**Winners and Losers**

by SIDNEY HARRIS

A winner says, "Let’s find out;"

a loser says, "Nobody knows."

When a winner makes a mistake he says, "I was wrong;"

when a loser makes a mistake he says, "It wasn’t my fault."

A winner knows how and when to say "Yes" and "No;"

a loser says, "Yes, but" and "Perhaps not" at the wrong times for the wrong reasons.

A winner isn’t nearly afraid of losing as a loser is secretly afraid of winning.

A winner works harder than a loser and has more time;

a loser is always "too busy" to do what is necessary.

A winner makes commitments;

a loser makes promises.

A winner shows he’s sorry by making up for it;

a loser says, "I’m sorry" but does the same thing the next time.

A winner says, "I’m good but not as good as I ought to be;" but a loser says, "I’m not as bad as a lot of other people."

A winner listens;

a loser just waits until it’s his turn to talk.

A winner would rather be admired than liked, although he would prefer both;

a loser would rather be liked than admired and is even willing to pay the price of mild contempt for it.

A winner respects those who are superior to him and tries to learn something from them;

a loser resents those who are superior to him and tries to find chinks in their armor.

A winner feels strong enough to be gentle;

a loser is never gentle—he is either weak or pettily tyrannous1 by turns.

A winner explains;

a loser explains away.

A winner says, "There ought to be a better way to do it;"

a loser says, "That’s the way it’s always been done here."

A winner paces himself;

a loser has only two speeds—hysterical and lethargic.

1Cruel and unfair