

A Candid Interview With Dr. Ben S. Carson, M.D: An American Icon

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[Dr. Benjamin Solomon Carson Sr., M.D](#) was born in Michigan in 1951 to a young mother in inner-city Detroit. He and his older brother, Curtis, grew up amid poverty, crime, and violence. His parents divorced when Dr. Carson was very young. He and his brother were raised by their mother. After his parents' divorce, Carson lost confidence in himself and believed his classmates, who would insult him by calling him names. He internalized those insults and began developing a violent temper. His mother challenged him and his brother to strive for excellence. Thanks to his mother's powerful faith in him, he regained confidence and educated himself by reading two books per week. He had to provide regular reports of his readings to his mother. She had a third-grade education, but a PhD in Life. She constantly motivated

[Carson](#)

by telling him, "Bennie, if you know how to read, you can know and learn practically anything you want. The doors of the world are open to anybody who can read. And my boys are going to be successful in life because they're going to be the best readers in the school." His mother regularly checked his work and his brother's. She challenged them to excel by reading and turning off the television. Carson's grades at school gradually improved. Dr. Carson shared the thoughts he had at the tender age of eight: "I loved listening to stories in church, and it seemed that missionaries were the noblest people in the world. They made these great sacrifices. Wow, could there be anything greater than that? ». Dr. Carson's incredible achievements are remarkable, and in spite of a difficult start in life, he succeeded against all odds.

