

Your Values Are Showing

A TEEN SPEAKS

I know I spend a lot of time in front of the mirror. My mom is always on me about it. "Leslie, all you care about is how you look," she'll say.

That's not true. I care about a lot of things. I just don't talk about them. I'm thinking about different stuff I never thought of before, like what I'm going to do with my life. I think about getting my own car and if I should get a job so I'll have enough money for it. I think about my grades, too.

Then I keep thinking, will somebody blow up the planet before I have my turn? Or if somebody doesn't nuke us out, what about the ozone layer? The whole world is turning into some kind of garbage dump.

But I do care about myself. Sure, I think about how I look. What's wrong with that? At least I can do something about that—most of the time!

It's kind of funny, but from the minute I get up I know how the day is going to go. Sometimes I get up and everything's okay. I feel great, I look great—everything just sort of falls into place. Then other days nothing is together. Everything I put on is wrong.

It doesn't matter if I wore the same thing last week and it was the best, it feels wrong. So I keep putting on different stuff. Then I have to grab something fast because my dad is yelling at me to hurry up or I'll miss my breakfast. You can bet that's the time I'll spill or drop things. The whole day will be like that, from then on. I can tell. That's why I spend so much time in front of the mirror. But it's not like that's the only thing I care about.

Leslie



Read *A TEEN SPEAKS*. Answer the following questions.

1. What does Leslie's mom think he values?
2. What does Leslie really value?
3. Why do you think Leslie's mom doesn't know what he really values?
4. How could Leslie help his mom understand what he values most?
5. Describe a time when you or someone you know misjudged another person's values.
6. When might valuing how you look be positive? Negative?
7. If you could give Leslie some advice and knew he'd listen, what would you tell him?
What would you tell his mom?
8. If you were Leslie, what would you say about your values?
9. Do you think that other people know what you value most? Explain your answer.
10. What could you do to make other people more aware of what you value?