

Heart of a Servant: The Father Flanagan Story

ANSWER KEY - Middle School Assessment

Select the best answer for each question.

1. What was Father Flanagan's main goal in founding Boys Town?

- To create a military training facility for young boys
 - To establish a Catholic school for wealthy families
 - To provide a home and education for homeless and troubled boys
 - To train boys to become priests
-

2. How did Father Flanagan's approach to helping troubled boys differ from other institutions of his time?

- He focused only on religious training without practical skills
 - He believed boys were inherently bad and needed strict punishment
 - He believed in treating boys with dignity and giving them a second chance
 - He separated boys by age and never allowed them to interact
-

3. What does the phrase "*There is no such thing as a bad boy*" reflect about Father Flanagan's philosophy?

- Boys can change and improve with proper care, support, and opportunity
 - All boys are naturally good and well-behaved
 - Boys should never be disciplined or corrected
 - Bad behavior is caused by genetics and cannot be changed
-

4. Which of the following best explains why Father Flanagan's work was considered revolutionary for his time?

- He invented a new religion for boys
 - He refused to teach any academic subjects
 - He challenged the belief that troubled youth were hopeless and deserved punishment
 - He was the first person to open a school
-

5. What type of environment did Father Flanagan create at Boys Town?

- A military barracks with no personal freedoms
- A family-like community where boys learned responsibility and self-respect

- A prison-like facility with harsh rules
 - A temporary shelter with no long-term support
-

6. How did Father Flanagan's background influence his commitment to helping poor and homeless boys?

- He grew up wealthy and wanted to help others
 - His family forced him to do charity work
 - He experienced poverty and hardship himself, making him empathetic to struggling youth
 - He had no personal connection to poverty
-

7. What can be inferred about the impact of Boys Town based on its continued existence today?

- His approach to youth rehabilitation was successful and sustainable
 - The organization only lasted a few years after his death
 - Boys Town became a prison instead of a home
 - Father Flanagan's model was ineffective and abandoned
-

8. Which statement best describes how Father Flanagan viewed the relationship between punishment and rehabilitation?

- Understanding the root causes of problems and providing support was more effective than punishment alone
 - Harsh punishment was the only way to change behavior
 - Rehabilitation was impossible for troubled youth
 - Boys should never face any consequences for their actions
-

9. What does Father Flanagan's work suggest about society's responsibility toward vulnerable youth?

- Only wealthy families should receive assistance
 - Society should provide opportunities and support to help young people succeed
 - Young people should solve their problems completely on their own
 - Society has no obligation to help struggling children
-

10. How did Father Flanagan's religious faith connect to his social work?

- He only helped people who shared his religious beliefs
- His faith had no connection to his charitable work

His religion taught him to ignore the poor

His faith motivated him to serve others and treat all people with compassion