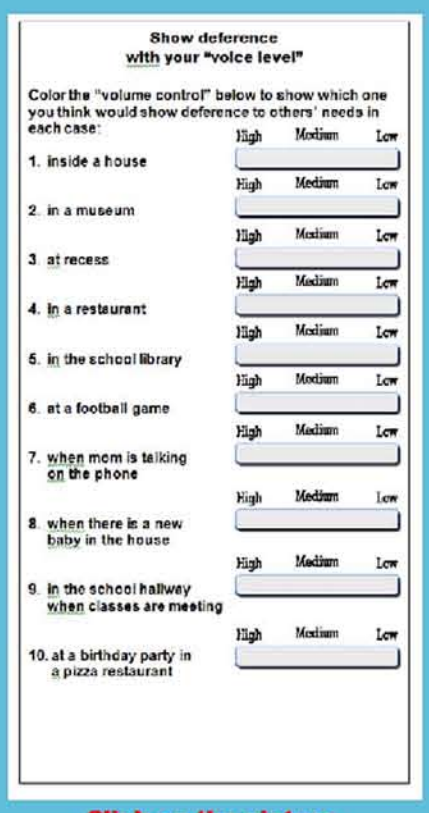

Show deference with your "voice level"

Color the "volume control" below to show which one you think would show deference to others' needs in each case:

1. inside a house — High / Medium / Low
2. in a museum — High / Medium / Low
3. at recess — High / Medium / Low
4. in a restaurant — High / Medium / Low
5. in the school library — High / Medium / Low
6. at a football game — High / Medium / Low
7. when mom is talking on the phone — High / Medium / Low
8. when there is a new baby in the house — High / Medium / Low
9. in the school hallway when classes are meeting — High / Medium / Low
10. at a birthday party in a pizza restaurant — High / Medium / Low

Click on the picture for your printable copy

Click on the picture for your printable copy

Deference in History

What kind of man becomes an important military officer? What kind of brave and heroic deeds does he have to do to win the confidence and recognition of a country's president? Perhaps he would be a man of great power and fighting ability? What kind of man can earn the love and respect of an entire nation that was full of people who wanted to fight each other? Perhaps he would be a man of great speaking ability, handsome, and well-educated?

Charles Young was an officer in the United States army for 33 years. Yes, he did work hard at school and graduated from West Point Military Academy. He became a great leader and was given special assignments by his leaders to countries where special skills were needed to promote peace.

But what qualified him for his greatness?

As a boy, Charles Young learned about deference. His parents taught him to be aware of the needs of others around him, instead of thinking only about himself. He truly became a gentleman, even as a boy!

When he was playing soldiers with friends at home, he would want to shout or cheer sometimes. But-if he heard his mother talking with visitors downstairs, he would say to his friend, "We'd better be quiet so Mom and her friends can talk with each other."

Did you spot the "I Will"? Charles was aware of his mother's needs and chose to be quiet do he wouldn't disturb her conversation.

As Charles grew older, some of his friends began to make jokes, use bad language, and say rude things about people. He refused to take part in those conversations, even though his friends laughed at him for not talking the way they did.

Did you spot the "I Will"? Charles chose not to use bad language.

After Charles graduated from West Point, his commanding officers noticed his kindness and respect toward others. They chose him for a special assignment to the island of Haiti, where people were threatening to cause civil war. He was warned that the people wouldn't like having a foreigner there. His kindness and willingness to learn about their customs and to respect their feelings won the hearts of the people around him.

Did you spot the "I Will"? Officer Young respected the feelings of others.

The first summer he was in Haiti, Charles was fretting about the heat and the mosquitoes in Haiti. Standing by a window, he picked up his violin to play, and the music brought relief to his frustrated feelings. However, he noticed that people outside were looking at him strangely. He said, "I am sorry," and went to play his music more softly in a more secluded place so his music wouldn't offend the people outside.

Did you spot the "I Will"? Charles chose not to play his music loudly so that he wouldn't annoy others.

The next assignment Charles was given was to Liberia, in Africa. Even though he had to learn much about this new culture, he began to make new friends and to travel about the country to learn about it and to make maps, even though it was dangerous for him to do so. He reported any problems to the Liberian leaders and even helped prevent a civil war from breaking out.
He worked hard not to offend the people he was around, always using good manners and dressing appropriately and neatly for the meetings he attended.

Did you spot the "I Will?" Charles was careful to dress appropriately so he wouldn't offend people.

Charles became a national hero in Liberia. When he moved back to the United States, he was called to a meeting with the President of Liberia. He thanked Charles for being such a caring, thoughtful friend to the people of Liberia and presented him with a beautiful gold pocket watch. The President told him, "You have done so very much for us. I am honored to know you-a great and noble gentleman!"

Concept by Character First