

Human Interaction (Barbie vs. Raggedy Ann)

There was a study done involving young adolescent girls where the examiners wanted to know what girls at that young age would prefer. They put the girls in a room with a set of Barbie dolls and a set of Raggedy Ann dolls and began to observe their interactions with each set. Some of the girls went to the Barbie dolls while others went to the Raggedy Ann dolls. Sometime during the study, the observers noticed that the number of girls interacting with the Barbie dolls was diminishing while the number of girls interacting with the Raggedy Ann dolls was increasing.

The reason behind this, they discovered, was the nurturing the Raggedy Ann dolls represented in the young girls' minds. They could hold and hug the Raggedy Ann dolls where as they could not hold and hug the Barbie dolls. The adolescent girls associated the plush, warm and comfortable hug, with their mothers' comfortable hugs more so than with the rigid Barbie dolls. The Barbie dolls' glamour, that the other girls were originally attracted to, soon wore off. The girls, who originally went to the Barbie dolls, now wanted the Raggedy Ann dolls but found that the other girls were unwilling to trade.

As children grow into adolescents, and eventually adult-hood, the internal patterns they grow up with become the framework upon which their interactive behavior as an adult is constructed. Interactions with another person are extremely important. Even the bible says that it is not good for man to be alone.

Just because something looks good, does not mean it can provide a better quality of interaction. Some of the people, the Barbie dolls, who look popular and seem to have everything in life, can have the emptiest of feelings when it comes to intimately connecting with another person. Thus, not have anything to offer and feeling like they are not going to be excepted if they do not have the latest and greatest to draw others near.

Raggedy Ann's, on the other hand, are people who are affectionate and usually are so without glamour. People usually go to them when they need to talk and need a friend to listen without feedback. Yet these Raggedy Anns are the first to be passed up in being invited to social events. Feeling expendable, they are hard on themselves and they need a friend occasionally that can help them be more accepted socially.

After you have studied social interactions for a while, you can pick out the Raggedy Anns and the Barbie dolls. In my years of observation, I have come to this opinion. Although very popular, Barbie dolls can be plastic: feeling hollow inside and providing nothing but glamour. They can be so rigid you cannot hug them. Their mentality can best be described as 'Don't you know who I think I am?' This is a painful feeling for anyone. It is a feeling Barbie dolls think they cannot express because of its unpopularity. Do your best to be a real friend to a Barbie doll. Truly except them and you will be a friend like they have never had before.

Raggedy Anns, on the other hand, may not be the prettiest, but they are the most real. They may be old or beat up, but in times of real need, they are the ones who will be there. They can offer true comfort in the most uncomfortable of times. They can have holes in them where others can easily reach into their heart and get something out of them. Their mentality can best be described as, 'It doesn't matter if others don't like me. What matters is that I like me.' Try and let them know you care; ask for nothing in return. Sometimes, the Raggedy Ann may insist a reward be given to someone who helps them. If you are that person, ask them to spend the reward on themselves: informing them that they have helped enough people to deserve it.

Barbie dolls need the comfort that only Raggedy Anns can provide. Raggedy Anns need the popular acceptance that only Barbie dolls can provide. Together, they can make a tremendous difference not only in their world but also in the world as a whole.