

Attributes of a senior school student who is heading for a fail

1. Fantasy

The student believes despite a total lack of evidence, that his “ship will come in”. He will be discovered and quickly become a rock star or sporting hero. She will become a supermodel or academy award actress. All this will happen without any effort or discipline. Fairy godmother will deliver all one day soon. Sowing and reaping is not a universal law that applies to them. God will just make it all happen.

2. Social

Boyfriends/girlfriends are vital for self validation. Without a young man or woman constantly paying me attention I have no worth. The social life of my friends is my main concern in life. Life is the here and now, tomorrow never comes; there is no reckoning in terms of growing old and having to work hard in a career. God is not enough; I must have a mate, a validating member of the opposite sex now.

3. Entertainment

Music, pop groups, TV soapies, MySpace and the movies are reality. The world of school is a distraction from Hollywood and cyberspace. Church is an add-on. Jesus joins the list of pop stars and gossip personalities from Hollywood. He is just one of many.

4. What is now will always be

My family will always be there to pay for what I want and need. I am a mini MTV teenager who is bankrolled and on this planet to have fun. My family is my ATM; I am not morally responsible to respond to their sacrifices for me in terms of board, allowances, school fees and living costs. They owe it to me just as their parents did to them. I don't get as much cash and liberty to stay out late and do things as some other kids do. There will be no reckoning, no final judgment.

5. My body my temple

I don't need to sleep the hours my parents do, I need to be up late at night and even into the early morning on the net and texting on my mobile. My friends need to hear from me, I can't ignore them and not respond—they might switch to other friends and leave me on the edge. If I am tired for lessons at school what's that matter compared to engaging my friendship group. Junk food and soft drink are my comfort foods; the maxim “junk in junk out” applies to other people. Junk food is not toxic to my brain and it doesn't inhibit my learning. Serious regular aerobic sport is for fanatics. I can exploit my looks, too bad if a male is led astray by how risqué I dress.

6. Birds of a feather

I tend to take on the colours of my friends. The people cruising through life and who always choose the path of least resistance are attractive to me. They don't make me feel guilty about wasting my time; they validate a lifestyle of diversions and make me feel it's clever not to

commit and not to go for it in any area of living. Amongst church mates I am a fan of church youth culture, apart from that environment I morph into a “normal” urban teen.

7. Job now job later

It's fine to do lots of hours in my part time job. How else can I pay for my junk food and entertainment seeing as how my parents won't give me enough? I might be tired at school and not able to concentrate much on homework and revision on the weekends and at nights, but that is just the way it is. Tithing is for adults.

8. PC homework

I always do homework with the computer on so if my friends are on line I can switch in and communicate. I am good at multi-tasking. I add music to the mix so I can do all three: listen, do homework and chat on line. If what I chat on line is coarse, it's the same for everyone else - I don't mean anything bad by it.

9. Fast forward

I don't plan for exams and tests; I don't know when they are scheduled. My teachers will do the revision for me in class. I live in the now and seldom think of revising and the tests ahead. In fact graduating and leaving school are not something I spend much time thinking through, its forever summer, I am forever young, life after school will be just like life at school.

10. Fire insurance

God and the church thing is a bother. I keep God on the side just in case there is a hell or I need to be rescued in some crisis.

11. Philosophy

I am the centre of the universe; the world exists to make me happy. I don't owe anybody anything. My duty is to myself. You have to look after number one.

12. Last Minute Dot Com

I can cram when I get near the exams, cruise now and conserve my energy till the end of the year when the pressure is really on. This worked for me in primary and in middle school. Sowing and reaping is for the farmers.

13. The Titanic Syndrome

It is the captain's fault, the teachers' fault, my parents' fault, my ex-boyfriend's fault, the coach's fault. Someone else is to blame for all my problems, I'm a sinking ship, but I am certainly not to blame. I am the victim. God can't blame me.

Activity

Find scripture verses, or choose from the verses below to explain the Biblical perspective on each one of these thirteen common myths.

1. Proverbs 12: 11;
2. Ecc 3:1-8, Proverbs 10:4, Proverbs 15:32
3. John 14:4, Exodus 20:3
4. 2 Thess 3:10,
5. 1 Cor 3:16
6. Romans 12:1-2, Matthew 10:29-31; Psalm 139
7. Colossians 3:17, Proverbs 3:5-6
8. Proverbs 3: 21-26, Philippians 3:14
9. Titus 3:14, Proverbs 6:6-11
10. Matthew 7:21, Rev 3: 15-16
11. Matthew 16:24, Proverbs 10:4, Luke 18:14, Galatians 6:3, Proverbs 16:18
12. Ecclesiastes 11:6, Galatians 6:7-9
13. Proverbs 19:3, Galatians 6: 4-5