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*different from what?*

"Entitlement" is a word which, for Coles, has taken on a different meaning to describe a different set of circumstances. He recounts first hearing the phrase "narcissistic entitlement" in reference to "disturbed," self-centered children who see the world only as theirs for the taking. Several years later Coles hears a wealthy, respected, New Orleans lawyer allude to "entitlement" as the legacy each generation should unhesitatingly want to leave its successor. Influenced by the lawyer's definition, Coles contends that "entitlement" is more "a social rather than a psychological phenomenon" (96).

*good - you cut through the abstractions and generalizations*

In addition to the lawyer, Coles provides several more examples of "entitlement," as portrayed by the behavior and/or attitudes in various families he studied throughout the United States. One such illustration, a seven-year-old Kentucky boy whose father is a well-to-do coal mine owner, expresses concern not only for himself but also for others. The boy, in response to a fatal explosion in his father's mine, feels sorry for the families involved and wishes the survivors a speedy recovery. He acknowledges how good God has been to his family, but he wishes "God was nice to everyone" (101).

Similarly, a twelve-year-old girl from affluent Westchester County (New York) speaks of responsibility, rather than privilege. She admonishes her maids for thinking beautiful skin requires no care or believing there is no correlation between obesity and proper diet. Finally, Coles discusses the five-year-old boy whose father, a prominent Florida orange grower, becomes upset when his child repeatedly says "I'm entitled to." However, it is, as Coles

*good so you focus on particular cases*

asserts, the child who teaches his father a lesson. Referring to the father's own words about being entitled to keep what you earn, the boy points out that by being cooperative he has thus earned the right to voice his own expectations.

Coles focuses mostly on the well-to do to show there is a huge gap between mere "narcissism and narcissistic entitlement" (97). He uses the stories of the children he has studied to elaborate on what he believes is a new way of interpreting an old word.

yes  
What are  
his conclusions?  
What aspects  
of the  
children's  
lives does  
he focus on?  
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