

## Are You YOU examples

*(Read to your class)*

### Dr. Howard Hendricks

Dr. Howard Hendricks, former chaplain of the Dallas Cowboys, tells this story about himself.

Many years ago, while he attended grade school in Philadelphia, Howard garnered a reputation as a problem student. He talked too much, he would not stay seated, he did not do his work, etc. His fifth grade teacher justifiably could have failed him, but that meant there would be a chance that she might get him back for another year. So he passed.

Next fall, when he met his new teacher, she looked at him and said, “Howard Hendricks, I have heard so much about you.” With that, Howard felt a knot in his stomach and thought “Here we go again.” However, Miss Wilson continued, “I don’t believe a word of it.” Miss Wilson assigned small tasks to Howard, and he responded by doing anything she asked. He worked hard, stayed in his seat, didn’t talk out of turn—he no longer fit his past reputation. In fact, he would see his last year’s teacher standing outside of his present classroom, peering in at him, and obviously wondering what had taken place.

*What do you think Miss Wilson had heard about Howard?*

*How do you think the other teachers phrased their “descriptions”?*  
(Probably with the IS of projection, i.e., Howard IS bad, IS a trouble maker, IS lazy, etc.)

*How might the teachers more properly described Howard?*  
(They should not have used IS. Rather, they could have said things like “Howard fails to remain in his seat when he should.” “Howard sometimes talks when he should be listening.” “Howard does not always do his work,” etc.)

*Let’s look at “Howard does not always do his work”. Does that mean Howard is lazy? Or can we identify another reason for not doing his work. “Howard does not always do his work” classifies as factual, because the teacher making the statement has observed this behavior. The leap to “Howard is lazy” cannot be accepted.*

*What labels did Howard accept as descriptions of himself.*

*What did Miss Wilson do to those labels?*  
(She chose to disregard the labels and encouraged Howard to do the same. )

*Did it work? It seems so. Remember Howard Hendricks is now called Doctor Howard Hendricks.*