

TEACHER BACKGROUND INFORMATION SOMETHING TO CROW ABOUT...

What the chicken needed was companionship. Chickens are flock animals that need other birds to complete their existence. They will take the steps necessary to meet the need of being a part of the flock. Humans are exactly the same--we need others. One of the worst forms of punishment is solitary confinement. You may remember the story of Robinson Crusoe and how one of the best days of his lonely existence on the remote island was the day he met his native friend, Friday.

All of us need to feel as if we are valued and can give and receive love. In psychology, this is known as the three "A's" of emotional needs: acceptance, approval, and affection. When both individuals in a relationship have these needs fulfilled, the relationship becomes stronger.

Dating provides a way by which the three "A's" can be met. We can feel companionship when we are dating. Dating also provides ways by which we can prepare to select a mate for marriage. The more people we date, the greater the base we have to know what type of individual we would like for a mate.

Dating is an important step in the developmental task process. It helps us to develop mature relationships with others and prepare for marriage and family life.

Just like the chicken in the story, humans need others, too. We need to feel we have value, belong to something (family, friends, groups, etc.), and are loved and can give love. In the quest to meet these emotional needs, dating becomes an important part of the process. We need to feel as if we are valued by a member of the opposite sex and that we have approval from them. Certainly our need to give and receive affection is very pronounced during the dating years. These are natural responses that our body gives so that we can attract the "flock" just as Henny did. Dating creates the situation or environment in which are emotional needs can be met.

