

Daniella

Draft 2

1.

Rolemodel

Jennifer, a fourth grader is listening to her new Britany Spears CD, "Oops I Did It

Again." Like many kids her age, she deeply admires Britany. So she listens to her every moment she can on television and on the radio. She dresses up like her and she even tries singing like her. In fact Jennifer wants to be just like her.

Jennifer sees Britney Spears as her rolemodel

~~Our guidance counselor Valerie~~ says, "role models are important to have," The problem begins she says "when kids choose the wrong role models, choose role models for the wrong reasons or when role models behave inappropriately and cause big disappointments to those who believe in them."

Says Valerie the guidance counselor at the Manhattan New School.

"I used to adore Britany Spears," says Julie, a fifth grader who goes to school in Queens, New York, "until one morning when I dropped everything I was doing and ran as fast as I could to see Britany singing my favorite song on television." Julie says she was shocked when she saw Britany, "my idol was on stage wearing barely any clothes. I was so disappointed." Julie says she adored Britany because she was beautiful, popular and successful. So she wanted to be just like her. When she saw her on tv with barely any clothes on, Julie wondered about the message Britany was sending to kids like her. The message that you had to wear as little clothing as possible in order to be beautiful,

popular or successful. Julie did not like that message.

Like Julie

Many kids look up to famous people for rolemodels, but they should be careful

about why they pick and why they pick the m.

Some famous people are great to be picked as rolemodels because of the things they do or because of what they have accomplished. If we choose rolemodels, we have to pick the qualities about the person that are good and not pick the person just because they are famous and popular.

"Role models don't have to be perfect..." says George Brett, a baseball player.

We can't forget they are human ^{too and} so we shouldn't make them our idols. ^{But after all role models} They can be

~~mystifying and do strange things~~. So it was not wrong for Julie to have chosen Britany

Spears as a rolemodel. But what she should have done was to find out more about her. If

she did, she might have found out that Britany wanted to be a singer since she was a very

small girl. She worked towards her dream and became ~~se~~ successful. Julie should admire

that quality instead of just wanting to be beautiful like Britany.

Do all rolemodels have to be rock stars, movie stars and famous people?

Absolutely not! Sometimes famous people can disappoint you. Not everybody will be

like George Brett who says that he recognizes the need for role models in these ^{tr}ubled

times and so if he can help the game's image with his behavior, he will gladly accept the

role as a goodwill ambassador.

One of my role models is Rob, my swim coach," says Melissa, a team member of

the Flushing Flyers, "because he doesn't go crazy when kids do something wrong and he

doesn't ^{se}cure. He has a lot of patience with me and other kids when he is helping us

perfect our strokes, and he is always there come rain or shine."

Some famous people don't really care about the fact that kids look up to them as

rolemodels. So instead of looking for rolemodels in the stars you don't know, you might

want to find role models in your "backyard"...the people you see everyday. How about

your teacher, your coach, your parents, your neighbor, your family doctor or friend in

school? Sometimes the best role models can be the people you know very well.

So think carefully about the people you choose as role models. It's not a crime to flip ^{backwards} over the Backstreet boys or scream and sing along with Christina ^{clap and} Aguilera ^{Aguilera}. But

from what Julie experienced, we can say maybe the best rolemodels are those you know and love in your everyday lives. So take a good look at the good qualities people you know have, and let them be role models for you.

And, if you choose a star or famous person, make sure you find out about the good qualities they have. Then love them and let those qualities be the reason why you choose them as role models.

Sing along, clap and scream
clap and scream and sing along
scream and clap and sing along