

Cerebral Palsy: Ten Things I Learned from Bill Porter (Non-Fiction) Est. Time: 2 Weeks Reading/45 Minutes Class

Objective

Gain a better understanding of the challenges that a person with cerebral palsy might encounter and of how one man's perseverance helped him to overcome those challenges.

Synopsis

Author Shelly Brady shares lessons learned from her former employer, salesperson Bill Porter, who was born with cerebral palsy. Instilled with a strong work ethic, Bill Porter trudged from door to door, selling his wares despite physical challenges and a speech impairment. Although he often experienced rejection and obstacles, Bill's determination and perseverance paid off when he was named one of his company's top salespeople.

Activity

Read the following book and be prepared to discuss the questions below in class:

Title: *Ten Things I Learned from Bill Porter* (2002)

Author: Shelly Brady

Publisher: New World Library • Novato, CA

For Your Information

To learn more about cerebral palsy, visit:

- [Cerebral Palsy](#) (Center for Parent Information and Resources)
- [Cerebral Palsy \(CP\)](#) (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)

Questions/Discussion Topics

1. How did Shelly and Bill's friendship begin?
2. In what way did Bill's mom impact his life?
3. Did you think Bill's mom was too hard on her son for taking too long to cut the grass? Why or why not?
4. What do you think Bill's life would have looked like if he had not had parents with such high expectations?
5. After his mother's death, who helped Bill with tasks that required fine motor skills such as tying shoelaces?
6. What did Bill agree to do in order to become an employee of Watkins Company?
7. How did Bill react when doors were, quite literally, slammed in his face?