

# **Just Think About It...**

**A collection of thoughts and ideas**

## **Quotes**

"Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever."

Mahatma Gandhi

Everyone has a photographic memory. Some don't have film.

Unknown

Many people will walk in and out of your life,  
But only true friends will leave footprints in your heart.  
To handle yourself, use your head;  
To handle others, use your heart.

Eleanor Roosevelt

Anger is only one letter short of danger.  
If someone betrays you once, it is his fault;  
If he betrays you twice, it is your fault.

Eleanor Roosevelt

Great minds discuss ideas;  
Average minds discuss events;  
Small minds discuss people.

Eleanor Roosevelt

He who loses money, loses much;  
He who loses a friend, loses much more;  
He who loses faith, loses all.

Eleanor Roosevelt

Beautiful young people are accidents of nature,  
But beautiful old people are works of art.

Eleanor Roosevelt

Learn from the mistakes of others.  
You can't live long enough to make them all yourself.

Eleanor Roosevelt

Friends, you and me....  
You brought another friend....  
And then there were 3....  
We started our group....  
Our circle of friends....  
And like that circle....  
There is no beginning or end....

Eleanor Roosevelt

Yesterday is history. Tomorrow is mystery.  
Today is a gift... That's why they call it the "present"

Eleanor Roosevelt

"Duct tape is like The Force...  
it has a light side and a dark side,  
and it holds the universe together"

## **Jokes**

An able-bodied seaman meets a pirate in a pub, and they take turns recounting their adventures at sea.

Noting the pirate's peg leg, hook, and eye patch the seaman asks, "So, how did you end up with the peg-leg?"

The pirate replies, "We was caught in a monster storm off the cape and a giant wave swept me overboard. Just as they were pullin' me out, a school of sharks appeared and one of 'em bit me leg off."

"Blimey!" said the seaman. "What about the hook?"

"Ahhh....," mused the pirate, "we were boardin' a trader ship, pistols blastin' and swords swingin' this way and that. In the fracas me hand got chopped off." Zounds!" remarked the seaman.

"And how came ye by the eye patch?"

"A seagull droppin' fell into me eye," answered the pirate.

You lost your eye to a seagull dropping?" the sailor asked incredulously.

"Well," said the pirate, "it was me first day with the hook."

## Humm...

1. Why isn't "HAMBurger" made from a pig?
2. What do they call a "French kiss" in France?
3. Why won't eating more preservatives make you live longer?
4. Does a person with multiple personalities get a group discount for therapy?
5. Why do drive-up ATM machines have braille dots?
6. Why do signs that say "NO ANIMALS ALLOWED" need to add "EXCEPT SEEING EYE DOGS"?
7. Why is it a compliment to say that "a woman's beauty makes time stand still", but an insult to say that "her face would stop a clock"?
8. Why are "a wise man" and "a wise guy" opposites?
9. Why do overlook and oversee mean opposite things?
10. If horrific means to make horrible, does terrific mean to make terrible?
11. Do infants enjoy infancy as much as adults enjoy adultery?
12. Why is a person who plays the piano called a pianist, but a person who drives a race car not called a racist?
13. If a pig loses its voice, is it disgruntled?
14. Why do women wear evening gowns to nightclubs? Shouldn't they be wearing nightgowns?
15. If love is blind, why is lingerie so popular?
16. When someone asks you, "A penny for your thoughts", and you put your two cents in, what happens to the other penny?
17. Why is the man who invests all your money called a broker?
18. Why do croutons come in airtight packages? It's just stale bread to begin with!
19. "I am" is reportedly the shortest sentence in the English language. Could it be that "I do" is the longest sentence?
20. If lawyers are disbarred and clergymen defrocked, doesn't it follow that electricians can be delighted, musicians denoted, cowboys deranged, models deposed, tree surgeons debarked and dry cleaners depressed?
21. Why is it that if someone tells you that there are 1 billion stars in the universe you will believe them, but if they tell you that a wall has wet paint you will have to touch it to be sure?

## **A String of Pearls**

The cheerful girl with bouncy golden curls was almost five. Waiting with her mother at the checkout stand, she saw them: a circle of glistening white pearls in a pink foil box. "Oh please, Mommy. Can I have them? Please, Mommy, please?"

Quickly the mother checked the back of the little foil box and then looked back into the pleading blue eyes of her little girl's upturned face. "A dollar ninety-five. That's almost \$2.00. If you really want them, I'll think of some extra chores for you and in no time

you can save enough money to buy them for yourself. Your birthday's only a week away and you might get another crisp dollar bill from Grandma."

As soon as Jenny got home, she emptied her penny bank and counted out 17 pennies. After dinner, she did more than her share of chores and she went to the neighbor and asked Mrs. McJames if she could pick dandelions for ten cents. On her birthday, Grandma did give her another new dollar bill and at last she had enough money to buy the necklace.

Jenny loved her pearls. They made her feel dressed up and grown up. She wore them everywhere-Sunday school, kindergarten, even to bed. The only time she took them off was when she went swimming or had a bubble bath.

Mother said if they got wet, they might turn her neck green. Jenny had a very loving daddy and every night when she was ready for bed, he would stop whatever he was doing and come upstairs to read her a story.

One night when he finished the story, he asked Jenny, "Do you love me?"

"Oh yes, Daddy. You know that I love you."

"Then give me your pearls."

"Oh, Daddy, not my pearls. But you can have Princess - the white horse from my collection. The one with the pink tail. Remember, Daddy? The one you gave me. She's my favorite."

"That's okay, Honey. Daddy loves you. Good night." And he brushed her cheek with a kiss.

About a week later, after the story time, Jenny's daddy asked again, "Do you love me?"

"Daddy, you know I love you."

"Then give me your pearls."

"Oh Daddy, not my pearls. But you can have my baby doll. The brand new one I got for my birthday. She is so beautiful and you can have the yellow blanket that matches her sleeper."

"That's okay. Sleep well. God bless you, little one. Daddy loves you." And as always, he brushed her cheek with a gentle kiss.

A few nights later when her daddy came in, Jenny was sitting on her bed with her legs crossed Indian-style. As he came close, he noticed her chin was trembling and one silent tear rolled down her cheek. "What is it, Jenny? What's the matter?"

Jenny didn't say anything but lifted her little hand up to her daddy. And when she opened it, there was her little pearl necklace. With a little quiver, she finally said, "Here, Daddy. It's for you."

With tears gathering in his own eyes, Jenny's kind daddy reached out with one hand to take the dime-store necklace, and with the other hand he reached into his pocket and pulled out a blue velvet case with a strand of genuine pearls and gave them to Jenny. He had them all the time. He was just waiting for her to give up the dime-store stuff so he could give her genuine treasure.

Jenny's father is like our heavenly Father. He also is waiting for us to give up our dime store stuff and seek Him first... so He can fling open the windows of Heaven and pour us out such a blessing that we will not have room enough to hold it.

What are you hanging on to?

Never be afraid to try something new. Remember, amateurs built the ark. Professionals built the Titanic.

## A Parable of Two Frogs

A group of frogs were hopping contentedly through the woods, going about their froggy business, when two of them fell into a deep pit.

All of the other Frogs gathered around the pit to see what could be done to help their companions.

When they saw how deep the pit was, they agreed that it was hopeless and told the two frogs in the pit that they should prepare themselves for their fate, because they were as good as dead.

Unwilling to accept this terrible fate, the two frogs began to jump with all of their might.

Some of the frogs shouted into the pit that it was hopeless, and that the two frogs wouldn't be in that situation if they had been more careful, more obedient to the froggy rules, and more responsible. The other frogs continued sorrowfully shouting that they should save their energy and give up, since they were already as good as dead.

The two frogs continued jumping with all their might, and after several hours of this, were quite weary. Finally, one of the frogs took heed to the calls of his fellow frogs. Exhausted, he quietly resolved himself to his fate, lay down at the bottom of the pit, and died.

The other frog continued to jump as hard as he could, although his body was wracked with pain and he was quite exhausted. Once again, his companions began yelling for him to accept his fate, stop the pain and just die. The weary frog jumped harder and harder and, wonder of wonders, finally leaped so high that he sprang from the pit.

Amazed, the other frogs celebrated his freedom and then gathering around him asked, "Why did you continue jumping when we told you it was impossible?" The astonished frog explained to them that he was deaf, and as he saw their gestures and shouting, he thought they were cheering him on. What he had perceived as encouragement inspired him to try harder and to succeed against all odds. This simple story contains a powerful lesson.

The book of Proverbs says, "There is death and life in the power of the tongue". Your encouraging words can lift someone up and help them make it through the day. Your destructive words can cause deep wounds; they may be the weapons that destroy someone's desire to continue trying - or even their life. Your destructive, careless word can diminish someone in the eyes of others, destroy their influence and have a lasting impact on the way others respond to them. Be careful what you say. Speak life to (and about) those who cross your path.

There is enormous power in words. If you have words of kindness, praise or encouragement - speak them now to, and about, others. Listen to your heart and respond.

Someone, somewhere, is waiting for your words...

## If We Could Shrink the Earth

"If we could shrink the earth's population to a village of precisely 100 people, with all the existing human ratios remaining the same, it would look something like the following. There would be:

- 57 Asians
- 21 Europeans
- 14 from the Western Hemisphere, both north and south America
- 8 Africans
- 52 would be female
- 48 would be male
- 70 would be non-white
- 30 would be white
- 70 would be non-Christian
- 30 would be Christian
- 89 would be heterosexual
- 11 would be homosexual
- 6 people would possess 59% of the entire world's wealth and all 6 would be from the United States.
- 80 would live in substandard housing
- 70 would be unable to read
- 50 would suffer from malnutrition
- 1 would be near death; 1 would be near birth
- 1 (yes, only 1) would have a college education
- 1 would own a computer

When one considers our world from such a compressed perspective, the need for both acceptance, understanding and education becomes glaringly apparent."

Phillip M. Harter  
MD, FACEP,  
Stanford University School of Medicine

## Rules for Being Human

1. You will receive a body.

You may like it or hate it, but it will be yours for as long as you live.  
How you take care of it or fail to take care of it can make an enormous difference in the quality of your life.

2. You will learn lessons.

You are enrolled in a full-time school called Life.  
Each day, you will be presented with opportunities to learn what you need to know.  
The lessons presented are often different from those you THINK you need.

3. There are no mistakes - only lessons.

Growth is a process of trial and error, and experimentation.  
You can learn as much from failure as you can from success.  
A lesson is repeated until it is learned. A lesson will be presented to you in various forms until you have learned it.  
When you have learned it (as evidenced by a change in attitude and behavior), then you can go on to the next lesson.

4. Learning lessons does not end.

There is no stage of life that does not contain some lessons.  
As long as you live there will be something more to learn.

5. "There" is no better than "here".

When your "there" has become a "here", you will obtain another "there" that will again look better than your "here".

6. Don't be fooled by believing that the unattainable is better than what you have.

Others are merely mirrors of you.  
You cannot love or hate something about another person unless it reflects something you love or hate about yourself.

7. When tempted to criticize others, ask yourself why you feel so strongly.

What you make of your life is up to you.  
Persistence is the key to success.  
The answers lie within you.  
The solutions to all of life's problems lie within your grasp.  
All you need to do is ask, look, listen and trust.

## A Thank You

Lord, thank you for this sink of dirty dishes; we have plenty of food to eat.

Thank you for this pile of dirty, stinky laundry; we have plenty of nice clothes to wear.

And I would like to thank you, Lord, for those unmade beds; they were so warm and comfortable last night. I know that many have no bed.

My thanks to you, Lord, for this bathroom, complete with all the splattered mess, soggy, grimy towels and dirty lavatory; they are convenient.

Thank you for this finger smudged refrigerator that needs defrosting so badly; it has served us faithfully for many years. It is full of cold drinks and enough leftovers for two or three meals.

Thank you, Lord, for this oven that absolutely must be cleaned today; it has baked so many things over the years.

The whole family is grateful for that tall grass that needs mowing, the lawn that needs raking; we all enjoy the yard.

Thank you, Lord, even for that slamming screen door. My kids are healthy and able to run and play.

Lord, the presence of all these chores awaiting me says You have richly blessed my family. I shall do them cheerfully and I shall do them gratefully.

Anyone can count the number of seeds in an apple, but only God knows the number of apples in a seed.

Even though I clutch my blanket and growl when the alarm rings, Thank you, Lord, that I can hear. There are many who are deaf.

Even though I keep my eyes closed against the morning light as long as possible, Thank you, Lord, that I can see. Many are blind.

Even though I huddle in my bed and put off rising, Thank you, Lord, that I have the strength to rise. There are many who are bedridden.

Even though the first hour of my day is hectic, when socks are lost, toast is burned and tempers are short, my children are so loud, Thank you Lord, for my family. There are many who are lonely.

Even though our breakfast table never looks like the pictures in magazines and the menu is at times not balanced, Thank you, Lord, for the food we have. There are many who are hungry.

Even though the routine of my job is often monotonous, Thank you, Lord, for the opportunity to work. There are many who have no job.

Even though I grumble and bemoan my fate from day to day and wish my circumstances were not so modest, Thank you, Lord, for life.

## Just resign as an adult

To Whom It May Concern:

I am hereby officially tendering my resignation as an adult. I have decided I would like to accept the responsibilities of a 6-year-old again.

I want to go to McDonald's and think that it's a four star restaurant.

I want to sail sticks across a fresh mud puddle and make ripples with rocks.

I want to think M&Ms are better than money, because you can eat them.

I want to play kickball during recess and paint with watercolors in art.

I want to lie under a big oak tree and run a lemonade stand with my friends on a hot summer's day.

I want to return to a time when life was simple. When all you knew were colors, addition tables and simple nursery rhymes, but that didn't bother you, because you didn't know what you didn't know, and you didn't care.

When all you knew was to be happy because you didn't know all the things that should make you worried and upset.

I want to think that the world is fair. That everyone in it is honest and good. I want to believe that anything is possible.

What happened to the time when we thought that everyone would live forever, because we didn't grasp the concept of death? When we thought the worst thing in the world was if someone took the jump rope from you or picked you last for kickball.

I want to be oblivious to the complexity of life and be overly excited by little things once again.

I want to return to the days when reading was fun and music was clean. When television was used to report the news or for family entertainment, and not to promote sex, violence and deceit.

I remember being naive and thinking that everyone was happy because I was.

I would walk on the beach and only think of the sand between my toes and the prettiest seashell I could find. I would spend my afternoons climbing trees and riding my bike. I didn't worry about time, bills, or where I was going to find the money to fix my car. I used to wonder what I was going to do or be when I grew up, not worry about what I'll do if this doesn't work out.

I want to live simple again. I don't want my day to consist of computer crashes, mountains of paperwork, depressing news, how to survive more days in the month than there is money in the bank, doctor bills, gossip, illness, and the loss of loved ones.

I want to believe in the power of smiles, hugs, a kind word, truth, justice, peace, dreams, the imagination, mankind and making angels in the snow. I want to be 6 again.

### Do you remember . . .

1. Blackjack chewing gum
2. Wax Coke-shaped bottles with colored sugar water
3. Candy cigarettes
4. Soda pop machines that dispensed bottles
5. Coffee shops with tableside jukeboxes
6. Home milk delivery in glass bottles with cardboard stoppers
7. Party lines
8. Newsreels before the movie
9. P.F. Flyers
10. Butch wax
11. Telephone numbers with a word prefix(Olive - 6933)
12. Peashooters
13. Howdy Doody
14. 45 RPM records
15. S&H Green Stamps
16. Hi-fi's
17. Metal ice trays with levers
18. Mimeograph paper
19. Blue flashbulbs
20. Beanie and Cecil
21. Roller skate keys
22. Cork popguns
23. Drive-ins
24. Studebakers
25. Washtub wringers

If you remembered 0-5:                    You're still young  
If you remembered 6-10:    You are getting older  
If you remembered 11-15:            Don't tell your age

### A Heart Warming Story

His name was Fleming, and he was a poor Scottish farmer. One day, while trying to make a living for his family, he heard a cry for help coming from a nearby bog. He dropped his tools and ran to the bog. There, mired to his waist in black muck, was a terrified boy, screaming and struggling to free himself. Farmer Fleming saved the lad from what could have been a slow and terrifying death.

The next day, a fancy carriage pulled up to the Scotsman's sparse surroundings. An elegantly dressed nobleman stepped out and introduced himself as the father of the boy Farmer Fleming had saved.

"I want to repay you," said the nobleman. "You saved my son's life." "No, I can't accept payment for what I did," the Scottish farmer replied, waving off the offer.

At that moment, the farmer's own son came to the door of the family hovel. "Is that your son?" the nobleman asked.

"Yes," the farmer replied proudly. "I'll make you a deal. Let me take him and give him a good education. If the lad is anything like his father, he'll grow to a man you can be proud of."

And that he did. In time, Farmer Fleming's son graduated from St.Mary's Hospital Medical School in London, and went on to become known throughout the world as the noted Sir Alexander Fleming, the discoverer of Penicillin.

Years afterward, the nobleman's son was stricken with pneumonia. What saved him? Penicillin.

What was the name of the nobleman? Lord Randolph Churchill. His son's name? Sir Winston Churchill.

Someone once said: What goes around comes around.

### "Three Choices" - (Author Unknown)

A woman came out of her house and saw 3 old men with long white beards sitting in her front yard... She did not recognize them... She said "I don't think I know you, but you must be hungry... Please come in and have something to eat"...

"Is the man of the house home?", they asked. "No", she said. "He's out".

"Then we cannot come in", they replied.

In the evening when her husband came home, she told him what had happened.. Go tell them I am home and invite them in.

The woman went out and invited the men in.

"We don't go into a house together", they replied.

"Why is that?" she wanted to know.

One of the old men explained: "His name is Wealth...he said pointing to one of his friends...and said pointing to another one, "He is Success and I am Love".. Then he added, "Now go in and discuss with your husband which one of us you want in your home."

The woman went in and told her husband what was said...

Her husband was overjoyed... "How nice", he said!!... "Since that is the case, let us invite Wealth... Let him come and fill our home with wealth"....

His wife disagreed..."My dear, why don't we invite Success"?

Their daughter-in-law was listening from the other corner of the house. She jumped in with her own suggestion: "Would it not be better to invite Love...Our home will be filled with love"...

"Let us heed our daughter-in-law's advice", said the husband to his wife..."Go out and invite Love to be our guest."

The woman went out and asked the 3 old men, "Which one of you is Love? Please come in and be our guest."

Love got up and started walking toward the house.. The other 2 also got up and followed him...

Surprised, the lady asked Wealth and Success: "I only invited Love, why are you coming in?"

The old men replied together: "If you had invited Wealth or Success the other two of us would've stayed out, but since you invited Love, wherever he goes we go with him. Wherever there is Love there is also wealth and success!!!!!!

## The Debate

It had been announced by the Pope that all the Jews would have to leave Rome. Naturally there was a big uproar from the Jewish community. So the Pope made a deal. He would have a religious debate with a member of the Jewish community. If the Jews won, the Jews could stay. If the Pope won, the Jews would leave. The Jews realized that they had no choice. So they picked a middle-aged man named Moishe to represent them.

Moishe asked for one addition to the debate. To make it more interesting, neither side would be allowed to talk. The Pope agreed.

The day of the great debate came. Moishe and the Pope sat opposite each other for a full minute before the Pope raised his hand and showed three fingers. Moishe looked back at him and raised one finger. The Pope waved his fingers in a circle around his head. Moishe pointed to the ground where he sat. The Pope pulled out a wafer and a glass of wine. Moishe pulled out an apple. The Pope stood up and said, "I give up." This man is too good. The Jews can stay."

An hour later, the cardinals were all around the Pope asking him what had happened. The Pope said, "First I held up three fingers to represent the Trinity." He responded by holding up one finger to remind me that there was still one God common to both our religions. Then I waved my finger around me to show him that God was all around us. He responded by pointing to the ground and showing that God was also right here with us. I pulled out the wine and wafer to show that God absolves us from our sins. He pulled out an apple to remind me of original sin. He had an answer for everything. "What could I do?"

Meanwhile, the Jewish community had crowded around Moishe. "What happened?" they asked. "Well," said Moishe, "First he said to me that the Jews had three days to get out of here. I told him that not one of us was leaving. Then he told me that this whole city would be cleared of Jews. I let him know that we were staying right here." "And then?" asked a woman. "I don't know," said Moishe, "He took out his lunch and I took out mine"

## What if hurricanes had more creative names?

Hurricane Angela Lansbury: destruction she wrote  
Hurricane Annie: Delivers Hard knock, but the sun will come out tomorrow  
Hurricane AOL.... we're still waiting to see if we can get on...  
Hurricane Blair Witch Project Scared folks But Was Only Make believe  
Hurricane Bond; James Bond  
Hurricane Bones Was a Doctor Dammit, NOT A Tropical Storm  
Hurricane Buffy stakes out Florida  
Hurricane Bush...A Kinder, Gentler Storm...Canceled out by Tropical Storm Quayle  
Hurricane Calgon Takes Me AWAYyyyyyyy  
Hurricane Cartman kills Kenny again  
Hurricane Cassius Clay has been renamed Hurricane Mohammed Ali  
Hurricane Christian is thrown to Hurricane Lion  
Hurricane Clarence Thomas: Harasses the Capitol  
Hurricane Clinton did not inhale the Carolinas  
Hurricane Clinton Never actually touched that town  
Hurricane Clinton: What is your definition of Average Wind Speed  
Hurricane Cocaine could blow some minds  
Hurricane Connery: South East Shaken, Not Stirred  
Hurricane Cunningham Degraded to Fluff  
Hurricane Dangerfield deserves no respect  
Hurricane Darwin has evolved  
Hurricane Debbie.....she does Dallas  
Hurricane DeLorean kicked up dust  
Hurricane DeNiro: you lookin' at me, there's no other storms here  
Hurricane Desmond: Ready for close up on DeMille County  
Hurricane Disney: Makes strong comeback with support from Hurricane Eisner  
Hurricane Donovan turned mellow yellow  
Hurricane Dorothy is over the rainbow  
Hurricane Dracula sucks the life out of NC  
Hurricane Ed Woods Drags Through Tinsel town  
Hurricane Einstein is relative  
Hurricane Elvis allegedly seen at several Wal-marts  
Hurricane Empire strikes back  
Hurricane Ferris...takes the day off  
Hurricane Freud began rampage in the motherland...  
Hurricane Hamlet 'Oh what a rogue and peasant storm am I'  
Hurricane Harding hits Kerrigan, SC in the knees  
Hurricane Hemmingway. . . Now there's one for Florida  
Hurricane Highlander: there can be only ONE  
Hurricane Hoffa mysteriously disappears, shows up years later at Giants Stadium  
Hurricane Houdini.... strikes back from the other side  
Hurricane Howard Cossell... the windiest storm with a toupee  
Hurricane Isadora Duncan the coast  
Hurricane Ishtar: Looked big at first, failed to impress  
Hurricane J. Edgar Hoover: Skirts East coast, with Eye on everything  
Hurricane Jesus Got Hung Up Around Easter  
Hurricane Joe DiMaggio: Where have you gone?  
Hurricane Judge Judy.. Condemns all  
Hurricane Jung.... an archetypal storm  
Hurricane Kinnisen: Screams through the east  
Hurricane Kubla Khan ravaged the north east  
Hurricane Lassie comes home  
Hurricane Leno misses the punch line!  
Hurricane Lizzy Borden axes her way through the Eastern Seaboard  
Hurricane Lorena cuts off the Florida Peninsula....  
Hurricane Magellan misses West Indies, dies in Philippines  
Hurricane Maize; your people call it Hurricane Corn  
Hurricane Marilyn; What A Set Of Funnel Clouds!  
Hurricane Marion Barry smoked Washington!!!  
Hurricane Martha Stewart levels all the trees and bushes—perfectly evenly  
Hurricane Mary Kay put a facelift on the coast  
Hurricane Maxwell House, good to the last pounding drop  
Hurricane McCarthy Blacklists the South  
Hurricane McLaine remembers striking before as Hurricane Andrew  
Hurricane Medicare reportedly took out only half the town; the rest didn't qualify...  
Hurricane Michael Jackson Hit Boystown  
Hurricane Miss Saigon poor imitation of Hurricane Puccini

Hurricane Monica Will Blow ANYTHING!!!  
Hurricane Moses parts the seas  
Hurricane Mother-in-law visits and never leaves  
Hurricane Norm levels This Old House  
Hurricane Nostradamus foresees the East coast...  
Hurricane Odysseus lost at sea  
Hurricane Oliver tries the east and asks, "Please may I have some more?"  
Hurricane Oswald stalled behind the grassy knoll  
Hurricane Peter Pan heads for Never, Never land  
Hurricane Phallus prematurely spent off coast....  
Hurricane Phantom falls apart... Menaces none  
Hurricane Picard hits the coast at Warp Factor 9  
Hurricane Poe - nevermore  
Hurricane Rather maintains a high frequency, Kenneth  
Hurricane RavenWolf gingerly ebbed up the coast unsure if it should commit  
Hurricane Richard Lewis more of a tropical depression, really  
Hurricane Robin Hood hits rich neighborhoods, gives to poor  
Hurricane Ru Paul is really a tornado  
Hurricane Scotty gave it all it had  
Hurricane Seinfeld...what is it about these Hurricanes anyway?  
Hurricane Shakespeare appeared on the 12th night after my midsummer night's dream of Hamlet  
Hurricane Sherman burns up the South  
Hurricane Sirensong Is Very Compelling  
Hurricane Springer puts on a destructive show for the East...Many chairs thrown  
Hurricane Stalin ruins crops; Famine expected.  
Hurricane Stern Shocks New York.  
Hurricane Surgeon General give warning of health hazards of 100+ mph winds  
Hurricane Tarzan swings up the coast  
Hurricane Tyson bites ears off across South  
Hurricane Vader finds weatherman's lack of faith disturbing  
Hurricane Vegas has poor odds of seeing the coast  
Hurricane Viagra rose to the occasion  
Hurricane X-Files: the storm is out there  
Hurricane Yahweh Only One Out There  
Hurricane Yoko Ono makes a thousand dogs wail when her wind song is heard  
Hurricane Zappa...really blew their minds  
Hurricane ZsaZsa Gabor slaps a police station  
Hurricane, Beverly Hillbillies, Y'all come back and destroy Ya hea!

The Hurricane formerly known as Prince makes a come back; now wishes to be known as simply The Hurricane

### **Christian Bear**

A country preacher decided to skip services one Sunday and head for the hills to do some bear hunting.

As he rounded the corner on a perilous twist in the trail, he and a bear nearly collided, sending the preacher and his rifle tumbling down the mountainside.

Before he knew it, his rifle went one way and he went the other, landing on a rock and breaking a leg. That was the good news. The bad news was the ferocious bear was charging at him from a distance, and he couldn't move.

"Oh, Lord," the preacher prayed, "I'm so sorry for having skipped services today to come out here and hunt. Please forgive me and grant me just one wish -- please make a Christian out of that bear that's coming at me."

"Oh, Please, Lord."

At that very instant, the bear skidded to a halt, fell to its knees, clasped its paws together and began to pray aloud right at the preacher's feet.

"Dear God, bless this food I am about to receive."

## A Survival Kit for Everyday Living

Items Needed:

Toothpick  
Rubber Band  
Band Aid  
Pencil  
Eraser  
Chewing Gum  
Mint  
Candy Kiss  
Tea Bag

Why???

- 1) TOOTHPICK - to remind you to pick out the good qualities in others
- 2) RUBBER BAND - to remind you to be flexible, things might not always go the way you want but it will work out.
- 3) BAND AID - to remind you to heal hurt feelings, yours or someone else's.
- 4) PENCIL - to remind you to list your blessings everyday.
- 5) ERASER - To remind you that everyone makes mistakes, and its OK.
- 6) CHEWING GUM - to remind you to stick with it and you can accomplish anything.
- 7) MINT - to remind you that you are worth a mint
- 8) CANDY KISS - to remind you that everyone needs a kiss or a hug everyday.
- 9) TEA BAG - to remind you to relax daily and reflect on all the positive things in your life. A verbal wound is as bad as a physical one.

Friends are a very rare jewel, indeed.

They make you smile and encourage you to succeed.  
They lend an ear,  
share a word of praise  
and they always open their hearts to us.

"Don't sweat the small stuff, for it's all small stuff!"

"Confucius Say's "I hear and I forget. I read and I remember. I do and I understand."

## **CAMPING HINTS**

1. When using a public campground, a tuba placed on your picnic table will keep the campsites on either side vacant.
2. Get even with a bear that raided your food bag by kicking his favorite stump apart and eating all the ants.
3. A hot rock placed in your sleeping bag will keep your feet warm. A hot enchilada works almost as well, but the cheese sticks between your toes.
4. The best backpacks are named for national parks or mountain ranges. Steer clear of those named for landfills.
5. While the Swiss Army Knife has been popular for years, the Swiss Navy Knife has remained largely unheralded. Its single blade functions as a tiny canoe paddle.
6. Modern rain suits made of fabrics that "breathe" enable campers to stay dry in a downpour. Rain suits that sneeze, cough, and belch, however, have been proven to add absolutely nothing to the wilderness experience.
7. Lint from your navel makes a handy fire starter. Warning: remove lint from navel before applying the match.
8. You'll never be lost if you remember that moss always grows on the north side of your compass.
9. You can duplicate the warmth of a down-filled bedroll by climbing into a plastic garbage bag with several geese.
10. The canoe paddle, a simple device used to propel a boat, should never be confused with a gnu paddle, a similar device used by Tibetan veterinarians.
11. When camping, always wear a long-sleeved shirt. It gives you something to wipe your nose on.
12. Take this simple test to see if you qualify for solo camping. Shine a flashlight into one ear. If the beam shines out the other ear, do not go into the woods alone.
13. A two-man pup tent does not include two men or a pup.
14. A potato baked in the coals for one hour makes an excellent side dish. A potato baked in the coals for three hours makes an excellent hockey puck.
15. In emergency situations, you can survive in the wilderness by shooting small game with a slingshot made from the elastic waistband of your underwear.
16. The guitar of the noisy teenager at the next campsite makes excellent kindling.
17. The sight of a bald eagle has thrilled campers for generations. The sight of a bald man, however, does absolutely nothing for the eagle.
18. It's entirely possible to spend your whole vacation on a winding mountain road behind a large motor home.
19. Bear bells provide an element of safety for hikers in grizzly country. The tricky part is getting them on the bears.
20. In an emergency, a drawstring from a parka hood can be used to strangle a snoring tent mate.

## **A Horses Rear End**

The US Standard railroad gauge (distance between the rails) is exactly 4 feet, 8.5 inches. That's an exceedingly odd number.

Why was that gauge used?

Because that's the way they built them in England, and English expatriates built the US railroads.

Why did the English people build them like that?

Because the first rail lines were built by the same people who built the pre-railroad tramways, and that's the gauge they used.

Why did "they" use that gauge then?

Because the people who built the tramways used the same jigs and tools that they used for building wagons, which used that wheel spacing.

Okay! Why did the wagons use that odd wheel spacing?

Well, if they tried to use any other spacing the wagons would break on some of the old, long distance roads, because that's the spacing of the old wheel ruts.

So who built these old rutted roads?

The first long distance roads in Europe were built by Imperial Rome for the benefit of their legions. The roads have been used ever since.

And the ruts?

The initial ruts, which everyone else had to match for fear of destroying their wagons, were first made by Roman war chariots. Since the chariots were made for or by Imperial Rome they were all alike in the matter of wheel spacing. Thus, we have the answer to the original question. The United States standard railroad gauge of 4 feet, 8.5 inches derives from the original specification for an Imperial Roman army war chariot. Specs and Bureaucracies live forever. So, the next time you are handed a specification and wonder what horse's rear end came up with it, you may be exactly right. Because the Imperial Roman chariots were made to be just wide enough to accommodate the back ends of two war horses.

Now, enter the Space Shuttle.....

When we see a Space Shuttle sitting on the launch pad, there are two big booster rockets attached to the sides of the main fuel tank. These are the solid rocket boosters, or SRBs. The SRBs are made by Thiokol at a factory in Utah. The engineers who designed the SRBs might have preferred to make them a bit fatter, but the SRBs had to be shipped by train from the factory to the launch site. The railroad line to the factory runs through a tunnel in the mountains. The SRBs had to fit through that tunnel. The tunnel is slightly wider than a railroad track, and the railroad track is about as wide as two horses' behinds.

So a major design feature of what is arguably the world's most advanced transportation system was determined by the WIDTH OF A HORSE'S REAR END!!

## **PROVERBS FOR THE MILLENNIUM**

1. Anywhere you hang your @ is home.
2. The e-mail of the species is deadlier than the mail.
3. A journey of a thousand sites begins with a single click.
4. You can't teach a new mouse old clicks.
5. Great groups from little icons grow.
6. Speak softly and carry a cellular phone.
7. C:\ is the root of all directories.
8. Don't put all your hypes in one home page.
9. Pentium wise; pen and paper foolish.
10. The modem is the message.
11. Too many clicks spoil the browse.
12. The geek shall inherit the earth.
13. A chat has nine lives.
14. Don't byte off more than you can view.
15. Fax is stranger than fiction.
16. What boots up must come down.
17. Windows will never cease.
18. In Gates we trust (and our tender is legal).
19. Virtual reality is its own reward.
20. Modulation in all things.
21. A user and his leisure time are soon parted.
22. There's no place like ([http://www.home\(.com\)](http://www.home.com))
23. Know what to expect before you connect.
24. Oh, what a tangled website we weave when first we practice.
25. Speed thrills.
26. Give a man (or for that matter anyone) a fish and you feed him for a day; teach him to use The Net and he won't bother you for weeks.

## **Instructions**

Some examples of why the human race has probably evolved as far as possible.  
These are examples of instruction labels on randomly selected consumer goods:

<b>On Sears hairdryer:</b> Do not use while sleeping.	(Gee, that's the only time I have to work on my hair!)
<b>On a bag of Fritos:</b> You could be a winner! No purchase necessary. Details inside.	(The shoplifter special)
<b>On a bar of Dial soap:</b> Directions: Use like regular soap.	(And that would be how?)
<b>On some Swanson frozen dinners:</b> Serving suggestions: Defrost.	(But it's just a suggestion!)
<b>On a hotel provided shower cap in a box:</b> Fits one head.	(The little one or the big one?)
<b>On Tesco's Tiramisu dessert:</b> (printed on bottom of the box) Do not turn upside down.	(Too late! You lose!)
<b>On Marks &amp; Spencer Bread Pudding:</b> Product will be hot after heating.	(Are you sure? Let's experiment.)
<b>On packaging for Rowenta iron:</b> Do not iron clothes on body.	(But wouldn't that save time?) (Whose body?)
<b>On Boot's Children's cough medicine:</b> Do not drive car or operate machinery.	(We could do a lot to reduce construction accidents if we just kept those 5 year olds off those fork lifts.)
<b>On Nytol sleep aid:</b> Warning: May cause drowsiness.	(One would hope!)
<b>On a Korean kitchen knife:</b> Warning: Keep out of children.	(Or pets! What's for dinner?)
<b>On a string of Chinese made christmas lights:</b> For indoor or outdoor use only.	(As opposed to use in outer space.)
<b>On a Japanese food processor:</b> Not to be used for the other purpose.	(Now I'm curious.)
<b>On Sainsbury's peanuts:</b> Warning: Contains nuts.	(But no peas?)
<b>On an American Airlines packet of nuts:</b> Instructions: Open packet, eat nuts.	(Have a lobotomy.)

## **You Know You Drink Too Much Coffee When. . .**

1. Juan Valdez named his donkey after you.
2. You grind your coffee beans in your mouth.
3. The only time you're standing still is during an earthquake.
4. You can take a picture of yourself from ten feet away without using the timer.
5. You lick your coffeepot clean.
6. You spend every vacation visiting "Maxwell House."
7. You're the employee of the month at the local coffeehouse and you don't even work there.
8. Your eyes stay open when you sneeze.
9. You're so jittery that people use your hands to blend their margaritas.
10. You can jump-start your car without cables.
11. All your kids are named "Joe."
12. Your only source of nutrition comes from "Sweet & Low."
13. You go to AA meetings just for the free coffee.
14. You've built a miniature city out of little plastic stirrers.
15. People get dizzy just watching you.
16. When you find a penny, you say, "Find a penny, pick it up. Sixty-three more, I'll have a cup."
17. The Taster's Choice couple wants to adopt you.
18. Starbucks owns the mortgage on your house.
19. You're so wired you pick up FM radio.
20. Your life's goal is to "amount to a hill of beans."
21. Instant coffee takes too long.
22. When someone says, "How are you?", you say, "Good to the last drop."
23. You want to be cremated just so you can spend the rest of eternity in a coffee can.
24. You go to sleep just so you can wake up and smell the coffee.
25. You're offended when people use the word "brew" to mean beer.
26. You name your cats "Cream" and "Sugar."
27. You get drunk just so you can sober up.
28. Your lips are permanently stuck in the sipping position.
29. You can outlast the Energizer bunny.
30. You don't even wait for the water to boil anymore.
31. You think being called a "drip" is a compliment.
32. You don't tan you roast.
33. You can't even remember your second cup.
34. You introduce your spouse as your "Coffeemate."
35. You think CPR stands for "Coffee Provides Resuscitation."

## **The Big Rocks**

One day, an expert in time management was speaking to a group of business students and, to drive home a point, used an illustration those students will never forget.

As he stood in front of the group of high-powered overachievers, he said, "Okay, time for a quiz" and he pulled out a one-gallon, wide-mouth Mason jar and set it on the table in front of him. He also produced about a dozen fist-sized rocks and carefully placed them, one at a time, into the jar.

When the jar was filled to the top and no more rocks would fit inside, he asked, "Is this jar full?"

Everyone in the class yelled, "Yes."

The time management expert replied, "Really?" He reached under the table and pulled out a bucket of gravel. He dumped some gravel in and shook the jar, causing pieces of gravel to work themselves down into the spaces between the big rocks. He then asked the group once more, "Is the jar full?"

By this time the class was on to him. "Probably not," one of them answered. "Good!" he replied. He reached under the table and brought out a bucket of sand. He started dumping the sand in the jar, and it went into all of the spaces left between the rocks and the gravel.

Once more he asked the question, "Is this jar full?"

"No!" the class shouted. Once again he said, "Good." Then he grabbed a pitcher of water and began to pour it in until the jar was filled to the brim. Then he looked at the class and asked, "What is the point of this illustration?"

One eager beaver raised his hand and said, "The point is, no matter how full your schedule is, if you try really hard you can always fit some more things in it!"

"No," the speaker replied, "that's not the point. The truth this illustration teaches us is if you don't put the big rocks in first, you'll never get them in at all. What are the 'big rocks' in your life: Time with your LOVED ONES, your FAITH, your EDUCATION, your DREAMS, a WORTHY CAUSE, TEACHING or MENTORING [being a Scout Leader or volunteer]?"

Remember to put these BIG ROCKS in first or you'll never get them in at all.

So, tonight or in the morning, when you are reflecting on this short story, ask yourself this question: What are the 'big rocks' in my life?

Then put those in your jar first."

## **A Woman's Guide to Men's Gifts**

With Christmas coming, this is surely going to be a big help!

1. When in doubt - buy him a cordless drill. It does not matter if he already has one. I have a friend who owns 17 and he has yet to complain. As a man, you can never have too many cordless drills. No one knows why.
2. If you cannot afford a cordless drill, buy him anything with the word ratchet or socket in it. Men love saying those two words. "Hey George, can I borrow your ratchet?" "OK. "By-the-way, are you through with my 3/8-inch socket yet?" Again, no one knows why.
3. If you are really, really broke, buy him anything for his car. A 99-cent ice scraper, a small bottle of deicer or something to hang from his rear view mirror. Men love gifts for their cars. No one knows why.
4. Do not buy men socks. Do not buy men ties. And never buy men bathrobes. I was told that if God had wanted men to wear bathrobes, he wouldn't have invented Jockey shorts.
5. You can buy men new remote controls to replace the ones they have worn out. If you have a lot of money buy your man a big-screen TV with the little picture in the corner. Watch him go wild as he flips, and flips, and flips.
6. Do not buy a man any of those fancy liqueurs. If you do, it will sit in a cupboard for 23 years.
7. Do not buy any man industrial-sized canisters of after shave or deodorant. I'm told they do not stink - they are earthy.
8. Buy men label makers. Almost as good as cordless drills. Within a couple of weeks there will be labels absolutely everywhere. Socks. Shorts. Cups. Saucers. Door. Lock. Sink. You get the idea. No one knows why.
9. Never buy a man anything that says "some assembly required" on the box. It will ruin his Special Day and he will always have parts left over.
10. Good places to shop for men include Northwest Iron Works, Parr Lumber, Home Depot, John Deere, Valley RV Center, and Les Schwab Tire. (NAPA Auto Parts and Sears' Clearance Centers are also excellent men's stores. It doesn't matter if he doesn't know what it is. "From NAPA Auto, eh? Must be something I need. Hey! Isn't this a starter for a '68 Ford Fairlane? Wow! Thanks.")
11. Men enjoy danger. That's why they never cook - but they will barbecue. Get him a monster barbecue with a 100-pound propane tank. Tell him the gas line leaks. "Oh the thrill! The challenge! Who wants a hamburger?"
12. Tickets to a Red Wing/Lions/Pistons/Tigers game are a smart gift. However, he will not appreciate tickets to "A Retrospective of 19th Century Quilts." Everyone knows why.
13. Men love chainsaws. Never, ever, buy a man you love a chainsaw. If you don't know why - please refer to Rule #8 and what happens when he gets a label maker.
14. It's hard to beat a really good wheelbarrow or an aluminum extension ladder. Never buy a real man a step ladder. It must be an extension ladder. No one knows why.
15. Rope. Men love rope. It takes us back to our cowboy origins, or at least The Boy Scouts. Nothing says love like a hundred feet of 3/8" manila rope. No one knows why.

## **BLACK NOVEMBER**

When I was a young turkey, new to the coop,  
My big brother Mike took me out on the stoop,

Then he sat me down, and he spoke real slow,  
And he told me there was something that I had to know;

His look and his tone I will always remember,  
When he told me of the horrors of... Black November;

"Come about August, now listen to me,  
Each day you'll get six meals instead of just three,

"And soon you'll be thick, where once you were thin,  
And you'll grow a big rubbery thing under your chin;

"And then one morning, when you're warm in your bed,  
In'll burst the farmer's wife, and hack off your head;

"Then she'll pluck out all your feathers so you're bald 'n pink,  
And scoop out all your insides and leave ya lyin' in the sink;

"And then comes the worst part" he said not bluffing,  
"She'll spread your cheeks and pack your rear with stuffing".

Well, the rest of his words were too grim to repeat,  
I sat on the stoop like a winged piece of meat,

And decided on the spot that to avoid being cooked,  
I'd have to lay low and remain overlooked;

I began a new diet of nuts and granola,  
High-roughage salads, juice and diet cola;

And as they ate pastries, chocolates and crepes,  
I stayed in my room doing Jane Fonda tapes;

I maintained my weight of two pounds and a half,  
And tried not to notice when the bigger birds laughed;

But 'twas I who was laughing, under my breath,  
As they chomped and they chewed, ever closer to death;

And sure enough when Black November rolled around,  
I was the last turkey left in the entire compound;

So now I'm a pet in the farmer's wife's lap;  
I haven't a worry, so I eat and I nap;

She held me today, while sewing and humming,  
And smiled at me and said "Christmas is coming..."

### **A Wooden Bowl**

A frail old man went to live with his son, daughter-in-law, and four-year-old grandson. The old man's hands trembled, his eyesight was blurred, and his step faltered.

The family ate together at the table. But the elderly grandfather's shaky hands and failing sight made eating difficult. Peas rolled off his spoon onto the floor. When he grasped the glass, milk spilled on the tablecloth.

The son and daughter-in-law became irritated with the mess. "We must do something about Grandfather," said the son. "I've had enough of his spilled milk, noisy eating, and food on the floor."

So the husband and wife set a small table in the corner. There Grandfather ate alone while the rest of the family enjoyed dinner. Since Grandfather had broken a dish or two, his food was served in a wooden bowl.

When the family glanced in Grandfather's direction, sometimes he had a tear in his eye as he sat alone. Still, the only words the couple had for him were sharp admonitions when he dropped a fork or spilled food.

The four-year-old watched it all in silence.

One evening before supper, the father noticed his son playing with wood scraps on the floor. He asked the child sweetly, "What are you making?" Just as sweetly, the boy responded, "Oh, I am making a little bowl for you and Mama to eat your food in when I grow up."

The four-year-old smiled and went back to work.

The words so struck the parents that they were speechless. Then tears started to stream down their cheeks.

Though no word was spoken, both knew what must be done.

That evening the husband took Grandfather's hand and gently led him back to the family table. For the remainder of his days he ate every meal with the family. And for some reason, neither husband nor wife seemed to care any longer when a fork was dropped.

### **Along the Way of Life I've Learned----**

I've learned that our background and circumstances may have influenced who we are,  
But we are responsible for who we become.

I've learned that just because two people argue it doesn't mean they don't love each other,  
And just because they don't argue it doesn't mean they do.

I've learned that we don't have to change friends if we understand that friends change.

I've learned that you shouldn't be so eager to find out a secret,  
It could change your life forever.

I've learned that two people can look at the exact same thing  
And see something totally different.

I've learned that no matter how you try to protect your children,  
They will eventually get hurt and you will hurt in the process.

I've learned that your life can be changed in a matter of hours by people who don't even know  
you.

I've learned that even when you think you have no more to give,  
When a friend cries out to you, You will find the strength to help.

I've learned that credentials on the wall do not make you a decent human being.

I've learned that the people you care about most in life are taken from you too soon.

## **Some Thoughts on Friendship**

If you live to be a hundred, I want to live to be a hundred minus one day, so I never have to live without you."  
Winnie the Pooh

"True friendship is like sound health; the value of it is seldom known until it be lost."  
Charles Caleb Colton

"A real friend is one who walks in when the rest of the world walks out."

"Don't walk in front of me, I may not follow. Don't walk behind me, I may not lead. Walk beside me and be my friend."  
Albert Camus.

"Strangers are just friends waiting to happen."

"Friends are the Bacon Bits in the Salad Bowl of Life."

"Friendship is one mind in two bodies."  
Mencius

"Friends are God's way of taking care of us."

"If you should die before me, ask if you could bring a friend."  
Stone Temple Pilots

"I'll lean on you and you lean on me and we'll be okay."  
Dave Matthews Band

"If all my friends were to jump off a bridge, I wouldn't jump with them, I'd be at the bottom to catch them"

"Everyone hears what you say. Friends listen to what you say. Best friends listen to what you don't say."

"We all take different paths in life, but no matter where we go, we take a little of each other everywhere"  
Tim McGraw

**Baden-Powell, reflecting on his life: (from "Lessons from the Varsity of Life")**

The great thing that strikes you on looking back is how quickly you have come - how very brief is the span of life on this earth. The warning that one would give, therefore, is that it is well not to fritter it away on things that don't count in the end; nor on the other hand is it good to take life too seriously as some seem to do. Make it a happy life while you have it. That is where success is possible to every man.

Varied are the ideas of what constitutes "success," e.g. money, position, power, achievement, honours, and the like. But these are not open to every man-nor do they bring what is real success, namely, happiness.

Happiness is open to all, since, when you boil it down, it merely consists of contentment with what you have got and doing what you can for other people. As Sir Henry Newbolt sums it up: "The real test of success is whether a life has been a happy one and a happy giving one."

Then, too, I have met with a remarkable amount of kindness everywhere, not only from friends but from strangers as well. Also, I have had the luck to live two distinct lives-one as a soldier and a bachelor, the second as a pacifist and paterfamilias; both having the common attribute of Scouting, and both intensely happy. That doesn't mean that I have not had difficulties and trials to face, but these have been the salt that savoured the feast. For these I have found that a smile and a stick will carry you through all right, and in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred it is the smile that does the trick.

(When next you are worried or angry, force yourself to turn up the corners of your mouth and smile-and you will find the value of this tip.)

"Softly, softly, catchee monkey," is the West African rendering of a very valuable precept. An awful lot of men fail through lack of patient persistence.

Have you ever thought of it, that the duration of the grown-up life of a man of seventy amounts to 291,000 waking hours? Most men sleep for eight hours when seven are sufficient. The man who sleeps for seven hours gains an additional three years and over, of waking life. I have found it a good plan to give oneself, in imagination, three years still to live. You then feel that you have got to get things done within that time, whether they are making big dreams come true, or winning happiness. Time must not be frittered away.

I have often urged my young friends, when faced with an adversary, to "play polo" with him; i.e., not to go at him bald-headed but to ride side by side with him and gradually edge him off your track. Never lose your temper with him. If you are in the right there is no need to, if you are in the wrong you can't afford to.

In a difficult situation one never-failing guide is to ask yourself: "What would Christ have done?" Then do it-as nearly as you can.

Possibly the best suggestion in condensed form, as to how to live, was given by my old Headmaster, Dr. Haig Brown, in 1904, when he wrote his Recipe for Old Age:

A diet moderate and spare,  
Freedom from base financial care,  
Abundant work and little leisure,  
A love of duty more than pleasure,  
An even and contented mind,  
In charity with all mankind,  
Some thoughts too sacred for display,  
In the broad light of common day,  
A peaceful home, a loving wife,  
Children, who are a crown of life;  
These lengthen out the years of man,  
Beyond the Psalmist's narrow span.

Looking back over my own "narrow span," two bright spots among many which at once instinctively spring to mind are:

In Life Number 1 the rough time among good companions on the sun-baked veldt in the Matabele campaign; and

In Life Number 2, a little warm hand dragging me down till her two arms can reach round my neck, when with a soft moist kiss she whispers: "Just one more good-night story, Daddy."

I write this sitting in my garden at the close of a perfect day in late September, with the ruddy afterglow of sunset giving a new tone to the lights and shadows across the woodlands stretched below, and a violet haze upon the distant heights where I have wandered.

There is the scent of roses in the air-and sweetbriar. A rook caws sleepily in the elms nearby in answer to the distant crooning of a dove. A bee hums drowsily by, hiveward bound. All is peace in the home at dusk, ere night closes down.

She sits by me, in the silence of comradeship, who has shared some of the toil of the afternoon-and the joy of it. It is good to laze, honestly half-tired, and to look back and feel that though one has had one's day it has, in spite of one's limitations, not been an idle one, that one has enjoyed it to the full, and that one is lucky in being rich through having few wants and fewer regrets.

Through an upper window comes the laughing chatter of the young folk going to bed.

To-morrow their day will come.

May it be as happy a one as mine has been, God bless them!

As for me—it will be my bed-time soon. And so

**GOOD NIGHT!**

## **The Trees**

Once there were three trees on a hill in the woods. They were discussing their hopes and dreams when the first tree said, "Someday I hope to be a treasure chest. I could be filled with gold silver and precious gems. I could be decorated with intricate carving and everyone would see the beauty."

Then the second tree said, "Someday I will be a mighty ship.? I will take kings and queens across the waters and sail to the corners of the world. Everyone will feel safe in me because of the strength of my hull."

Finally the third tree said, "I want to grow to be the tallest and straightest tree in the forest. People will see me on top of the hill and look up to my branches, and think of the heavens and God and how close to them I am reaching. I will be the greatest tree of all time and people will always remember me."

After a few years of praying that their dreams would come true, a group of woodsmen came upon the trees. When one came to the first tree he said, "This looks like a strong tree, I think I should be able to sell the wood to a carpenter" ... and he began cutting it down. The tree was happy, because he knew that the carpenter would make him into a treasure chest.

At the second tree a woodsman said, "This looks like a strong tree, I should be able to sell it to the shipyard." The second tree was happy because he knew he was on his way to becoming a mighty ship.

When the woodsmen came upon the third tree, the tree was frightened because he knew that if they cut him down his dreams would not come true. One of the woodsmen said, "I don't need anything special from my tree so I'll take this one", and he cut it down."

When the first tree arrived at the carpenters, he was made into a feed box for animals. He was then placed in a barn and filled with hay. This was not at all what he had prayed for.

The second tree was cut and made into a small fishing boat. His dreams of being a mighty ship and carrying kings had come to an end.

The third tree was cut into large pieces and left alone in the dark.

The years went by, and the trees forgot about their dreams. Then one day, a man and woman came to the barn. She gave birth and they placed the baby in the hay in the feed box that was made from the first tree. The man wished that he could have made a crib for the baby, but this manger would have to do. The tree could feel the importance of this event and knew that it had held the greatest treasure of all time.

Years later, a group of men got in the fishing boat made from the second tree. One of them was tired and went to sleep. While they were out on the water, a great storm arose and the tree didn't think it was strong enough to keep the men safe. The men woke the sleeping man, and he stood and said "Peace" and the storm stopped. At this time, the tree knew that it had carried the King of Kings in its boat.

Finally, someone came and got the Third tree. It was carried through the streets as the people mocked the man who was carrying it. When they came to a stop, the man was nailed to the tree and raised in the air to die at the top of a hill. When Sunday came, the tree came to realize that it was strong enough to stand at the top of the hill and be as close to God as was possible, because Jesus had been crucified on it.

The moral of this story is that when things don't seem to be going your way, always know that God has a plan for you. If you place your trust in Him, He will give you great gifts. Each of the trees got what they wanted, just not in the way they had imagined.

We don't always know what God's plans are for us. We just know that His ways are not our ways, but His ways are always best.

### **“Streets paved with gold...”**

There once was a rich man who was near death. He was very grieved because he had worked so hard for his money and he wanted to be able to take it with him to heaven. So he began to pray that he might be able to take some of his wealth with him.

An angel hears his plea and appears to him. "Sorry, but you can't take your wealth with you." The man implores the angel to speak to God to see if He might bend the rules.

The man continues to pray that his wealth could follow him. The angel reappears and informs the man that God has decided to allow him to take one suitcase with him. Overjoyed, the man gathers his largest suitcase and fills it with pure gold bars and places it beside his bed. Soon afterward the man dies and shows up at the Gates of Heaven to greet St. Peter.

St. Peter seeing the suitcase says, "Hold on, you can't bring that in here!"

But the man explains to St. Peter that he has permission and asks him to verify his story with God. Sure enough, St. Peter checks and comes back saying, "You're right. You are allowed one carry-on bag, but I'm supposed to check its contents before letting it through."

St. Peter opens the suitcase to inspect the worldly goods that the man found too precious to leave behind and exclaims, "You brought pavement?!!"

### **Great Day**

I woke up early today, excited over all I get to do before the clock strikes midnight.  
I have responsibilities to fulfill today. I am important.

My job is to choose what kind of day I am going to have.

Today I can complain because the weather is rainy or...  
I can be thankful that the grass is getting watered for free.

Today I can feel sad that I don't have more money or ...  
I can be glad that my finances encourage me to plan my purchases wisely and guide me away from waste.

Today I can grumble about my health or ... I can rejoice that I am alive.

Today I can lament over all that my parents didn't give me when I was growing up or...  
I can feel grateful that they allowed me to be born.

Today I can cry because roses have thorns or ... I can celebrate that thorns have roses.

Today I can mourn my lack of friends or...  
I can excitedly embark upon a quest to discover new relationships.

Today I can whine because I have to go to work or...  
I can shout for joy because I have a job to do.

Today I can complain because I have to go to school or ...  
Eagerly open my mind and fill it with rich new tidbits of knowledge.

Today I can murmur dejectedly because I have to do housework or...  
I can appreciate that I have a place to call home.

Today stretches ahead of me, waiting to be shaped.  
And here I am, the sculptor who gets to do the shaping.

What today will be like is up to me. I get to choose what kind of day I will have!  
Have a GREAT DAY ... unless you have other plans?

## **God's Children**

Whenever your kids are out of control, you can take comfort from the thought that even God's omnipotence did not extend to God's kids.

After creating heaven and earth, God created Adam and Eve. And the first thing He said was: "Don't"

"Don't what?" Adam replied.

"Don't eat the forbidden fruit," God said.

"Forbidden fruit? We got forbidden fruit? Hey, Eve...we got forbidden fruit!"

"No way!"

"Yes way!"

"Don't eat that fruit!" said God.

"Why?"

"Because I am your Father and I said so!" said God, wondering why he hadn't stopped after making the elephants.

A few minutes later God saw his kids having an apple break and was angry.

"Didn't I tell you not to eat the fruit?" the First Parent asked.

"Uh huh, " Adam replied.

"Then why did you?"

"I dunno" Eve answered.

"She started it!" Adam said.

"Did not!"

"Did too!"

"DID NOT!!!"

Having had it with the two of them, God's punishment was that Adam and Eve should have children of their own. Thus the pattern was set and it has never changed. But there is reassurance in this story.

If you have persistently and lovingly tried to impart wisdom to your children and they haven't taken it, don't be hard on yourself. If God had trouble handling children, what makes you think it would be a piece of cake for you?

**GOOD Advice for the day: If you have a lot of tension and you get a headache, do what it says on the aspirin bottle...**

**Take two and keep away from the children.**

## **THE BRICK**

A young and successful executive was travelling down a neighbourhood street, going a bit too fast in his new Jaguar. He was watching for kids darting out from between parked cars and slowed down when he thought he saw something.

As his car passed, no children appeared. Instead, a brick smashed into the Jag's side door!

He slammed on the brakes and spun the Jag back to the spot from where the brick had been thrown. He jumped out of the car, grabbed a kid standing there and pushed him up against a parked car shouting, "What was that all about and who are you? Just what the heck are you doing?!!!"

Building up a head of steam he went on. "That's a new car and that brick you threw is going to cost a lot of money. Why did you do it?!!"

"Please, mister, please. I'm sorry, I didn't know what else to do!", pleaded the youngster. "I threw the brick because no one else would stop."

Tears were dripping down the boy's chin as he pointed around the parked car.

"It's my brother," he said. "He rolled off the curb and fell out of his wheelchair and I can't lift him up."

Sobbing, the boy asked the executive, "Would you please help me get him back into his wheelchair? He's hurt and he's too heavy for me."

Moved beyond words, the driver tried to swallow the rapidly swelling lump in his throat. He lifted the young man back into the wheelchair and took out his handkerchief and wiped the scrapes and cuts, checking to see that everything was going to be okay. "Thank you and God bless you," the grateful child said to him. The man then watched the little boy push his brother down the sidewalk toward their home.

It was a long walk back to his Jaguar.... a long, slow walk.

He never did repair the side door. He kept the dent to remind him not to go through life so fast that someone has to throw a brick at you to get your attention.

God whispers in your soul and speaks to your heart. Sometimes when you don't have time to listen, He has to throw a "brick" at you.

It's your choice: Listen to the whisper or wait for the brick.

### Tell me whom you love and I will tell you who you are

John Blanchard stood up from the bench, straightened his Army uniform, and studied the crowd of people making their way through Grand Central Station.

He looked for the girl whose heart he knew, but whose face he didn't, the Girl with the rose. His interest in her had begun thirteen months before in a Florida library. Taking a book off the shelf he found himself intrigued, not with the words of the book, but with the notes penciled in the margin. The soft handwriting reflected a thoughtful soul and insightful mind.

In the front of the book, he discovered the previous owner's name, Miss Hollis Maynell. With time and effort he located her address. She lived in New York City. He wrote her a letter introducing himself and inviting her to correspond. The next day he was shipped overseas for service in World War II.

During the next year and one month the two grew to know each other through the mail. Each letter was a seed falling on a fertile heart. A romance was budding. Blanchard requested a photograph, but she refused. She felt that if he really cared, it wouldn't matter what she looked like.

When the day finally came for him to return from Europe, they scheduled their first meeting - 7:00 PM at the Grand Central Station in New York. "You'll recognize me," she wrote, "by the red rose I'll be wearing on my lapel." So at 7:00 he was in the station looking for a girl whose heart he loved, but whose face he'd never seen.

I'll let Mr. Blanchard tell you what happened:

A young woman was coming toward me, her figure long and slim. Her blonde hair lay back in curls from her delicate ears; her eyes were blue as flowers. Her lips and chin had a gentle firmness, and in her pale green suit she was like springtime come alive. I started toward her, entirely forgetting to notice that she was not wearing a rose. As I moved, a small, provocative smile curved her lips. "Going my way, sailor?" she murmured.

Almost uncontrollably I made one step closer to her, and then I saw Hollis Maynell. She was standing almost directly behind the girl. A woman well past 40, she had graying hair tucked under a worn hat. She was more than plump, her thick-ankled feet thrust into low-heeled shoes. The girl in the green suit was walking quickly away. I felt as though I was split in two, so keen was my desire to follow her, and yet so deep was my longing for the woman whose spirit had truly companioned me and upheld my own.

And there she stood. Her pale, plump face was gentle and sensible, her gray eyes had a warm and kindly twinkle. I did not hesitate. My fingers gripped the small worn blue leather copy of the book that was to identify me to her. This would not be love, but it would be something precious, something perhaps even better than love, a friendship for which I had been and must ever be grateful. I squared my shoulders and saluted and held out the book to the woman, even though while I spoke I felt choked by the bitterness of my disappointment.

"I'm Lieutenant John Blanchard, and you must be Miss Maynell. I am so glad you could meet me; may I take you to dinner?"

The woman's face broadened into a tolerant smile. "I don't know what this is about, son," she answered, "but the young lady in the green suit who just went by, she begged me to wear this rose on my coat. And she said if you were to ask me out to dinner, I should go and tell you that she is waiting for you in the big restaurant across the street. She said it was some kind of test!"

It's not difficult to understand and admire Miss Maynell's wisdom. The true nature of a heart is seen in its response to the unattractive. "Tell me whom you love," Houssaye wrote, "And I will tell you who you are."

## **BADEN-POWELL ON HONESTY**

Robert Baden-Powell was the British general who started Scouting a long time ago. He had a lot of good advice for Scouts, and now I'd like to read what he had to say about honesty.

He said, "Honesty is a form of honor. An honorable man can be trusted with any amount of valuables with the certainty that he will not steal it. Cheating at any time is a sneaking, underhanded thing to do. "

"When you feel inclined to cheat in order to win a game, or feel distressed when a game in which you are playing is going against you, just say to yourself, "After all, it is only a game. It won't kill me if I do lose. One can't always win though I will stick to it in case of a chance coming. "

"If you keep your head in this way, you will very often find that you win after all from not being over anxious or despairing. And don't forget, whenever you do lose a game, if you are a true Scout, you will at once cheer the winning team or shake hands with and congratulate the fellow who has beaten you. "

## **Welcoming New Families to Boy Scouting**

(or "Do you buy the brownies?")

At this time of year, a Scoutmaster's thoughts turn to the annual influx of graduating Webelos and the inevitable joy of welcoming their families into an established Troop. These young men are sometimes able to accept the differences between Boy Scouting and Cub Scouting more quickly than their parents. As an aid to educating new Scout families, consider the following hypothetical situation:

Imagine yourself on a Troop campout. One of the Scout Patrols plans to cook brownies for dessert. You notice a commotion in their Patrol area and upon investigation, their Patrol Leader informs you that the Scout who was assigned the responsibility of buying the food has forgotten the brownie mix. There is a great deal of name-calling, grumbling and general unhappiness. Of course, as an adult, you have the power to fix this problem.

You can:

- a). Tell them not to worry, you are making dessert and will invite them to share some with you.
- b). Take them to a nearby store so they can buy what they need.
- c). Suggest they try to make a deal with another Patrol by trading some of their food for some of the other Patrol's dessert.
- d). Smile sympathetically and remind them that if they want something on a campout, they really need to remember to bring it with them (something to do with that "Be Prepared" thing).
- e). Smile sympathetically and suggest that they ask the SPL what to do.

I gave this little multiple choice exercise at a recent Troop Committee meeting and (thankfully!) found near-universal consensus for a combination of 'c', 'd' and 'e'. Give it to new Scout families at a parent's meeting before their first Troop campout. Listen to their expectations; you might get a good sense of just how much training you will need to do.

## **Where is God's Perfection?**

In Brooklyn, New York, Chush is a school that caters to learning disabled children. Some children remain in Chush for their entire school career, while others can be mainstreamed into conventional schools. At a Chush fundraising dinner, the father of a Chush child delivered a speech that would never be forgotten by all who attended.

After extolling the school and its dedicated staff, he cried out, "Where is the perfection in my son Shaya? Everything God does is done with perfection. But my child cannot understand things as other children do. My child cannot remember facts and figures as other children do. Where is God's perfection?"

The audience was shocked by the question, pained by the father's anguish and stilled by the piercing query. "I believe," the father answered, "that when God brings a child like this into the world, the perfection that he seeks is in the way people react to this child."

He then told the following story about his son Shaya:

One afternoon Shaya and his father walked past a park where some boys Shaya knew were playing baseball. Shaya asked, "Do you think they will let me play?" Shaya's father knew that his son was not at all athletic and that most boys would not want him on their team. But Shaya's father understood that if his son was chosen to play it would give him a comfortable sense of belonging.

Shaya's father approached one of the boys in the field and asked if Shaya could play. The boy looked around for guidance from his teammates. Getting none, he took matters into his own hands and said "We are losing by six runs and the game is in the eighth inning. I guess he can be on our team and we'll try to put him up to bat in the ninth inning."

Shaya's father was ecstatic as Shaya smiled broadly. Shaya was told to put on a glove and go out to play short center field.

In the bottom of the eighth inning, Shaya's team scored a few runs but was still behind by three. In the bottom of the ninth inning, Shaya's team scored again and now with two outs and the bases loaded with the potential winning run on base, Shaya was scheduled to be up. Would the team actually let Shaya bat at this juncture and give away their chance to win the game? Surprisingly, Shaya was given the bat.

Everyone knew that it was all but impossible because Shaya didn't even know how to hold the bat properly, let alone hit with it. However, as Shaya stepped up to the plate, the pitcher moved a few steps to lob the ball in softly so Shaya should at least be able to make contact. The first pitch came in and Shaya swung clumsily and missed. One of Shaya's teammates came up to Shaya and together they held the bat and faced the pitcher waiting for the next pitch. The pitcher again took a few steps forward to toss the ball softly toward Shaya. As the pitch came in, Shaya and his teammate swung at the bat and together they hit a slow ground ball to the pitcher. The pitcher picked up the soft grounder and could easily have thrown the ball to the first baseman. Shaya would have been out and that would have ended the game. Instead, the pitcher took the ball and threw it on a high arc to right field, far beyond reach of the first baseman.

Everyone started yelling, "Shaya, run to first. Run to first." Never in his life had Shaya run to first. He scampered down the baseline wide-eyed and startled. By the time he reached first base, the right fielder had the ball. He could have thrown the ball to the second baseman who would tag out Shaya, who was still running. But the right fielder understood what the pitcher's intentions were, so he threw the ball high and far over the third baseman's head.

Everyone yelled, "Run to second, run to second." Shaya ran towards second base as the runners ahead of him deliriously circled the bases towards home. As Shaya reached second base, the opposing short stop ran to him, turned him in the direction of third base and shouted, "Run to third."

As Shaya rounded third, the boys from both teams ran behind him screaming, "Shaya run home." Shaya ran home, stepped on home plate and all 18 boys lifted him on their shoulders and made him the hero, as he had just hit a "grand slam" and won the game for his team. "That day," said the father softly with tears now rolling down his face, "those 18 boys reached their level of God's perfection."

## God, Speak to Me

The man whispered "God, speak to me"  
And a meadowlark sang.  
But the man did not hear.

So the man yelled "God speak to me!"  
And the thunder rolled across the sky.  
But the man did not listen.

The man looked around and said "God let me see you"  
And a star shone brightly.  
But the man did not notice.

And the man shouted "God show me a miracle"  
And a life was born.  
But the man did not know.

So, the man cried out in despair  
"Touch me God and let me know that you are here!"  
Where upon God reached down and touched the man.  
But the man brushed the butterfly away and walked on.

Don't miss out on a blessing just because it isn't packaged the way you might expect.

## Perspective

One day a father of a very wealthy family took his son on a trip to the country with the firm purpose of showing his son how poor people can be. They spent a couple of days and nights on the farm of what would be considered a very poor family.

On their return from their trip, the father asked his son, "How was the trip?"

"It was great, Dad."

"Did you see how poor people can be?" the father asked.

"Oh Yeah" said the son.

"So what did you learn from the trip?" asked the father.

The son answered:

- ✍ "I saw that we have one dog and they had four."
- ✍ "We have a pool that reaches to the middle of our garden and they have a creek that has no end."
- ✍ "We have imported lanterns in our garden and they have the stars at night."
- ✍ "Our patio reaches to the front yard and they have the whole horizon."
- ✍ "We have a small piece of land to live on and they have fields that go beyond our sight."
- ✍ "We have servants who serve us, but they serve others."
- ✍ "We buy our food, but they grow theirs."
- ✍ "We have walls around our property to protect us, they have friends to protect them."

With this the boy's father was speechless.

Then his son added, "Thanks dad for showing me how poor we are."

Too many times we forget what we have and concentrate on what we don't have. What is one person's worthless object is another's prize possession. It is all based on one's perspective.

Makes you wonder what would happen if we all gave thanks for all the bounty we have manifested, instead of worrying about wanting more.

## **Idiots???**

### **IDIOTS AT WORK...**

I was signing the receipt for my credit card purchase when the clerk noticed that I had never signed my name on the back of the credit card. She informed me that she could not complete the transaction unless the card was signed. When I asked why, she explained that it was necessary to compare the signature on the credit card with the signature I just signed on the receipt. So I signed the credit card in front of her. She carefully compared that signature to the one I signed on the receipt. As luck would have it, they matched.

### **ADVICE FOR IDIOTS**

An actual tip from page 16 of the HP "Environmental, Health & Safety Handbook for Employees: "Blink your eyelids periodically to lubricate your eyes."

### **IDIOTS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD**

I live in a semi-rural area. We recently had a new neighbor call the local township administrative office to request the removal of the Deer Crossing sign on our road. The reason: Many deer were being hit by cars and he no longer wanted them to cross there.

### **IDIOTS IN FOOD SERVICE**

My daughter went to a local Taco Bell and ordered a taco. She asked the individual behind the counter for "minimal lettuce." He said he was sorry, but they only had iceberg.

### **IDIOT SIGHTINGS**

#### **Sighting #1:**

I was at the airport, checking in at the gate, when the airport employee asked, "Has anyone put anything in your baggage without your knowledge?" I said, "If it was without my knowledge, how would I know?" He smiled and nodded knowingly, "That's why we ask."

#### **Sighting #2:**

The stoplight on the corner buzzes when it is safe to cross the street. I was crossing with an intellectually challenged co-worker of mine, when she asked if I knew what the buzzer was for. I explained that it signals to blind people when the light is red. She responded, appalled, "What on earth are blind people doing driving?"

#### **Sighting #3:**

At a good-bye lunch for an old and dear coworker who is leaving the company due to "downsizing," our manager spoke up and said, "this is fun. We should have lunch like this more often." Not another word was spoken. We just looked at each other like deer staring into the headlights of an approaching truck.

#### **Sighting #4:**

When my husband and I arrived at an automobile dealership to pick up our car, we were told that the keys had been accidentally locked in it. We went to the service department and found a mechanic working feverishly to unlock the driver's side door. As I watched from the passenger's side, I instinctively tried the door handle and discovered it was open. "Hey," I announced to the technician, "It's open!" "I know," answered the young man.- "I already got that side."

## **T-shirts as Gifts?**

Thinking of giving some T-shirts as gifts?

Here are some slogans for T-shirts to give to your family and friends

- ☞ (For Dad) "I Fought The Lawn And The Lawn Won"
- ☞ (For Mum) "If You Want Breakfast In Bed, Sleep In The Kitchen"
- ☞ (Mum Again?) "Veni Vedi, Visa: I Came. I Saw. I Did A Little Shopping"
- ☞ (For Granddad) "At My Age, I've Seen It All, Done It All, Heard It All, ... I Just Can't Remember It All"
- ☞ (For Grandma) "If They Don't Have Chocolate In Heaven, I Ain't Going"
- ☞ (For Your Biker Brother) "If You Can Read This, Stop Me, The Bitch Has Fallen Off"
- ☞ (For Your Pregnant Sister) "A Man Did This To Me, Oprah"
- ☞ (For Aunt Dotty) "I Just Do What The Voices In My Head Tell Me To Do"
- ☞ (Senior Citizen) "Give Me My Damn Discount"
- ☞ "Coffee, Chocolate, Men ... Some Things Are Just Better Rich"
- ☞ "Growing Old Is Inevitable; Growing Up Is Optional"
- ☞ "If At First You Don't Succeed, Sky Diving Is Not For You"
- ☞ "If It's Called Tourist Season. Why Can't We Hunt Them"
- ☞ "Princess, Having Had Sufficient Experience With Princes, Seeks Frog"
- ☞ "What If The Hokey Pokey Is Really What It Is All About?"

### Here's to Mom!

My mother taught me IRONY:  
"Keep laughing and I'll give you something to cry about."

My mother taught me TO APPRECIATE WHAT I HAVE:  
"It's better than a poke in the eye with a sharp stick."

My mother taught me TO APPRECIATE A JOB WELL DONE:  
"If you're going to kill each other off, do it outside - I just finished cleaning!"

My mother taught me RELIGION:  
"You better pray that will come out of the carpet."

My mother taught me about TIME TRAVEL:  
"If you don't straighten up, I'm going to knock you to the middle of next week!"

My mother taught me LOGIC:  
"Because I said so, that's why."

My mother taught me FORESIGHT:  
"Make sure you wear clean underwear, in case you're in an accident."

My mother taught me OSMOSIS:  
"Shut your mouth and eat"

### Remember When...

Decisions were made by going "eeny-meeny-miney-mo."  
Mistakes were corrected by simply exclaiming, "do over!"  
Race issue" meant arguing about who ran the fastest.  
Money issues were handled by whoever was the banker in "Monopoly."  
Catching the fireflies could happily occupy an entire evening.  
It wasn't odd to have two or three "best" friends.  
Being old referred to anyone over 20.  
The net on a tennis court was the perfect height to play volleyball and rules didn't matter.  
The worst thing you could catch from the opposite sex was cooties.  
It was magic when dad would "remove" his thumb.  
It was unbelievable that dodge ball wasn't an Olympic event.  
Having a weapon in school meant being caught with a slingshot.  
Nobody was prettier than Mom.  
Scrapes and bruises were kissed and made better.  
It was a big deal to finally be tall enough to ride the "big people" rides at the amusement park.  
Getting a foot of snow was a dream come true.  
Abilities were discovered because of a "double-dog-dare."  
Saturday morning cartoons weren't 30-minute ads for action figures.  
No shopping trip was complete, unless a new toy was brought home.  
"Oly-oly-oxen-free" made perfect sense.  
Spinning around, getting dizzy and falling down was cause for giggles.  
The worst embarrassment was being picked last for a team.  
War was a card game.  
Water balloons were the ultimate weapon.  
Baseball cards in the spokes transformed any bike into a motorcycle.  
Taking drugs meant orange-flavored chewable aspirin.  
Ice cream was considered a basic food group. (and STILL is as far as I am concerned!)  
Older siblings were the worst tormentors, but also the fiercest protectors.  
If you can remember most or all of these, then you have LIVED!  
Pass this on to anyone who may need a break from their "grown up" life....

I DOUBLE DOG DARE YA!

## **The Paradox of our time...**

1. The paradox of our time in history is that we have taller buildings, but shorter tempers; wider freeways, but narrower viewpoints.
2. We spend more, but have less; we buy more, but enjoy it less.
3. We have bigger houses and smaller families; more conveniences, but less time; we have more degrees, but less sense; more knowledge, but less judgment; more experts, but more problems; more medicine, but less wellness.
4. We drink too much, smoke too much, spend too recklessly, laugh too little, drive too fast, get too angry too quickly, stay up too late, get up too tired, read too seldom, watch TV too much, and pray too seldom.
5. We have multiplied our possessions, but reduced our values.
6. We talk too much, love too seldom, and hate too often.
7. We've learned how to make a living, but not a life; we've added years to life, not life to years.
8. We've been all the way to the moon and back, but have trouble crossing the street to meet the new neighbor.
9. We've conquered outer space, but not inner space.
10. We've done larger things, but not better things.
11. We've cleaned up the air, but polluted the soul.
12. We've split the atom, but not our prejudice.
13. We write more, but learn less.
14. We plan more, but accomplish less.
15. We've learned to rush, but not to wait.
16. We build more computers to hold more information to produce more copies than ever, but have less communication.
17. These are the times of fast foods and slow digestion; tall men, and short character; steep profits, and shallow relationships.
18. These are the times of more food, but less nutrition.
19. These are days of two incomes, but more divorce
20. These are days of fancier houses, but broken homes.
21. These are days of quick trips, disposable diapers, throw-away morality, one-night stands, overweight bodies, and pills that do everything from cheer to quiet, to kill.
22. It is a time when there is much in the show window and nothing in the stockroom; a time when technology can bring this letter to you, and a time when you can choose either to share this insight, or to just hit delete.

George Carlin

## **When you thought I wasn't looking, by a Child . . .**

A message every parent should read, because your children are watching you and doing as you do, not as you say...

"When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw you hang my first painting on the refrigerator, and I immediately wanted to paint another one.

When you thought I wasn't looking I saw you feed a stray cat, and I learned that it was good to be kind to animals.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw you make my favorite cake for me and I learned that little things can be the special things in life.

When you thought I wasn't looking I heard you say a prayer, and I knew there is a God I could always talk to and I learned to trust in God.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw you make a meal and take it to a friend who was sick, and I learned that we all have to help take care of each other.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw you give of your time and money to help people who had nothing and I learned that those who have something should give to those who don't.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I felt you kiss me good night and I felt loved and safe.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw you take care of our house and everyone in it and I learned we have to take care of what we are given.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw how you handled your responsibilities, even when you didn't feel good and I learned that I would have to be responsible when I grow up.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw tears come from your eyes and I learned that sometimes things hurt, but it's all right to cry.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw that you cared and I wanted to be everything that I could be.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I learned most of life's lessons that I need to know to be a good and productive person when I grow up.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I looked at you and wanted to say, Thanks for all the things I saw when you thought I wasn't looking."

Each of us, parent or friend, influence the life of a child.

## **Way Back...**

Close your eyes, and go back . . . Before the Internet or the MAC,  
Before semi-automatics and crack. Before chronic and indo;  
Before SEGA or Super Nintendo.

Way back . . .

I'm talkin' bout hide and go seek at dusk.  
Sittin' on the porch, hot bread and butter.  
Eatin' a 'super-doooper sandwich' (Dagwood)

Red light! Green light!!  
Chocolate milk. Lunch tickets.  
Penny candy in a brown paper bag.  
Hopscotch, butterscotch, doubledutch, Jacks, kickball, dodgeball, y'all!

Mother, May I?  
Hula Hoops and Sunflower Seeds, Jaw breakers.  
Running through the sprinkler!!  
(I can't get wet! All right; well, don't wet my hair....)  
The smell of the sun and lickin' salty lips....

Wait. . .  
Catchin' lightening bugs in a jar.  
Playin sling shot and Red Rover.  
When around the corner seemed far away,  
And going downtown seemed like going somewhere.  
Bedtime, Climbing trees, a million mosquito bites and sticky fingers,

Cops and Robbers, Cowboys and Indians, Sittin on the curb.  
Jumpin down the steps, Jumpin on the bed. Pillow fights.  
Being tickled to death; Runnin till you were out of breath.  
Laughing so hard that your stomach hurt!!  
Being tired from playin'.... Remember that?

I ain't finished just yet . . .

What about the girl that had the big bubbly hand writing??  
Licking the beaters when your mother made a cake.

Didn't that feel good.. just to go back and say,  
Yeah, I remember that!  
Remember when . . .  
....there were two types of sneakers for girls and boys (Keds & PF Flyers),and the only time you wore them at school, was for "gym."  
....nearly everyone's mom was at home when the kids got there.  
....nobody owned a purebred dog.  
....a quarter was a decent allowance, and another quarter a huge bonus.  
....you'd reach into a muddy gutter for a penny.  
....girls neither dated nor kissed until late high school, if then.  
....your Mom wore nylons that came in two pieces.  
....all of your male teachers wore neckties and female teachers had their hair done, everyday.

When you got your windshield cleaned, oil checked, and gas pumped, without asking, for free, every time.  
And, you didn't pay for air. And, you got trading stamps to boot! When laundry detergent had free glasses, dishes or towels hidden inside the box.

When any parent could discipline any kid, or feed him or use him to carry groceries, and nobody, not even the kid, thought a thing of it.

When it was considered a great privilege to be taken out to dinner at a real restaurant with your parents.  
When they threatened to keep kids back a grade if they failed... and did!

When being sent to the principal's office was nothing compared to the fate that awaited a misbehaving student at home.

Basically, we were in fear for our lives but it wasn't because of drive by shootings, drugs, gangs, etc.  
Disapproval of our parents and grandparents was a much bigger threat!

If you can remember any of these things, I smile with you. Pass this on to people you care about, it will make them smile too!! Talk of these things to your children. Don't let these memories fade away completely.

Just talking to your children, friends, or loved ones, and trading memories is a joy.

Life goes quickly. Seize it.

### **21 SIGNS THAT YOU'VE HAD TOO MUCH OF THE 90'S**

1. You try to enter your password on the microwave.
2. You haven't played solitaire with real cards for years.
3. You have a list of 15 phone numbers to reach your family of 3.
4. You e-mail your buddy who works at the desk next to you to ask: "Do you wanna go get a coke?"; and he replies: "Yeah, give me five Mins"
5. You chat several times a day with a stranger from South America, but you haven't spoken to your next door neighbor yet this year.
6. Your reason for not staying in touch with friends is that they are not online.
7. Your idea of being organized is multiple colored post-it notes.
8. You hear most of your jokes via email rather than in person.
9. When you go home after a long day at work you still answer the phone in a business like manner.
10. When you make phone calls from home, you automatically dial a "9" to get an outside line.
11. Your resume is on a diskette in your pocket.
12. You really get excited about a 1.7% pay increase.
13. You know exactly how many days you've got left until you retire.
14. Free food left over from meetings is your staple diet.
15. Being sick is defined as you can't walk or you're in the hospital.
16. You're already late on the assignment you just received.
17. Your relatives and friends describe your job as "works with computers".
18. You only have makeup for fluorescent lighting.

.....AND THE CLINCHERS ARE.....

19. You read this entire list and you keep nodding and smiling.
20. As you read this list, you think about forwarding it to your "friends you send jokes to" e-mail group.
21. It crosses your mind that your "jokes group" may have already seen this list but you don't have time to check so you forward it anyway.

## **I Am God...**

I am God. Today I will be handling all of your problems. Please remember that I do not need your help.

If life happens to deliver a situation to you that you cannot handle, do not attempt to resolve it. Kindly put it in the SFGTD (something for God to do) box. It will be addressed in My time, not yours. Once the matter is placed into the box, do not hold onto it.

- ? If you find yourself stuck in traffic; Don't despair. There are people in this world for whom driving is an unheard of privilege.
- ? Should you have a bad day at work; Think of the man who has been out of work for years.
- ? Should you despair over a relationship gone bad; Think of the person who has never known what it's like to love and be loved in return.
- ? Should you grieve the passing of another weekend; think of the woman in dire straits, working twelve hours a day, seven days a week to feed her children.
- ? Should your car break down, leaving you miles away from assistance; Think of the paraplegic who would love the opportunity to take that walk.
- ? Should you notice a new grey hair in the mirror; think of the cancer patient in chemo who wishes they had hair to examine.
- ? Should you find yourself at a loss and pondering what is life all about, asking what is my purpose? Be thankful. There are those who didn't live long enough to get the opportunity.
- ? Should you find yourself the victim of other people's bitterness, ignorance, smallness or insecurities; Remember, things could be worse. You could be them!!!!

### A Soldier Christmas Poem - Canadian

TWAS THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS, HE LIVED ALL ALONE,  
IN A ONE BEDROOM HOUSE MADE OF PLASTER AND STONE.

I HAD COME DOWN THE CHIMNEY WITH PRESENTS TO GIVE,  
AND TO SEE JUST WHO IN THIS HOME DID LIVE.

I LOOKED ALL ABOUT, A STRANGE SIGHT I DID SEE,  
NO TINSEL, NO PRESENTS, NOT EVEN A TREE.

NO STOCKING BY MANTLE, JUST BOOTS FILLED WITH SAND,  
ON THE WALL HUNG PICTURES OF FAR DISTANT LANDS.

WITH MEDALS AND BADGES, AWARDS OF ALL KINDS,  
A SOBER THOUGHT CAME THROUGH MY MIND.

FOR THIS HOUSE WAS DIFFERENT, IT WAS DARK AND DREARY,  
I FOUND THE HOME OF A SOLDIER, ONCE I COULD SEE CLEARLY.

THE SOLDIER LAY SLEEPING, SILENT, ALONE,  
CURLED UP ON THE FLOOR IN THIS ONE BEDROOM HOME.

THE FACE WAS SO GENTLE, HIS ROOM IN SUCH DISORDER,  
NOT HOW I PICTURED A CANADIAN SOLDIER.

WAS THIS THE HERO OF WHOM I'D JUST READ?  
CURLED UP ON A PONCHO, THE FLOOR FOR A BED?

I REALIZED THE FAMILIES THAT I SAW THIS NIGHT,  
OWED THEIR LIVES TO THESE SOLDIERS WHO WERE WILLING TO FIGHT.

SOON ROUND THE WORLD, THE CHILDREN WOULD PLAY,  
AND GROWNUPS WOULD CELEBRATE A BRIGHT CHRISTMAS DAY.

THEY ALL ENJOYED FREEDOM EACH MONTH OF THE YEAR,  
BECAUSE OF THE SOLDIERS, LIKE THE ONE LYING HERE.

I COULDN'T HELP WONDER HOW MANY LAY ALONE,  
ON A COLD CHRISTMAS EVE IN A LAND FAR FROM HOME.

THE VERY THOUGHT BROUGHT A TEAR TO MY EYE,  
I DROPPED TO MY KNEES AND STARTED TO CRY.

THE SOLDIER AWAKENED AND I HEARD A ROUGH VOICE,  
"SANTA DON'T CRY, THIS LIFE IS MY CHOICE;

I FIGHT FOR FREEDOM, I DON'T ASK FOR MORE,  
MY LIFE IS MY GOD, MY COUNTRY, MY CORPS."

THE SOLDIER ROLLED OVER AND DRIFTED TO SLEEP,  
I COULDN'T CONTROL IT, I CONTINUED TO WEEP.

I KEPT WATCH FOR HOURS, SO SILENT AND STILL  
AND WE BOTH SHIVERED FROM THE COLD NIGHT'S CHILL.

I DIDN'T WANT TO LEAVE ON THAT COLD, DARK, NIGHT,  
THIS GUARDIAN OF HONOUR SO WILLING TO FIGHT.

THEN THE SOLDIER ROLLED OVER, WITH A VOICE SOFT AND PURE,  
WHISPERED, "CARRY ON SANTA, IT'S CHRISTMAS DAY, ALL IS SECURE."

ONE LOOK AT MY WATCH, AND I KNEW HE WAS RIGHT.  
"MERRY CHRISTMAS MY FRIEND, AND TO ALL A GOOD NIGHT."

**WHENEVER LIFE GETS YOU DOWN AND THINGS SEEM HARD OR TOUGH, AND PEOPLE ARE STUPID, OBNOXIOUS OR DAFT AND YOU FEEL THAT YOU'VE HAD QUITE ENOUGH.....**

Just remember that you're standing on a planet that's evolving,  
And revolving at 900 miles an hour,  
That's orbiting at 19 miles a second, so it's reckoned,  
A sun that is the source of all our power.  
The sun and you and me, and all the stars that we can see,  
Are moving at a million miles a day,  
In an outer spiral arm, at 40,000 miles an hour,  
Of the Galaxy we call the Milky Way.  
Our Galaxy itself contains a hundred billion stars,  
It's 100,000 light years side to side,  
It bulges in the middle, 16,000 light years thick,  
But out by us it's just 3,000 light years wide.  
We're 30,000 light years from galactic central point,  
We go round every 200 million years,  
And our galaxy is only one of millions of billions  
In this amazing and expanding Universe.  
The Universe itself keeps on expanding and expanding,  
In all of the directions it can whizz,  
As fast as it can go, at the speed of light you know,  
12 million miles a minute, and that's the fastest speed there is.  
So remember when you're feeling very small and insecure,  
How amazingly unlikely is your birth,  
And pray that there's intelligent life, somewhere up in space,  
Because there's bugger all down here on Earth.

## **This Morning**

As you got up this morning, I watched you and hoped you would talk to me, even if it was just a few words, asking my opinion or thanking me for something good that happened in your life yesterday -- but I noticed you were too busy trying to find the right outfit to put on and wear to work.

I waited again. When you ran around the house getting ready I knew there would be a few minutes for you to stop and say hello, but you were too busy. At one point you had to wait fifteen minutes with nothing to do except sit in a chair. Then I saw you spring to your feet. I thought you wanted to talk to me but you ran to the phone and called a friend to get the latest gossip.

I watched as you went to work and I waited patiently all day long. With all your activities I guess you were too busy to say anything to me. I noticed that before lunch you looked around, maybe you felt embarrassed to talk to me, that is why you did not bow your head. You glanced three or four tables over and you noticed some of your friends talking to me briefly before they ate, but you did not. But that's okay.

There is still more time left, and I have hope that you will talk to me yet you went home and it seems as if you had lots of things to do. After a few of them were done you turned on the television, I don't know if you like television or not, just about anything goes there and you spent a lot of time each day in front of it, not thinking about anything -- just enjoying the show.

I waited patiently, again, as you watched the television and ate your meal but again you did not talk to me.

At bedtime I guess you felt too tired. After you said good night to your family you plopped into bed and fell asleep in no time. That's okay, because you may not realize that I am always there for you. I've got patience more than you will ever know. I even want to teach you how to be patient with others as well.

I love you so much that I wait everyday for a nod, prayer or thought or a thankful part of your heart. It is hard to have a one-sided conversation. Well, you are getting up again and once again I will wait with nothing but love for you hoping that today you will give me some time. Have a lovely day!

Your friend in Scouting,  
God, The Almighty Father

-Author unknown

## **The Wolves Within**

An old Grandfather, whose grandson came to him with anger at a schoolmate who had done him an injustice, said, "Let me tell you a story.

I too, at times, have felt a great hate for those that have taken so much, with no sorrow for what they do. But hate wears you down, and does not hurt your enemy. It is like taking poison and wishing your enemy would die. I have struggled with these feelings many times."

He continued, "It is as if there are two wolves inside me; one is good and does no harm. He lives in harmony with all around him and does not take offense when no offense was intended. He will only fight when it is right to do so, and in the right way."

"But the other wolf, ah! He is full of anger. The littlest thing will set him into a fit of temper. He fights everyone, all the time, for no reason. He cannot think because his anger and hate are so great. It is hard to live with these two wolves inside me, for both of them try to dominate my spirit."

The boy looked intently into his Grandfather's eye and asked, "Which one wins, Grandfather?"

The Grandfather solemnly said, "The one I feed."

## **The Dali Lama's Message For Life**

1. Take into account that great love and great achievements involve great risk.
2. When you lose, don't lose the lesson.
3. Follow the three Rs: Respect for self, Respect for others and Responsibility for all your actions.
4. Remember that not getting what you want is sometimes a wonderful stroke of luck.
5. Learn the rules so you know how to break them properly.
6. Don't let a little dispute injure a great friendship.
7. When you realize you've made a mistake, take immediate steps to correct it.
8. Spend some time alone every day.
9. Open your arms to change, but don't let go of your values.
10. Remember that silence is sometimes the best answer.
11. Live a good, honorable life. Then when you get older and think back, you'll be able to enjoy it a second time.
12. A loving atmosphere in your home is the foundation for your life.
13. In disagreements with loved ones, deal only with the current situation.
14. Don't bring up the past.
15. Share your knowledge. It's a way to achieve immortality.
16. Be gentle with the earth.
17. Once a year, go someplace you've never been before.
18. Remember that the best relationship is one in which your love for each other exceeds your need for each other.
19. Judge your success by what you had to give up in order to get it.
20. Approach love and cooking with reckless abandon.