleby the Scrivener*

799. Melville, Herman *Moby Dick*

•

800. Miller, Arthur *The Crucible*

•

801. Morrison, Toni *Beloved*

•

802. O'Connor, Flannery *A Good Man Is Hard to Find*

•

803. O'Neill, Eugene *Long Day's Journey into Night*

•

804. Orwell, George *Animal Farm*

805. Pasternak, Boris *Doctor Zhivago*

•

806. Plath, Sylvia *The Bell Jar*

•

807. Poe, Edgar Allan *Selected Tales*

•

808. Proust, Marcel *Swann's Way*

•

809. Pynchon, Thomas *The Crying of Lot 49*

•

810. Remarque, Erich Maria *All Quiet on the Western Front*

811. Rostand, Edmond *Cyrano de Bergerac*

•

812. Roth, Henry *Call It Sleep*

•

813. Salinger, J.D. *The Catcher in the Rye*

•

814. Shakespeare, William *Hamlet*

•

815. Shakespeare, William *Macbeth*

•

816. Shakespeare, William *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

817. Shakespeare, William *Romeo and Juliet*

•

818. Shaw, George Bernard *Pygmalion*

•

819. Shelley, Mary *Frankenstein*

•

820. Silko, Leslie Marmon *Ceremony*

•

821. Solzhenitsyn, Alexander *One Day in the Life of Ivan
Denisovich*

•

822. Sophocles *Antigone*

823. Sophocles *Oedipus Rex*

•

824. Steinbeck, John *The Grapes of Wrath*

-
- 825. Stevenson, Robert Louis *Treasure Island*
-
- 826. Stowe, Harriet Beecher *Uncle Tom's Cabin*
-
- 827. Swift, Jonathan *Gulliver's Travels*
- 828. Thackeray, William *Vanity Fair*
-
- 829. Thoreau, Henry David *Walden*
-
- 830. Tolstoy, Leo *War and Peace*
-
- 831. Turgenev, Ivan *Fathers and Sons*
-
- 832. Twain, Mark *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*
- 833. Voltaire *Candide*
-
- 834. Vonnegut, Kurt Jr. *Slaughterhouse-Five*
-
- 835. Walker, Alice *The Color Purple*
-
- 836. Wharton, Edith *The House of Mirth*
-
- 837. Welty, Eudora *Collected Stories*
- 838. Whitman, Walt *Leaves of Grass*
-

839. Wilde, Oscar *The Picture of Dorian Gray*

•

840. Williams, Tennessee *The Glass Menagerie*

•

841. Woolf, Virginia *To the Lighthouse*

•

842. Wright, Richard *Native Son*

They Need to Be Good Citizens

843. They need to be able to make an informed vote in the next presidential election.

•

844. They need to see the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. And read them.

•

845. They need to visit or read about Jamestown, Virginia. Learn how the United States was born on that beach.

•

846. They need to understand the meaning of July 4, 1776.

847. They need to explain the structure of the U.S. government.

•

848. They need to be aware of the timeline of American history.

That the Constitution wasn't signed last month.

•

849. They need to learn what "due process" means. And appreciate that most of the world can't fathom it.

850. They need to know how to cast a vote in a voting booth.

•

851. They need to know more about George Washington, Ben Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, and Alexander Hamilton than they do about rock stars, movie stars, and basketball

players.

•

852. They need to explain how a bill becomes law.

853. They need to write letters to their state representative, congressman, senator, and president urging the passage or defeat of pending legislation.

•

854. They need to campaign for someone. Lick envelopes, distribute yard signs, be part of the process.

855. They need to enjoy their freedoms: freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom to gather in groups, freedom to travel, freedom to choose one's work, and freedom to lie in bed all day.

•

856. They need to work in a food bank or serve food in a mission.

•

857. They need to respect the flag and honor their country.

858. They need to tell a soldier "thank you."

•

859. They need to join other students and paint over graffiti.

•

860. They need to learn the purpose of the Bill of Rights. It will help them understand the magnificence of our country.

861. They need to read to children in homeless shelters.

•

862. They need to see reality: that whenever there's a group of people, there are politics.

•

863. They need to understand the differences between divine law, natural law, common law, statute law, and international law.

They Need to Learn to Handle Life

864. They need to get experience with a plunger. Dorm and apartment bathrooms are looming.

•

865. They need to learn how to pay rent. With a valid check. To the right company. On time. All kinds of issues here.

•

866. They need to memorize this question: “Does this prescription come in generic?” It will save them a fortune.

867. They need to learn that everything gets a loose screw: doors, windows, table legs, eyeglasses, even relationships. Every once in a while, you need to go around tightening stuff.

•

868. They need to adjust the thermostat and turn the lights off when they leave a room.

•

869. They need to learn what to do and who to call when water is pouring through a skylight or broken window.

870. They need to work on hammering a nail without smashing their thumb. And when they smash their thumb, not curse.

•

871. They need to paint their room. Without the furniture, the floor, or too many clothes getting painted.

•

872. They need to learn that a paintbrush can be used over and over again if it's cleaned and taken care of.

873. They need to observe the difference between a Phillips head and a regular screwdriver. And see one can't be substituted for the other.

•

874. They need to hang pictures and posters using the appropriate hardware.

•

875. They need to tell the difference between a dandelion and a periwinkle.

876. They need to practice killing weeds with poison while leaving plants and shrubs standing. Unfortunately, this could take a couple of lessons in your yard.

•

877. They need to plant a tree. Not a small tree. A tree that requires about an hour of shoveling.

•

878. They need to see how duct tape can salvage most anything.

879. They need to change a light bulb. With one that's the correct wattage. Or they might get another visit from their local fire department.

•

880. They need to get experience replacing air conditioner filters. And learn when to replace them.

•

881. They need to learn that a bolt is always turned to the right to tighten. This knowledge they will pass on to their grandchildren.

882. They need to translate “some assembly required” into
“the weekend is shot.”

•

883. They need to acquire a tool chest. With tools.

•

884. They need to accept there is no reason on earth
someone living in an apartment or dorm or condo needs a
power drill.

•

885. They need to recognize the smell of gas in the house.
And know that isn't a time to light up.

886. They need to learn how to use a drain opener on a
clogged drain.

•

887. They need to learn how to clean a carpet stained by
Coke, blood, tea, or a pet. Apartment deposits are lost over
this.

•

888. They need to learn how to use a wrench. And pliers.
And a drill.

•

889. They need to develop the courage to try to fix
something themselves before calling a plumber, carpenter, or
electrician.

890. They need to be on a first-name basis with somebody at
Home Depot.

•

891. They need to operate a washer and dryer without
Mom's help.

•

892. They need to learn that everything breaks. Usually at the most inconvenient times.

•

893. They need to clean an oven at home. Before they try doing so in their apartment.

894. They need to experience changing a vacuum cleaner bag. Many kids will just keep vacuuming with a dirt-filled dust bomb.

•

895. They need to learn not to use anything on furniture that says “soft scrub.”

•

896. They need to use coasters.

•

897. They need to learn paper towels are never substituted for toilet paper.

•

898. They need to practice the fine art of sweeping with a broom. Into a dustpan.

899. They need to take out the trash. Before it starts smelling.

•

900. They need to learn one solution to their allergy problems is to just dust.

•

901. They need to see pictures of what grows in a bathtub if it's never cleaned.

•

902. They need to learn how to use Pine-Sol.

They Need to Know What to Do in an Emergency

903. They need to stop cuts with something besides a dirty sock.

•

904. They need to learn that if two or three Band-Aids don't stop the bleeding, stitches are probably required.

•

905. They need to develop some survivor skills. Where to stand in an earthquake, what to do if power goes out for a week, where to go if a hurricane is coming.

•

906. They need to ice down a muscle pull with frozen peas. Reason enough to keep them around.

907. They need to know to evacuate if the mayor, the governor, the federal government, or the president says, "Go." That they don't want to be caught in a flooded city with no power, fresh water, or police.

•

908. They need to find where the nearest emergency room is. Before they need it.

•

909. They need to learn that running in the heat of the day can cause heat exhaustion and lead to heat stroke.

•

910. They need to learn how to take one's pulse. And know that a resting heart rate below 50 or above 100 is not a good

sign.

911. They need to know a good doctor.

•

912. They need to get a checkup once a year—heart, blood pressure, cholesterol. This is the way adults take care of themselves.

•

913. They need to see an eye doctor the moment their eyes are red, leaking weird things, or blurry.

•

914. They need to learn basic first aid.

•

915. They need to learn to tell the difference between a cold, an allergy, and the flu. All will make them want their mother, but an allergy doesn't have a fever.

916. They need to be aware if they're allergic to peanuts, latex, drugs, or insect stings—and know what their mother would make them do in case of an exposure or reaction.

•

917. They need to call the police instead of responding to physical threats.

•

918. They need to get in the habit of watching or listening to weather reports before and during storms.

•

919. They need to lock their doors.

920. They need to learn what to do if a tornado is on the ground.

•

921. They need to learn the danger of flooded streets.
Especially at night.

•

922. They need to make a plan in case of a disaster or
terrorist attack.

•

923. They need to learn how to stop bleeding with a
tourniquet and pressure.

•

924. They need to use their common sense. Like not go to
the beach to watch a tsunami.

They Need to Know the Facts about Alcohol and Drugs

925. They need to breathe through a pillow. And realize this is what emphysema feels like.

•

926. They need to talk to an ex-smoker. Getting off cigarettes is as painful and difficult as getting off heroin.

•

927. They need to realize any mind-altering drug changes how the brain works. Change it enough and congrats—your brain is different.

•

928. They need to understand that stimulants like methamphetamines ruin a person's looks, causes them to sweat like pigs, and eventually leads to the grave.

929. They need to learn that even though crystal meth is often found at dance clubs and parties, not to touch the stuff unless their goal is to live in a trailer park.

•

930. They need to see that a sensible diet and exercise is a far better way to lose weight than methamphetamines.

•

931. They need to learn that snorting cocaine can damage the septum between the nostrils, causing a hole in the middle of the nose. Perfect for a nose ring.

932. They need to read about the athletes who have stroked out using cocaine for the first (and last) time.

•

933. They need to realize that once a person leaves the world on an acid trip, they don't return until the drug is out of their body. Users experience panic, confusion, sadness, and frightening images.

•

934. They need to understand that days after a hallucinogenic drug wears off, a user can suddenly freak out while driving or interviewing for a job. Or like, on a date.

935. They need to realize that even in heroingrowing countries, it is generally accepted that only an idiot would look twice at the drug.

•

936. They need to be aware that Ecstasy isn't the safe, legal club drug it's rumored to be, but chemically similar to methamphetamine and can lead to liver, kidney, and cardiovascular system failure. And 43 percent of its users become addicted. Party on, dude.

•

937. They need to read the studies about marijuana use. Most teens don't smoke it.

938. They need to study what marijuana smoke contains: 50 percent to 70 percent more carcinogenic hydrocarbons than tobacco.

•

939. They need to see the impact of steroids. Really gross acne scarring.

•

940. They need to realize alcohol is a drug and that getting drunk regularly is a sign of a greater problem. Especially in the teenage years.

941. They need to get the phone number of a cab company.
And use it if they've had more than two drinks and they're
driving.

•

942. They need to understand that neither food nor sleep
magically sobers up a person. Only time.

•

943. They need to learn that there's a razor-thin line between
passing out and death-by-alcohol poisoning.

944. They need to be aware that binge drinking in high
school is a strong predictor of binge drinking in college and
early adulthood.

•

945. They need to guard their drink at any party or club.
Things can be added to it.

They Need to
Know More
about Sex than
They Think
They Know

946. They need to talk to you about sex. Often.

•

947. They need to understand sex changes everything.

•

948. They need to establish their own sexual boundaries.
And not move them.

•

949. They need to define what sex means to them.

•

950. They need to learn about the human anatomy and how
the human body functions.

951. They need to know how a woman gets pregnant.

•

952. They need to learn about birth control and the one
foolproof method. Abstinence.

•

953. They need to stay sober.

•

954. They need to date someone their own age.

•

955. They need to know they're more likely to get a sexually

transmitted disease than they are the flu.

956. They need to read about Chlamydia and gonorrhea and that teenagers have a higher rate of these diseases than do sexually active men and women.

•

957. They need to be aware that up to 15 percent of sexually active teenage girls are infected with a type of HPV that is linked to cervical cancer.

•

958. They need to look past what movies and TV say about sex, that it always has consequences.

959. They need to learn that a person can get an STD without intercourse.

•

960. They need to realize more people are talking about sex than actually doing it.

•

961. They need to understand that condoms reduce the odds of gonorrhea, urea plasma infection, pelvic inflammatory disease, and cervical cancer. But it's not 100 percent.

962. They need to visit with a person who has AIDS.

•

963. They need to talk to a teenage mother. Get an idea of how much fun she's having.

•

964. They need to hear what the church and Scripture say about premarital sex.

•

965. They need to wait.

They Need to Become Responsible

966. They need to take responsibility for their actions.
Starting in grade school.

•

967. They need to work. After school. Weekends. Christmas
break. And summer if they're not in some educational camp.
They won't understand this, but it's important.

•

968. They need to make at least \$4,000 in high school. This
will give them their first real taste of responsibility and
independence.

•

969. They need to not compromise their values.

970. They need to be trustworthy.

•

971. They need to learn the best way to start the hardest
things in life is just to start.

•

972. They need to learn how to complete a job application.
Without Mom's help.

•

973. They need to earn at least one supervisory job
promotion sometime in high school. That tells colleges and
future employers a lot.

•

974. They need to finish what they start. Homework, for
instance.

975. They need to deal with pain and disappointment. Without you scrambling to “spare their feelings.” This is a gift only the most loving parents can give.

•

976. They need to know that if they’ve run out of spending money, it’s their problem.

•

977. They need to pay their own auto insurance.

•

978. They need to leave a party when kids start opening liquor bottles.

•

979. They need to seek out responsibility. Not avoid it.

980. They need to accept all Ten Commandments and not just the four or five they find easy to agree with.

•

981. They need to learn there is no right way to do the wrong thing.

•

982. They need to be told you’re proud of them. For who they are as a person.

•

983. They need to not require praise for doing what’s right.

•

984. They need to make a habit of doing the right thing when nobody is looking.

985. They need to not break their promises. And not make any promises they can’t keep.

•

986. They need to be on time.

•

987. They need to help with the household chores. Every day. The earlier you start with this, the less complaining there will be.

•

988. They need to develop strength of character to do the right thing, even though everybody else is doing the wrong thing.

•

989. They need to give blood for a friend. Or even more astounding, for a stranger.

990. They need to not buy everything they can afford.

•

991. They need to ask God to help them make the right choice.

•

992. They need to understand that the right thing to do is often the hardest thing to do.

•

993. They need to stand up for their convictions. Even if their friends disagree. Even if you disagree.

994. They need to become a role model.

•

995. They need to learn to apologize first.

•

996. They need to understand it is impossible to be good without God.

They Need Encouragement

997. They need to understand adulthood is inevitable. But growing up is optional.

•

998. They need to know that millions of really confused and goofy teenagers before them have become successful adults. Their parents, for instance.

999. They need to be told God is going with them.

•

1000. They need you to hug them.

•

1001. They need to fly.

OTHER BOOKS IN THE 1001 THINGS SERIES BY HARRY...

