

# The Shyest Kid in the Class

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Don Burke, a retired Cambridge Massachusetts fireman, comes six days a week to early adult swimming at the Arlington Boys and Girls club. He told me this story:

Sometimes Don was the host when a grade school class visited the fire house. As the kids came in, he took the teacher aside and asked her to point out the shyest kid in the class. Then he showed them the different engines and various fire-fighting equipment on the first floor.

When this part of the tour was over, Don asked the class to line up and announced, "I am thinking of a number between one and fifty." Each of the kids in turn guessed the number. When the shyest child answered, he said, "That's it!" and took the child to the second floor where the firemen slept.

[I know, I know, you could not do this today.]

After showing the shyest kid the beds and fire coats and helmets, he slid down the long 20 foot pole back to the first floor, holding the child.

The entire class would gather around the shyest kid, exclaiming and asking questions.