



# THE SPARK!

## A TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM T. POWERS

*"Do not try to satisfy your vanity by teaching a great many things. Awaken people's curiosity. It is enough to open minds; do not overload them. Put there just a spark. If there is some good inflammable stuff, it will catch fire."*

– Anatole France

For me, a "spark" came in Durango, Colorado, when you said to me: "You can only perceive down from the level on which you are currently perceiving." I had been working on an idea that I call Overall Direction. When you made that simple statement, something clicked. That statement was what I took home from CSG that year. By the next year, I had completed my book.

*Overall Direction* identifies six words or phrases that one can use to help "bump up" perception to a higher level. These words or phrases — happy, strong, in control, responsible, successful, and good relationships — can help establish a reference at a higher level. These are not the only words that can be used for Overall Direction; any word that "bumps it up" is fine. Then we ask: "What would that look like?" not "What would you do?"

This simple idea has been used by first- through twelfth graders, teachers, counselors, principals, and even corporate executives to help them figure out who they want to be. They thank me, but the real thanks goes to you — William Powers, the spark!

Thank you for your wit, your patience, and most of all for caring about us at a difficult time in our lives. My gratitude knows no bounds.

– PERRY GOOD –