

## A dvice for Margaret

Alfred Roberts, father of Margaret Thatcher, the former prime minister of Great Britain, told his daughter, “Never follow a crowd; lead it.”

And it proved wise advice, for Thatcher rose to be one of the greatest prime ministers in the history of Great Britain. That she was raised in a home with no indoor plumbing didn't stop her. That she was the daughter of a shopkeeper who later turned preacher didn't stop her. It helped her. It's no surprise, then, that her nickname was Iron Lady during the 1980s, when she served as a catalyst and a facilitator in the talks between then-U.S. President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev during Cold War times.



But perhaps it was an inherent part of her nature to be an achiever. She had been a serious child since age 5, when she started taking piano lessons.

Her headmistress at the all-girl school in Grantham, England, where Thatcher attended, had this to say about her: “She was a very good speaker as a little girl.” She learned four years of Latin in one year, then qualified for a scholarship at Somerville College, the finest women's college in Oxford.

But even then, when she attended, she never went to a dance; never had fun. That was the way she was brought up.

That's the price of success, at times.

Her father's instruction still rings true today: Never follow the crowd; lead it. Don't be willing to be average or mediocre. Strive to achieve excellence. Become an example for others to emulate.

– Beecher Hunter