

Blocking Scene – A Family Difference

TEEN: You know, I really can't stand the way you treat Don when he comes over here. I just think it's disgusting and embarrassing.

PARENT: I think he's disgusting. I can't stand the looks of that boy. He never washes. He dresses in rags.

TEEN: But he's my friend.

PARENT: That's what bothers me. If that's what you find attractive, I'm afraid you're going to go around that way yourself. If you value that kind of sloppiness, then what has happened to all the things that your mother/father and I have done to bring you up to be neat and...

TEEN: Why should I respect what you respect?

PARENT: Because it's what every decent human being respects. That's why.

TEEN: I don't know. I think Don is decent. He's got other things in his head besides cleanliness. He's a thinker. He writes poetry. He's sensitive to other people. You judge all of my friends just by the way they look.

PARENT: Well, there's a lot that people say by the way they look. They're advertising themselves by the way they look.

TEEN: Oh? I didn't know I was a billboard.

PARENT: I hope you're not! But I'm a little worried you'll become one if you start hanging around with a person like Don.

TEEN: Maybe I should judge you by the friends you hang around with – What's-her-name? Matilda. With the dyed red hair.

PARENT: At least my friends are clean.

TEEN: Clean, but phony! I guess if I'm going to become dirty like Don, then you're going to become phony like Matilda. Huh? *[pause]* Answer that one?

PARENT: I'm not phony! But I can see you've already learned to be rude from your friend, Don!