

Providing Institution:



Audio transcript

TRANSCRIPT

Read items 16-18. Listen and choose the best answer (A, B, or C) for each item.

Female speaker: I went to Boston Latin school which is the oldest public high school in the country in the US.

Male speaker: All right, ok.

Female speaker: The school... you have to take a test to get into, and people do well there, and if you don't do well...

Male speaker:...they just throw you out?

Female speaker: ...they throw you... you either repeat the grade or you leave and you go to a different school that's easier. And I... the thing that amazed me is that my brothers and sister did not go there.

Male speaker: aha

Female speaker:...and they went to just a regular Boston public school...

Male speaker: yeah yeah yeah

Female speaker:...and like parent-teacher night they'd be very few parents at their schools.

Male speaker: right right...

Female speaker: whereas at mine they had multiple parent-teacher nights cause there were so many parents coming to meet with the teachers. You know, the education system is not just about how good the school is.

Male speaker: right right..

Female speaker: I mean that's a part of it. It's also about expectation, and I think a huge part is parental involvement.

Male speaker: See that is the problem with New York city schools. I mean parents don't really care about..

Female speaker: Do you think they don't really care or that they think it's the school's job?

Male speaker: Could be the school's job but they like to get this weight off their back and they say you're the teacher, you have been trained, you know how to do this thing. Don't get me involved...

Female speaker: ...right

Male speaker: Don't call me when Joe or whatever is acting out in class or is throwing spit balls across the room or has...

Read items 19 and 20. Listen and choose the best answer (A, B, or C) for each item.

Female speaker: but then you get the other parents who get too involved...

Male speaker: right yeah... they stick their noses where..

Female speaker: no but.. did you hear about... there was somebody who... the parent got very mad because the teacher was using a red pen..

Male speaker: right yeah..

Female speaker:... to mark answers wrong on her daughter's paper or something like that, and now that school district cannot use red to make things right or wrong...make things wrong because it makes the students feel bad about themselves.

Male speaker: yeah marginalizes and singles them out... yeah...politically correct..

Female speaker: but then the other thing that happens is that parents get mad at teachers for not passing their children, and I think sometimes teachers pass children because the parents are mad enough...

Male speaker: yeah and engage in what is called "social promotion." Yeah they say for psychological reasons students should all pass the grade so they can be with their friends, and, they move on and everything. But

these students who happen to fall through these cracks just end up in your senior class in high school, and then you don't know what to do with them because they haven't really mastered the material and then they have an attitude.

Female speaker:...And how do they feel about themselves when they can't understand what's going on.

Male speaker: right yeah..

Female speaker:... you know. I don't think that any of that is something that...

Male speaker:...can be remedied.

Listen again and check your answers.