

CHARACTER AND CITIZENSHIP SECTION

SOME THINGS YOU SHOULD NOT DO

NOT LONG AGO I sat at my desk writing a note which I wished an upper class boy to carry to a friend. The boy was standing nearby, waiting for me to finish the note which I was writing. I happened to glance up at the youngster, and what do you think he was doing? He was standing there, reading my note as I was writing it.

That is a common practice here in the Philippines. Boys, girls, young men, and even grown-ups frequently stand and read what a person is writing while it is being written.

Readers of THE YOUNG CITIZEN, let me tell you that it is very, very impolite to do such a thing. You should never, never stand at a person's elbow and read anything that is being written. It is a practice all too common among Filipinos, who often do it because they do not know, apparently, that they are being exceedingly impolite by being guilty of such an action.

NEVER stand near a person who is writing and read what is being written. If you do such a thing, you are very, very ill bred, to say the least, and it is certainly a thing you should never do.

A few months ago I invited a young man, who is attending a college, to eat dinner at my home. During the dinner this young man wished to have some food which was on the table at a little distance from his plate. The young man did not say "Please pass the meat"—which is what he should have said—but instead he stood up, leaned over the table, and helped himself to what he wished.

I shall never again invite that young

man to eat at my home, for he did one of the worst things possible in table manners. Boys and girls, never stand up at the table and lean over to reach for food. It is very, very rude to do such a thing, and refined people never do it. Only a person who is very ignorant of proper table manners would do such a thing. If in need of food when you are at the table, simply say to a servant or to some one nearby, "Please pass the meat," and then wait quietly until it is passed to you.

Let me bring to your attention another example of rudeness: Recently I was passing on the walk at the side of a street. Several boys and girls were standing on the walk in front of a house talking to each other. The entire space was occupied by them, so in order to continue it was necessary for me to get off the walk and go around them, unless they were polite enough to move to one side so that I could pass.

Did those young people move to one side so that I might pass and not be obliged to get off the walk? Indeed they did not! What an example of rudeness! How impolite these boys and girls were!

When I saw how impolite they were, I stopped and said, "Young people, you are very impolite. You are extremely ill bred. Do you own the walk in the front of this building? I would be ashamed to be so rude and impolite if I were you."

"Excuse us, sir. We will try not to be so impolite again," one of the boys said. I certainly hope that he and the others remember his words.