

A Dialogue: On Humility

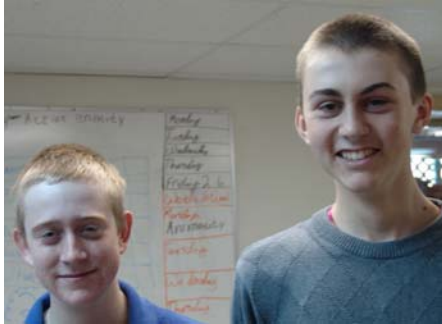
Jeremy, 15, and Aaron, 15

Recognizing Humility

Kim, 15

Aaron:

Humility is defined as the ability to remain teachable. It is an important virtue to practice.



Without being humble nobody would listen to each other or try to improve. If people were not humble then everybody would be arrogant and they would not be able to change for the rest of their lives!

Jeremy: Humility can also be described as a process of students adjusting to their surroundings. For example, it happens when the student first arrives to Turning Winds Academic Institute. Humility means listening to feedback, learning from own mistakes, and applying what has been learned to change oneself. At Turning Winds Academic Institute there is a great opportunity to work on being humble as students are presented with the opportunity to practice humility daily.

Aaron: The program at Turning Winds Academic Institute gives teenagers the opportunity to slow down and look at themselves. By slowing down students humble themselves and strive to better themselves by taking in feedback from their peers and mentors.



There is a song that I like, "The Greatest", and the lyrics are written by Kenny Rogers. It is a story about one boy who played baseball: "The ball goes up like the moon so bright, / He swings his bat with all his might, / The world so still as still can be, / And the baseball falls, it's strike number three... /... He says, "I am the greatest, that is a fact, / But even I didn't know I could pitch like that."

I see how in this song the little boy shows humility because he may not have been the best at batting, but he didn't get upset or angry; he stayed open to new ideas, remaining teachable. Being humble, he learned and practiced a lot, and he was much happier that way, especially when he achieved remarkable results.



Book Review:

Ben Mikaelson's
"Touching Spirit Bear"

Nashona, 14

During the first few days I was here at Turning Winds Academic Institute, I read the book, "Touching Spirit Bear", by Ben Mikaelson. This book helped me through my first few weeks while I was upset and just started adjusting to being here. I noticed many

similarities between the main character Cole Mathews, and myself.

Cole was in trouble for assaulting a boy he went to school with. He was put in a detention center and it was decided by the Circle Justice that he was to spend a year on an island in the Alaskan wilderness. About two days after arriving to the island, Cole was attacked by the mysterious "Spirit Bear" that was a huge white bear who wasn't even supposed to exist in that part of Alaska. Cole tried to fight back, but he ended up suffering many injuries. He lay on the cold ground for nearly three days, before he was rescued. Six months later, Cole returned to the island in hopes of seeing the bear again. In truth, the bear had made him realize what he had become and how he had hurt others.

To me, the spirit bear represents how your struggles make you stronger and reflection time allows one to realize their mistakes. I learned a lot while reading this book, and I would recommend it to anyone.

Lunch Hike

Nicole, 16

*Through the woods we went
Counting on our human scent.
I was scared we would
Run into an animal, but instead
All we saw was tracks.
I could feel an animal near
And when I did, I saw a deer.
It was very pretty. It had a white
tail,
And very sweet eyes that attracted
me.
Up the mountain we went,
So happy to be in the fresh air,
We almost made it to the top
But it was getting late and we did
not
Want to be eaten by a bear.
So, we headed back; Proud and happy,
we talked and sang the whole way
down.
It was so fun,
And it was so bright
and lovely from the sunlight!*

Tracks on the Hike

James, 17

One beautiful Thursday afternoon at Turning Winds Academic Institute, Jake Francom decided to take some people on the hike. It was Andrew, Brendan, Zach, Connor, James, Teresa, Nora and Stephanie, and a very happy bunch they were, as they were the ones who showed the virtue of humility to the tee.



As the hike progressed through the woods, the more determined the members of the group became. As they went further from the school, they chanced upon the cougar tracks, which could be a very scary event, but they all cheered up as they were together as a strong crew of strong people. Yet, now the group was aware that this was the cougar's territory, it was where it lived. We all realized that this is not a park that animals live here and we people were guests on the animals' grounds.

Weather

Jody, 17

Here at Turning Winds Academic Institute, the weather has been completely different as compared to the one back home in Colorado. One day, it is nice and sunny, and the next day it is snowing and clouds are all over the sky.

The temperature is in the sixties Fahrenheit one day, and only in twenties the next. Here in the Yaak Valley, the weather never makes up its mind.

