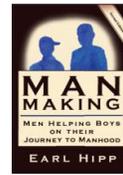


# Man-Making

## Men Helping Boys on Their Journey to Manhood



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### *Questions for Men about Man-Making*

Here are some of the questions asked of men who contributed their stories to the Man-Making book. Each question is certain to stir a powerful discussion about Man-Making for any group of men. To read the contributor's responses to these questions, go to the Man-Making.com website and select the link, "[What Men Say.](#)"

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#### **1. Important Male Mentors**

Who was an important male mentor for you (other than your father) as you were growing up? Tell us how this man helped you along on your journey to manhood.

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#### **2. Between Boyhood and Manhood**

Do you remember shyness, confusion, and the discomforts of no longer being a boy, but not yet being a man? Will you share a story about the rapid growth in your body, your voice changing, your general restlessness, feeling clumsy, stealing for the excitement of it, your emerging sexuality, embarrassing moments (first hard-on), pimples, being with girls, or testing parents' limits?

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#### **3. Important Lessons about Manhood**

What were some of your earliest lessons you were taught about how to be a man? Who taught you? Did the lessons come from your father, a relative, a friend, someone in the neighborhood, or someone else? Tell us about one important lesson you learned about something men do... something men don't do?

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#### **4. Learning How to Be a Man**

Tell me about one of those moments when, on your own, you discovered or figured out one of the pieces to the puzzle called "*How to Be a Man.*" It could have been from experimentation, reading, TV, movies, or just watching older boys and men. What was your discovery, how did you figure it out, and what did you learn?

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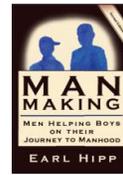
#### **5. When You became a "Man"**

What was THE moment in your life when you knew, for sure, that you had become a "man"? Who was there? What was done? What event, action, or ceremony took place so that you knew a line had been crossed and you were no longer a boy and had entered manhood? If you **can't** remember any defining moment, how do you feel about that now? How do you know if you are a "man" today?

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### 6. Your Boyhood Adventures

Tell me a story about one of the ways that, as an adolescent boy, you explored your hunger for adventure, challenge, and testing your male powers. Did you build something, climb something, or push legal or parental limits in some way? Did it happen in sports or with other boys in your pack? Was it competitive . . . about being more powerful or competent than other boys? Did you prey on or play tricks on someone? Did it get you in trouble? How does the story make you feel now?

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### 7. Your Boyhood Heroes

As an adolescent boy, who was one of your male film, music, sports, or television heroes and what did he teach you about manhood? Was there another man who was less visible and famous who stood out for you? Who are your male heroes today?

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### 8. Learning about Women

As a young male, how did you learn (directly or indirectly) about relationships with the women in your life? Who taught you how to treat women... how to love, argue, romance, do money, take care of, commit to, or "love'em and leave'em?"

- Did you learn by watching your parents, relatives, TV, movies, or the neighbors?
  - Did you get any direct lessons, such as, "a man always..." from anyone? Did the older boys tell or show you what to do?
  - Name an important lesson you acquired, the teacher, and the value of the lesson, for better or worse, as you've progressed toward manhood.
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### 9. Teaching a Boy to Be a Man

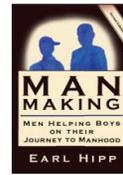
A motivation for the creation of this book was when Ojulu, my Sudanese refugee friend and a father, asked me to help him teach his son "how to be a man in your country." My reaction was that I immediately felt lost, confused, and seriously challenged. If this question were asked of you:

- What actions would you take?
  - What do you feel is important for the boy to know?
  - What would be important for the boy to experience?
  - What values would be critical to communicate to a young man today?
  - What man would you hold up as a positive role model?
  - If we're going to point young men in the direction of strong, responsible, loving, and stable manhood, how should that be defined and taught?
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### 10. Rites of Passage for Boys

Ritual, ceremony, and people gathering around a boy to mark his natural life transitions can be enormously helpful. These events help a boy know he's on the right track, making progress and is approved of by his family and/or his community. The absence of these events contributes to a boy feeling lost, alone, and unsure about his direction in life. The question is what Rite-of-Passage experiences, formal or informal, positive or negative, do you remember on your journey to manhood?

*Create a Rite-of-Passage Ceremony:* You can [click here](#) to download a PDF article about a Rite-of-Passage ceremony I helped create for a young man going off to college. Using this as a guide, you might create a similar experience for a boy or young man in your life.

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### 11. Your Boyhood Male "Tribe"

It's been said that boys need a "tribe." They need to have men around them as mentors and to be watched by the boys for cues on "what men do," and how to become manly. When there are men around, boys instinctively learn their right and natural place in the male hierarchy and how to be a "man." The question is, when you were an adolescent on the edge of manhood, who were the men of your male "tribe"?

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### 12. Are You Mentoring a Boy or Boys?

The Man-Making book is, at its heart, a call to men to get more involved, in some way, in the lives of the boys around them. To give the boys exposure to the many gifts that can result from positive interaction with an older, non-parental male. Sadly, too many of today's boys are under-male-nourished, and too many men are consciously or unconsciously avoiding the opportunity and responsibility to be mentors.

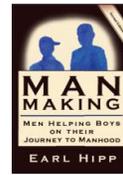
For this question, look deep in your heart and ask yourself, "Are you actively involved, in some way, large or small, in the life of a boy?" If you are, I thank you. If you are not involved, why not? This is not to shame or embarrass, but to understand the reasons, barriers, fears, issues, concerns, constraints, rationalizations... that get in the way. If we're going to improve the situation we have to understand the barriers.

For everyone's sake, give this a try... If you are NOT intentionally being a positive influence in the life of a boy or boys, why not? What's in the way?

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### *The Author - Earl Hipp*

#### **Earl Hipp knows a lot about man-making!**



Earl Hipp is an author, publisher, trainer, organizational adviser, and community consultant. Since 1982, he has consistently been involved with groups and organizations that focus on men's issues and development. His most [recent book](#) is for men, titled, *Man-Making – Men Helping Boys on Their Journey to Manhood*.

Earl speaks at national conferences and delivers workshops across the country, teaching organizations how to call men to mentoring. He has worked with communities on violence prevention by developing initiatives to get adult men involved with boys and community life. He has led and participated in many rites of passage initiations and group mentoring activities for men and boys.

As a direct result of his interest in man-making, Earl works with boys who are or have been incarcerated, maintains a number of ongoing mentoring relationships, offers coaching to mentors, and personally sponsors boys-and-men events. Today he is involved with a variety of groups and organizations who are calling men into service to boys.

Earl describes himself as a man who was under-fathered and under-male-mentored in adolescence – a man who was “left with the women and children to figure out manhood on his own.” Today he is using his instructional and motivational skills to do something about what he calls the “**epidemic of under-male-nourished boys**” in the world. His personal mission is to do whatever he can to ensure fewer boys and men will be left to wander alone in the dangerous never-never land between boyhood and manhood.

Since 2005 Earl has published the [Man-Making Blog](#). It discusses manhood, male culture, mentoring, and men's rites of passage. He has written seven [books about and for adolescents](#), which together have sold almost half a million copies. The books are on themes such as coping with the stresses in their lives, moving through grief and loss, and understanding and preventing violence in our communities.

Earl has a bachelor's degree in Psychology, a Master's Degree in Applied Psychophysiology, and a background as a clinical psychotherapist.

If you're planning a meeting and feel his *Man-Making* content would be appropriate, Earl will be happy to create a [customized keynote, training program, or workshop](#) program for your audience.