

On Being Cool



Part I

By Ciarán Handley

8th September 2018

On Being Cool

Chapter 1



When lack of intelligence is cool



Is it ever cool to act less intelligent than one is?

I would say no. It is never cool. Yet many do it.

“Why is that, Gráinne?”

“Because, Sorcha, people who act less intelligent are often held up as role-models.”



“Could you explain that, Gráinne?”

“Certainly, Sorcha. Let us imagine I am in America...”

“Why America, Gráinne?”

“Because it is here that one can see this pattern quite strongly. Let us imagine I am the Quarterback. I must be very cool.

Now Sorcha, what happens in geography class if the teacher asks a question, such as “Where is Europe?”, and I put up my hand to answer?”

“If you know the answer to that, Gráinne, then that must mean you are a nerd.”

“Right, Sorcha. Which means all the class will stare at me. The girls will think “But I thought Ciarán was cool. How the hell does he know that? He must be a nerd!” And my street credibility is shattered.

Better to be cool, and if the teacher asks me to say “How the hell would I know?” You see I’m the Quarterback and I’m way too cool to know anything about geography.” That way my street cred goes up.” (Cred is way more cool than credibility.)



“In what century did man first fly?”

“Let us imagine that I am in class and the teacher asks this question. What if I put my hand up...”

“Why do you say put your hand up, Gráinne? No-one does that any more. Or at least, few do.”

“I do, Sorcha. It is to do with respect.”

“Explain that please, Gráinne.”

“Imagine that there are thirty people in a class. If everyone starts talking at once, there is chaos. Putting one’s hand up is simply a way of saying that one wishes to speak now.

Just like the Sioux.”

“Let me see if I understand that, Gráinne. Let us say that there is Council of the Sioux. Pow-wow.

A Gathering of Elders. A bit like an Ent-moot. Matters of grave importance. One of the Council, Sitting Bull, has just spoken. Who is to speak next?

These are matters of importance and one would not want everyone to speak at once, everyone speaking over each other. Right, Gráinne?"

"Right, Sorcha. Now, Dull Knife would like to speak. He indicates this with a nod to Sitting Bull."

"Sitting Bull sees this and passes the pipe to Dull Knife."

"That's just like Dull Knife putting up his hand. It shows respect and it lets everyone know who "has the floor". That is it, Gráinne?"

"That is it, Sorcha. Dull Knife has spoken now with great eloquence. And with great depth. Now, Crazy Horse would like to come in." (Dull Knife is actually Cheyenne but he's sitting in on this Pow-wow with the Sioux.)

"And so he indicates this to Dull Knife. With a nod perhaps. Or simply he looks to him. And Dull Knife then passes the pipe to Crazy Horse. Dull Knife is saying that Crazy Horse has the floor. The pipe symbolises that."

"And there is respect in this."

"Yes, Sorcha. There is respect in this. For some, these things are no longer in fashion."

*Who uses the word **honour** these days? Few. For it is a quaint idea. A relic of a bygone age. No longer valid in our modern times. I use this word. For I believe that*

Some things should never go out of fashion

*This is what I say of **honour**. And I say the same about **respect**. For many this is an outdated concept. As if no longer relevant in our modern times. But I believe that*

Some things should never go out of fashion

[Just Visiting Trailer](#)



“Was it the Montgolfier brothers who first flew in 1783, Gráinne?”

“Why, Sorcha, I am shocked. And I thought you were really cool. That sounds pretty nerdy to me, Sorcha. Just one moment...”

“Hey, Béibhinn, when was the first flight?”

“How the hell should I know, Gráinne. I’m way too cool to know that.”

“Would you believe, Béibhinn, that Sorcha actually gave me the name of some golfer guy – I don’t know who he was, who flew back in 1783. She even gave me a date! Just how uncool is that?”



“Sorcha knew who flew in 1783? What a nerd!”

“I can’t believe that. Wait until I tell Aoife.”

“Hey, Aoife. It’s Béibhinn. You won’t believe it! Actually, before I say, do you know who was the first to fly?”

“What type of question is that, Béibhinn. Do I look like a complete nerd to you?”



“What the hell type of dumb-ass question is that to ask me, Béibhinn?”

“I’m way too cool to know that.”

“It wasn’t me, Aoife. I didn’t know. I mean, I hadn’t a clue. As if I’d know that, Aoife. No, it was Sorcha who knew that.”

“Ok, that’s ok then, Béibhinn. For a moment I thought you weren’t really cool.

But I am shocked by Sorcha. And I thought she was cool.

Wait, let me check with Éibhleann. I bet she wouldn’t have a clue. She’s way cool.”



“Hey, Éibhleann, it’s Aoife. Do you know what this is?”



“How the hell should I know, Aoife? Is it a hairdryer?”

“Do you know what it is, Gráinne?”



“Yes I do, Éibhleann. But then again, I have never been too concerned with being cool.”

(Actually there was flight before the Montgolfier brothers too. In kites. But I think the Montgolfier flights were the first non-tethered flights.)

Check this out. Alice Cooper knows some history.

[Wayne's World - Alice Cooper's History Lesson](#)

On Being Cool



End Part I