

# The 4R's Method Explained

## DID YOU NOTICE — DO YOU REALIZE?:

The “vagueness and confusion” of yesterday has evolved into the violence of today?

The lowering school grades were a preview of “the elimination” of academic standards.

The student campus riots were only the first symptoms of the intellectual cancers now revealed as “terminal” as “academic intellectuals” are able to propose only “dead end theories” as solutions to world problems.

You should know that your child is also having problems based upon a primary misunderstanding in the philosophy of education. It is this misunderstanding that “sets up” the entire conflict of Basic (3R's) versus the “Life Adjustment” emphasis (Driver Ed., Home Ec., Golf, Modern Dance, etc.) However the entire conflict is unnecessary. And it is in the nature of the conflict that the school problems are caused.

As Clifton Fadiman writes in his introduction to *A Case For Basic Education*, “The present educational controversy, like all crucial controversies, has its roots in philosophy! One's attitudes . . . depend on one's conception of man . . . one's view of his nature, his powers, and his reason for existence!

He then quotes the opening of the *Metaphysics of Aristotle*, “All men by nature desire to know.”

Mr. Fadiman's basic mistake is revealed in his next statement which, as he predicted it would, reveals his view of the nature of man. Mr. Fadiman states the fallacy in his position following Aristotle's quotation when he says, “This is not a statement of fact in the sense that ‘all men are born with lungs.’”

This is, of course, exactly what it is! And the crucial word concept Mr. Fadiman does not understand is “by nature.” Here he reflects a foundational error which is the seat of educational problems — of human problems you as a parent must understand fully to understand yourself and your child's education. To date — The 4R's Program is the only educational procedure “since Aristotle” based upon the correct foundational understanding for the development of human life, social order, and freedom.

Aristotle (teacher of Alexander the Great and the most articulate leader of the Greek schools — “developer” of the “Pierian Spring”) instigated an educational explosion that took the Roman dictators 500 years to quell so that man could once again enter the dark ages of anti-intellectual life!

The Renaissance developed from the reawakening of intellectual activity. The development of schools at Mantua (Italy) were largely inspired by the master teacher, Vittorino da Feltre, teaching the lessons once again of Aristotle! From the “Renaissance Man” sprang the modern world as schools were organized to teach knowledge, the methods of knowledge and the “nature of man.”

Today, as the “dark ages” again threaten to extinguish the lamp of learning — the flow of the Pierian Spring — the 4R's program of The Flint School offers an educational format for the man of the “New Renaissance” — the total man. Educational accomplishment is based here upon the understanding of the “nature of man.”

All human development hinges upon this premise. It is by the “nature” of man exactly as Aristotle taught — that “man desires to know” and it is the full understanding of this concept that is what you must come to understand.

The entire pyramid of knowledge is based upon the statement you will probably recognize from your study of high school geometry or from Aristotle directly, “A is A.” In logic, this is the statement of identity and existence. We then as humans understand that we gain our knowledge of existence from our senses and we therefore know the difference between an inanimate object and one containing the element of life.