

## The Spelling Bee

During a national spelling bee in Washington, D.C., eleven-year-old Rosalie Elliot, a champion from South Carolina, was asked to spell the word, "avowal." Her soft, Southern accent made it difficult for the judges to determine if she had used an "a" or an "e" in the last syllable of the word.

The judges deliberated for several minutes, and listened to taped playbacks, but still they could not decide which letter had been used. Finally, the chief judge asked Rosalie, "Was the letter an "a" or an "e?"

Rosalie knew by now the correct spelling of the word, and realized that she had misspelled it. If she lied, she could continue; if she told the truth, she would be disqualified. While some may have chosen to win at any cost, Rosalie's conscience told her how to reply. Without hesitation, Rosalie answered that she had misspelled the word by using an "e."

As she walked from the stage, the entire audience stood and applauded her honesty.

We often think that whom we are governed by governs our actions. More often than not, however, what we think determines what we do.

And what you think today will determine what you will do and whom you will become tomorrow.

--Beecher Hunter