

What Did You Learn?

There once was a boy who won some
ribbons of blue;
Came home from the Fair with a big
trophy, too.
With a voice glad and proud, he said
to his Dad,
"Tis the very best year that I've
ever had."
Said his very wise Dad, "son, I'd
like to hear,
Why you think that this was such a
very fine year."

"Why, Dad, you well know all the
prizes I've won;
How I've come out on top in most
things I've done.
Just look at the ribbons that hang
on the wall,
And think of the money I've made
since last fall,
From premium checks and a big auction
price,
You can't help but think cash and
ribbons are nice."

But the man said, "My son, you're
not thinking right.
Blue Ribbons, tis true, are better
than white;
But ribbons will fade and trophies
grow old.
Money's soon spent and fame soon
grows cold."

"The important things, son, are not
ribbons or pins,
And sometimes it's really the loser
who wins.
Now here are the things most
important, it's true,
Your 4-H experience has accomplished
for you."
You've seen how a business meeting
is run.
This knowledge will help you in years
to come.

You've conquered the fear of
addressing a crowd.
You've learned how to stand up and
talk nice and loud."

"Patience you've learned in your project,
too.
As well as some skills that will always
help you.
You've learned the fine feeling it gives
you to lend.
A glad helping hand to a stranger or
a friend.
You've learned to cooperate with
majority rule,
To give in with grace and not be the
fool
Who always must have his very own
way.
Be it in club work, in school, or at
play.

You've learned how to lose without
making a "beef".
You know the judge judges to his/her
best belief.
You've learned how to win without
boasting too loud.
A kid can lose friends if he's overly
proud."

"These are things most important to
you.
You'll remember and use them all your
life through.
They'll help you become a mighty
fine man.
They'll do more for you than a prize
ever can.

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