

A SON JUST LIKE YOU

by
Hal Ames



His name was Timothy Warren Ayres. He was very proud of his name. Most of his family called him Timmy. His mother called him Tims. His father called him Twoson because he was the second son. Mostly he wanted to be called Tim.

Tim was a very active child. He had a lot of trouble sitting still in school. He had more fun walking around the classroom when he was supposed to be listening to the teacher. The children would laugh at him. He liked the attention, so he continued to be bad in school. The teacher would make him stay in the room during recess while the other children played outside.

The teacher called Tim's parents and told them about his behavior in class.

His father said to Tim, "Someday you're going to have a son, and he's going to be just like you!"

Tim loved to explore. He would go out exploring with his friends. They would go to the woods, walk along the edge of the creek, look for spiders, and climb trees.

One day while he was in the forest, he found a big round piece of wood. He wanted to see what might be underneath it. When he lifted the piece of wood, he discovered a large nest of bees. They were not happy that Tim had disturbed their home so they chased him and stung him many times.

Tim ran home screaming and waving his hands in the air trying to make the bees

go away. His brother threw water on him to make the bees stop stinging him.

Poor Tim had stings all over his body.

When his father got home, Tim was sitting in his mother's lap. His face was swollen, and he had red marks all over his body. His father asked what had happened. Through his tears, he told his dad about the bees.

His father shook his head and said, "Someday you're going to have a son, and he's going to be just like you!"

When Tim got to middle school, he decided that it was more fun to do bad things in school than to study. Because of this he got into trouble often. His dad had to go to the school and meet with the principal many times. The principal and his father became good friends.

His dad talked to Tim about his behavior and his father said, "Someday you're going to have a son, and he's going to be just like you!"

Tim loved to play soccer. He would invite the kids who lived close to him to play with him. They would play in the park where there were many trees. Tim practiced and practiced.

During his youth, he played for many teams and made many friends.

When he entered high school, he wanted to play for the school soccer team. He tried out, but he did not make the first team. He was placed onto the second team. He became disappointed. As a result, he decided to skip practice and go out with his friends to a restaurant to eat food and talk. Since he was absent so much from practice, his coach did not let him play very much.

When his father found out that Tim was missing practice, he was upset. He tried to tell Tim he needed to change. He needed to grow up and be responsible.

His father said, "Someday you're going to have a son, and he's going to be just like you!"

His father was not happy with Tim and his attitude. His mother said it was just a stage in growing up that he was going through. It would not last long.

“Fourteen years is a long stage,” his father said.

One day a phone call came to the house. It was Tim. He was in jail, and he wanted to get out. He told them that a friend of his was doing something wrong and since he was in the car when he was stopped, he was also arrested. He said he had not done anything wrong. He asked his parents to send him money so he could get out of jail and come home.

His father picked him up at the bus station. His father told him that he needed to straighten out his life or he would be in jail for a very long time.

His father said, “Someday you’re going to have a son, and he’s going to be just like you!”

Once in a while, Tim would ask his parents for money. Dad would say no, but Mom would give him money when dad was not looking. When his father found out, he got very angry. His father stopped Tim’s mother from giving him money.

His father told Tim he was not going to get any more money and said, “Someday you’re going to have a son, and he’s going to be just like you!”

Tim met a wonderful girl. He invited his father to come to his house for a visit. During their time together, Tim told his dad that he had met a wonderful person and he was going to marry her.

His father said, “I’m happy for you son. Someday you’re going to have a son, and he’s going to be just like you.

Tim married her, and they moved into a beautiful house. Tim was working and providing a good life for his family. A year later Tim called his dad.

“We had a boy!” he said. “His name is Zachery and he looks just like you!”

His father answered him, “Congratulations son! You now have a son, and I bet he’s going to be just like you!”



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VOCABULARY: (*Match the word to its definition*)

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. active _____ | a. headmaster |
| 2. bees _____ | b. period of time |
| 3. underneath _____ | c. beneath, below |
| 4. disturbed _____ | d. not there |
| 5. principal _____ | e. yellow insect that stings |
| 6. stage _____ | f. angry |
| 7. arrest _____ | g. prison |
| 8. absent _____ | h. bothered, distressed |
| 9. upset _____ | i. energetic, lively |
| 10. jail _____ | j. detained by police |

TRUE / FALSE:

- | | |
|--|-------|
| 1. Tim's father called him Twoson. | T / F |
| 2. Tim was good at soccer. | T / F |
| 3. Tim's mother sprayed him with milk. | T / F |
| 4. Tim was an excellent student. | T / F |
| 5. Tim was in jail. | T / F |
| 6. Tim found a nest of baby birds. | T / F |
| 7. Tim's dad was friends with the principal. | T / F |
| 8. Tim's son's name was Samuel. | T / F |
| 9. Tim's father was sad that he had a son. | T / F |
| 10. Tim married a wonderful girl. | T / F |

MULTIPLE CHOICE:

1. What sport did Tim like to play? _____
 - a) football
 - b) basketball
 - c) baseball
 - d) soccer

2. What happened to Tim while he was in the forest? _____
 - a) he was stung by bees
 - b) he fell into the water
 - c) he fell out of a tree
 - d) he ate some berries

3. Where did Tim play soccer with the other children? _____
 - a) in the park with many trees
 - b) on the street between the cars
 - c) at his school in the gym
 - d) at his house

4. Why didn't Tim play for his school team? _____
 - a) he was not very good
 - b) he missed practice
 - c) he was lazy at his practices
 - d) he yelled at his coach

COMPREHENSION: *(Write a complete sentence to answer the question.)*

1. Who was Zachery's father?

2. What did Tim's father always say?

3. Where did Tim find the bees?

4. What did Tim's brother do when the bees stung Tim?

5. What did Tim do with his friends in the park between the trees?

6. What name did Tim's father call him?

7. Where was Tim when he called his parents for help?

8. Why did Tim call his parents?

9. What was Tim's punishment in elementary school?

10. Who did Tim call after his son was born?
