

Heart of a Servant: The Father Flanagan Story

High School Assessment - ANSWER KEY

Select the best answer for each question.

1. What was Father Flanagan's primary motivation for establishing Boys Town?

- To create a profitable agricultural enterprise
 - To provide a home and education for homeless and troubled boys who had no other options
 - To compete with other religious institutions in Nebraska
 - To train boys exclusively for priesthood
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2. How did Father Flanagan's approach to discipline differ from the typical institutional methods of his era?

- He believed in rehabilitation and trust rather than punishment alone
 - He used harsher punishments to maintain control
 - He had no discipline system at all
 - He relied entirely on physical labor as punishment
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3. What does the phrase 'There is no such thing as a bad boy' reveal about Father Flanagan's philosophy?

- Environmental circumstances and lack of opportunity shape behavior more than inherent character
 - Bad behavior should be ignored completely
 - All boys should be treated equally regardless of their backgrounds
 - Boys are naturally incapable of wrongdoing
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4. How did Boys Town's self-governance model challenge conventional institutional practices?

- It copied military command structures exactly
 - It eliminated all rules and structure
 - It gave complete authority to the youngest residents
 - It allowed boys to participate in decision-making and take responsibility for their community
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5. What can be inferred about the social conditions that made Boys Town necessary during Father Flanagan's time?

- Industrialization and poverty created large populations of abandoned and neglected children
 - All poor families received adequate government support
 - There were no homeless children in America
 - Child welfare systems were already highly developed
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6. How did Father Flanagan use media and public relations to advance his mission?

- He actively promoted Boys Town through films, radio, and public speaking to gain support and funding
 - He only communicated with the Catholic Church
 - He avoided all publicity to maintain privacy
 - He discouraged any documentation of his work
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7. What does Father Flanagan's work suggest about the relationship between poverty and juvenile delinquency?

- Only wealthy children can be rehabilitated
 - Poverty creates risk factors, but opportunity and support can redirect lives
 - Poverty has no connection to crime or behavioral problems
 - Poverty alone determines a person's future with certainty
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8. How did Father Flanagan's religious faith influence his practical approach to helping boys?

- He rejected modern educational methods in favor of purely religious instruction
 - He only provided spiritual guidance without material support
 - His religion prevented him from accepting boys of different faiths
 - His faith motivated him to provide comprehensive care including housing, education, and vocational training
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9. What historical significance does Boys Town hold in the development of child welfare?

- It demonstrated an alternative model emphasizing dignity, self-governance, and rehabilitation over punishment
 - It had no lasting impact on child welfare practices
 - It was the first institution ever created
 - It proved that institutional care was harmful
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10. How can Father Flanagan's philosophy be applied to modern challenges in youth development?

- It is completely outdated and irrelevant today
- The principles of believing in potential, providing opportunity, and emphasizing rehabilitation remain valuable for addressing youth issues
- Modern problems require abandoning all traditional approaches
- Technology has made personal relationships unnecessary