A Father and a Son

---Bob Greene

Passing through the Atlanta airport one morning, I caught one of those trains that take travelers from the main ***terminal*** to their boarding gates. Free, boring and ***impersonal***, the trains run back and forth all day long. Not many people consider them fun, but on this Saturday I heard laughter. At the front of the first car – looking out the window at the track that lay ahead – were a man and his son.

We had just stopped to let off ***passengers***, and the doors were closing again. “Here we go! Hold on to me tight!” the father said. The boy, about five years old, made sounds of sheer delight.

I know we’re supposed to avoid making racial distinctions(种族差异) these days, so I hope no one will mind if I mention that most people on the train were white, dressed for business trips or vacations – and that the father and son were black, dressed in clothes that were just about as inexpensive as you can buy.

“Look out there!” the father said to his son. “See that pilot? I bet he’s walking to his plane.” The son ***craned*** his neck to look.

As I got off, I remembered something I’d wanted to buy in the terminal. I was early for my flight, so I decided to go back.

I did – and just as I was about to reboard the train for my gate, I saw that the man and his son had returned too.

“I want to ride some more!”

“More?” the father said, ***mock-exasperated*** but clearly pleased. “You’re not tired?”

“This is fun!” his son said.

“All right,” the father replied, and when a door opened we all got on.

I realized then that they hadn’t been heading for a flight, but had just bee riding the ***shuttle***.

“Where are all these people going, Daddy?” the son asked.

“All over the world,” came the reply. The other people in the air port were leaving for distant destinations or arriving at the ends of their journeys. The father and son, though, were just riding this shuttle together, making it exciting, sharing each other’s company.

There are parents who can afford to send their children to Europe or Disneyland, and the children turn out ***rotten***. There are parents who live in million-dollar houses and give their children cars and swimming pools, yet something goes wrong. Rich and poor, black and white, so much goes wrong so often. Meanwhile, there are so many troubles in this country – selfishness that seems to be taking over the lives of many young people, the lowering of educational standards and the disappearance of simple manners. There are many questions about what to do. Here was a father who cared about spending the day with his son and who had come up with this plan on a Saturday morning.

The answer is so simple: parents should \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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(520 words)

【Words & phrases】

1. ***terminal:*** A terminal is a place where vehicles, passengers, or goods begin or end a journey.

起点站；终点站

1. ***impersonal:*** It is used to describe not friendly and makes you feel unimportant. 无人情味的
2. ***passengers：***A passenger in a vehicle such as a bus, boat, or plane is a person who is

travelling in it. 乘客

1. ***craned：***If you crane your neck or head, you strech your neck in a particular direction in

order to see or hear something better.伸长（脖子）

1. ***mock-exasperated：***pretend to be angry or impatient假装恼怒或者不耐烦
2. ***shuttle：***A shuttle is a plane, bus, or train which makes frequent trip between two places.

穿梭班车，穿梭火车

1. ***rotten：***bad or unpleasant腐烂的，腐坏的