

**Well, it had to happen sooner or later. So why not now? As I tell people, I'm in the fourth quarter and the clock is running. I'm going through boxes I've saved (some would say hoarded) and computer files I've kept, and came across these. I hate to throw them away, yet I hate to leave them for someone else to indiscriminately pitch.**

**I've been collecting this stuff for years. I've used it in my classroom, shared it with my executive board, worked it into speeches. Some of it has inspired me,**

**motivated me,**

**amused me,**

**made me laugh,**

**made me cringe,**

**made me think.**

**While I've put together a couple books with quotes, many of these escaped print. I thought of doing another book, but that's more work than I want, plus I already have boxes of past publications to deal with. So I thought why not do it electronically. That way you can access it on your computer, tablet, phone, watch, or easily trash them.**

**But before you hit trash, think if there is someone else in your world who might be able to use some of these: a teacher, a preacher, a speaker, a friend (just like me!). Especially someone younger. A lot of these need to be preserved and passed down.**

**And for many of you who receive this, like me, you have a lot of time on your hands to read, reflect, remember. So enjoy. I've tried to keep most of the files to fifty messages so it doesn't slow down your mind or your computer.**

**And please don't yell at me for sending these. My feelings get hurt really easy!**

# THE “OLD “ POODLE

A wealthy old lady decides to go on a photo safari in Africa, taking her faithful aged poodle along for the company.

One day the poodle starts chasing butterflies and before long, he discovers that he's lost. Wandering about, he notices a hungry-looking leopard heading rapidly in his direction.

The old poodle thinks, “Oh, oh! I'm in deep doo-doo now!” Noticing some bones on the ground close by, he immediately settles down to chew on the bones with his back to the approaching cat. Just as the leopard is about to leap, the old poodle exclaims loudly, “Boy, that was one delicious leopard! I wonder if there are any more around here?”

Hearing this, the young leopard halts his attack in mid-strike. A look of terror comes over him and he slinks away into the trees. “Whew!” says the leopard, “That was close! That old poodle nearly had me!”

Meanwhile, a monkey who had been watching the whole scene from a nearby tree figures he can put this knowledge to good use and trade it for protection from the leopard. The old poodle sees the monkey heading after the leopard, and figures that something must be up. The monkey soon catches up with the leopard, spills the beans, and strikes a deal for himself with the leopard.

The young leopard is furious at being made a fool of and says, “Here, monkey, hop on my back and see what's going to happen to that conniving canine!”

Now, the old poodle sees the leopard coming with the monkey on his back and thinks, “What am I going to do now?” But instead of running, the poodle sits down with his back to his attackers, pretending he hasn't seen them yet. Just when they get close enough to hear, the old poodle says, “Where's that darn monkey? I sent him off an hour ago to bring me another leopard!”

## **Moral of the story...**

Don't mess with old farts. Age and treachery will always overcome youth and skill. Bullshit and brilliance only come with age and experience.

# **The Optimist's Creed**

*By Christian D. Larsen*

Be so strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind.

Talk health, happiness, and prosperity to every person you meet.

Make all your friends feel there is something in them.

Look at the sunny side of everything.

Be as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own.

Forget the mistakes of the past and press on to the greater achievements of the future.

Give everyone you meet a smile.

Spend so much time improving yourself that you have no time left to criticize others.

Be too big for worry and too noble for anger.

# ***The Philosophy of Ambiguity***

FOR THOSE WHO LOVE THE PHILOSOPHY OF AMBIGUITY, AS WELL AS THE IDIOSYNCRASIES OF ENGLISH:

1. DON'T SWEAT THE PETTY THINGS AND DON'T PET THE SWEATY THINGS.
2. ATHEISM IS A NON-PROPHET ORGANIZATION.
3. IF MAN EVOLVED FROM MONKEYS AND APES, WHY DO WE STILL HAVE MONKEYS AND APES?
4. THE MAIN REASON THAT SANTA IS SO JOLLY IS BECAUSE HE KNOWS WHERE ALL THE BAD GIRLS LIVE.
5. I WENT TO A BOOKSTORE AND ASKED THE SALESWOMAN, "WHERE'S THE SELF- HELP SECTION?" SHE SAID IF SHE TOLD ME, IT WOULD DEFEAT THE PURPOSE.
6. WHAT IF THERE WERE NO HYPOTHETICAL QUESTIONS?
7. IF A DEAF CHILD SIGNS SWEAR WORDS, DOES HIS MOTHER WASH HIS HANDS WITH SOAP?
8. IF SOMEONE WITH MULTIPLE PERSONALITIES THREATENS TO KILL HIMSELF, IS IT CONSIDERED A HOSTAGE SITUATION?
9. IS THERE ANOTHER WORD FOR SYNONYM?
10. WHERE DO FOREST RANGERS GO TO "GET AWAY FROM IT ALL?"
11. WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN YOU SEE AN ENDANGERED ANIMAL EATING AN ENDANGERED PLANT?
12. IF A PARSLEY FARMER IS SUED, CAN THEY GARNISH HIS WAGES?
13. WOULD A FLY WITHOUT WINGS BE CALLED A WALK?
14. WHY DO THEY LOCK GAS STATION BATHROOMS? ARE THEY AFRAID SOMEONE WILL CLEAN THEM?
15. IF A TURTLE DOESN'T HAVE A SHELL, IS HE HOMELESS OR NAKED?
16. CAN VEGETARIANS EAT ANIMAL CRACKERS?
17. IF THE POLICE ARREST A MIME, DO THEY TELL HIM HE HAS THE RIGHT TO REMAIN SILENT?
18. WHY DO THEY PUT BRAILLE ON THE DRIVE-THROUGH BANK MACHINES?
19. HOW DO THEY GET DEER TO CROSS THE ROAD ONLY AT THOSE YELLOW ROAD SIGNS?
20. WHAT WAS THE BEST THING BEFORE SLICED BREAD?

21. ONE NICE THING ABOUT EGOTISTS: THEY DON'T TALK ABOUT OTHER PEOPLE.
22. DOES THE LITTLE MERMAID WEAR AN ALGEBRA?
23. DO INFANTS ENJOY INFANCY AS MUCH AS ADULTS ENJOY ADULTERY?
24. HOW IS IT POSSIBLE TO HAVE A CIVIL WAR?
25. IF ONE SYNCHRONIZED SWIMMER DROWNS, DO THE REST DROWN TOO?
26. IF YOU ATE BOTH PASTA AND ANTIPASTO, WOULD YOU STILL BE HUNGRY?
27. IF YOU TRY TO FAIL, AND SUCCEED, WHICH HAVE YOU DONE?
28. WHOSE CRUEL IDEA WAS IT FOR THE WORD 'LISP' TO HAVE 'S' IN IT?
29. WHY ARE HEMORRHOIDS CALLED "HEMORRHOIDS" INSTEAD OF "ASSTEROIDS"?
30. WHY IS IT CALLED TOURIST SEASON IF WE CAN'T SHOOT AT THEM?
31. WHY IS THERE AN EXPIRATION DATE ON SOUR CREAM?
32. IF YOU SPIN AN ORIENTAL PERSON IN A CIRCLE THREE TIMES, DO THEY BECOME DISORIENTED?
33. CAN AN ATHEIST GET INSURANCE AGAINST ACTS OF GOD?

## **A REMINDER NOT TO TAKE THINGS TOO SERIOUSLY**

- My husband and I divorced over religious differences. He thought he was God and I didn't.
- I don't suffer from insanity; I enjoy every minute of it.
- I work hard because millions of people on welfare depend on me.
- Some people are alive only because it's illegal to kill them.
- I used to have a handle on life but it broke.
- Don't take life too seriously. No one gets out alive.
- You're jealous because the voices just talk to me.
- Beauty is in the eye of the beer holder.
- Earth is the insane asylum for the universe.
- I'm not a complete idiot; some parts are missing.
- Out of my mind. Back in five minutes.
- NyQuil: the stuffy, sneezy, why-the-heck-is-the-room-spinning medicine.
- God must love stupid people. He made so many of them.
- The gene pool could have used a little chlorine.
- Consciousness: that annoying time between naps.
- Ever stop to think and forget to start again?
- Being "over the hill" is much better than being under it.
- Wrinkled was not one of the things I wanted to be when I grew up.
- Procrastinate now!
- I have a degree in liberal arts. Do you want fries with that?
- A hangover is the wrath of grapes.
- A journey of a thousand miles begins with a cash advance.
- Stupidity is not a handicap. Park elsewhere.

- They call it PMS because Mad Cow Disease was already taken.
- He who dies with the most toys is, nonetheless, dead.
- A picture is worth a thousand words, but it takes up three times the memory.
- Ham and eggs. A day's work for a chicken, but a lifetime commitment for the pig.
- The trouble with life is there's no background music.
- The original point and click interface was a Smith and Wesson.
- I smile because I don't know what the hell's going on.

Smile

# Quotes from Paul “Bear” Bryant

You can't treat them all equally, but you can treat them all fairly.

I don't hire anybody not brighter than I am. If they're not smarter than me, I don't need them.

Lay it on the line on every play. You never know which play is the big play. Try to win on this play.

If you're ahead, play like you're behind. And if you're behind, play like you're ahead.

What matters is not the size of the dog in the fight, but the size of the fight in the dog.

Little things make the difference. Everyone is well-prepared in the big things, but only the winners perfect the little things.

It's not the will to win, but the will to prepare to win that makes the difference.

My favorite play is the one where the player pitches the ball back to the official after scoring a touchdown.

You better know something about work, discipline, and sacrifice in life. You'll need it.

I'm not smarter than anybody else, but I may work a little harder.

Be good or be gone.

## ***What Have I Traded***

(A poem that sat on Bryant's desk that he read every day)

This is the beginning of a new day.  
God has given me this day to use as I will.  
I can waste it or I can use it for good.

What I do today is very important because  
I'm exchanging a day of my life for it.  
When tomorrow comes, this day will be gone, forever,  
Leaving something in its place I have traded for it.

I want it to be gain, not loss, good, not evil,  
Success, not failure, in order that I shall not  
Forget the price I paid for it.

There's a lot of blood, sweat, and guts between dreams and success.

Ask God to bless your work. Do not ask Him to do it for you.



A great unit, whether it be football or any organization, shares the same heartbeat.

Winning is a “we” thing, not a “me” thing.

You never know how a horse will pull until you hook him to a heavy load.

In a crisis, don't hide behind anything or anybody. They're going to find you anyway.

It's an old story. You stick your head above the crowd, and you're going to have people try to knock your block o .

When you win, there's glory enough for everybody. When you lose, there's glory for none.

If anything goes bad, I did it. If anything goes semi-good, we did it. If anything goes really good, then you did it.

There's a big difference between want to and willing to.

The first time you quit, it's hard. The second time, it gets easier. The third time, you don't even have to think about it.

Never quit. It's the easiest cop-out in the world. Set a goal, and don't quit until you attain it. When you attain it, set another goal, and don't quit until you reach it. Never quit.

When you make a mistake, admit it; learn from it and don't repeat it.

A winner in the game of life is that person who gives of himself so other people can grow.

Don't do it the easy way. Do it the right way.

When you get in the end zone, act like you've been there before.

Taken from  
**BEAR BRYANT CEO**  
by Richard Truman

# Ramblings of a Retired Mind

I was thinking about how a status symbol of today is those cell phones that everyone has clipped onto their belt or purse. I can't afford one. So, I'm wearing my garage door opener.

I also made a cover for my hearing aid and now I have what they call blue teeth, I think.

You know, I spent a fortune on deodorant before I realized that people didn't like me anyway.

I was thinking that women should put pictures of missing husbands on beer cans!

I was thinking about old age and decided that old age is 'when you still have something on the ball, but you are just too tired to bounce it.'

I thought about making a fitness movie for folks my age, and call it 'Pumping Rust'.

I've gotten that dreaded furniture disease. That's when your chest is falling into your drawers!

When people see a cat's litter box, they always say, 'Oh, have you got a cat?' Just once I want to say, 'No, it's for company!'

Employment application blanks always ask who is to be notified in case of an emergency. I think you should write, 'A Good Doctor!'

I was thinking about how people seem to read the Bible a whole lot more as they get older. Then, it dawned on me. They were cramming for their finals.

As for me, I'm just hoping God grades on the curve.

**Enjoy Your Days & Love Your Life,  
Because Life is a journey to be savored.**

# Random Thoughts for the Day:

1. I think part of a best friend's job should be to immediately clear your computer history if you die.
2. Nothing sucks more than that moment during an argument when you realize you're wrong.
3. I totally take back all those times I didn't want to nap when I was younger.
4. There really is great need for a sarcasm font.
5. How the heck are you supposed to fold a fitted sheet?
6. Why was learning cursive really necessary?
7. Map Quest really needs to start their directions on #5. I'm pretty sure I know how to get out of my neighborhood.
8. Obituaries would be a lot more interesting if they told you how the person died.
9. I can't remember the last time I wasn't at least kind of forgetful.
10. Bad decisions will make good stories.
11. You never know exactly when, but there comes a moment when you know that you just aren't going to do anything productive for the rest of the day.
12. Can we all just agree to ignore whatever comes after Blue Ray? I don't want to have to restart my collection, again.
13. I'm always slightly terrified when I exit out of Word and it asks me if I want to save any changes to document that I swear I did not make any changes to.
14. "Do not machine wash or tumble dry" means NEVER wash this — ever.
15. I hate when I just miss a call by the last ring (Hello? Hello? Darn it!), but when I immediately call back, it rings nine times and goes to voice mail. What'd you do, drop the phone and run away?
16. I hate leaving my house confident and looking good and then not seeing anyone I know the entire day. What a waste.
17. I keep some people's phone numbers in my phone just so I know not to answer when they call.
18. I heard a child asked her mother the other day "Hey, what would happen if you ran over a ninja?" How the heck do you respond to that?
19. I think the freezer deserves a light as well.
20. I disagree with Kay Jewelers. I would bet on any given Friday or Saturday night more kisses begin with Miller Lite than Kay.

# RANDOM THOUGHTS

If the only prayer you said your whole life was, "Thank You," that would suffice.

The excellence of a gift lies in its appropriateness rather than its value.

Every single thing that has ever happened in your life is preparing you for a moment that is yet to come.

There is only one success. To be able to spend your life your own way.

The past cannot be changed, edited, or erased. It can only be accepted.

You know you have grown up when none of the things you want for Christmas can be bought in stores.

When you feel like fate is writing your story, grab a pen and write your own chapter.

The price of anything is the amount of life you exchanged for it.

Surrender to what is, let go of what was, have faith in what will be.

The happiest of people don't have the best of everything, they make the best of everything they have.

Life is like a camera. Focus on what is important, capture the good times, develop from the negatives, and if things don't work out, take another shot.

Every time you spend money, you are casting a vote for the kind of world you want.

Make your dinner plate look like a Christmas tree, mostly green with splashes of other bright colors.

Pray not for things but for wisdom and courage.

Exercise your mind and body.

Be tough minded but tender hearted.

Be comfortable with who you are.

Remember that overnight success usually takes five years.

Leave everything better than you found it.

Never waste an opportunity to tell someone you love them.

Have goals you look forward to everyday.

Be thankful for difficult times, as that is when you grow.

Be thankful when you are tired and weary, because it means you have made a difference.

Be thankful for your mistakes. They will teach you valuable lessons.

Gratitude can turn a negative into a positive. Find a way to be thankful for your troubles and they can become your blessings.

# ***A Realistic Teacher Interview***

After being interviewed by the school administration, the teaching prospect said,

“Let me see if I’ve got this right: You want me to go into that room with all those kids, correct their disruptive behavior, observe them for signs of abuse, monitor their dress habits, censor their T-shirt messages, and instill in them a love for learning?”

You want me to check their backpacks for weapons, wage war on drugs and sexually transmitted diseases, and raise their sense of self esteem and personal pride?

You want me to teach them patriotism and good citizenship, sportsmanship and fair play, and how to register to vote, balance a check-book, and apply for a job?

You want me to check their heads for lice, recognize signs of antisocial behavior, and make sure that they all pass the state exams?

You want me to provide them with an equal education regardless of their handicaps, and communicate regularly with their parents by letter, telephone, newsletter, and report card?

You want me to do all this with a piece of chalk, a blackboard, a bulletin board, a few books, a big smile, and a starting salary that qualifies me for food stamps?

You want me to do all this and then you tell me

.....**I CAN’T PRAY?”**

# RED MARBLES

I was at the corner grocery store buying some early potatoes. I noticed a small boy, delicate of bone and feature, ragged but clean, hungrily appraising a basket of freshly picked green peas.

I paid for my potatoes but was also drawn to the display of fresh green peas. I am a pushover for creamed peas and new potatoes. Pondering the peas, I couldn't help overhearing the conversation between Mr. Miller (the store owner) and the ragged boy next to me.

**'Hello Barry, how are you today?'**

'H'lo , Mr. Miller. Fine, thank ya. Jus' admirin' them peas. They sure look good.'

**'They are good, Barry. How's your Ma?'**

'Fine. Gittin' stronger alla' time.'

**'Good. Anything I can help you with?'**

'No, Sir. Jus' admirin' them peas.'

**'Would you like to take some home?' asked Mr. Miller.**

'No, Sir. Got nuthin' to pay for 'em with.'

**'Well, what have you to trade me for some of those peas?'**

'All I got's my prize marble here.'

**'Is that right? Let me see it' said Miller..**

'Here 'tis. She's a dandy.'

**'I can see that. Hmmmmm, only thing is this one is blue and I sort of go for red. Do you have a red one like this at home?' the store owner asked.**

'Not zackley but almost..'

**'Tell you what. Take this sack of peas home with you and next trip this way let me look at that red marble'. Mr. Miller told the boy.**

'Sure will. Thanks Mr. Miller.'

Mrs. Miller, who had been standing nearby, came over to help me. With a smile she said, 'There are two other boys like him in our community. All three are in very poor circumstances. Jim just loves to bargain with them for peas, apples, tomatoes, or whatever .. When they come back with their red marbles, and they always do, he decides he doesn't like red after all and he sends them home with a bag of produce for a green marble or an orange one, when they come on their next trip to the store.'

I left the store smiling to myself, impressed with this man. A short time later I moved to Colorado , but I never forgot the story of this man, the boys, and their bartering for marbles.

Several years went by, each more rapid than the previous one. Just recently I had occasion to visit some old friends in that Idaho community and while I was there learned that Mr. Miller had died.

They were having his visitation that evening and knowing my friends wanted to go, I agreed to accompany them. Upon arrival at the mortuary we fell into line to meet the relatives of the deceased and to offer whatever words of comfort we could.

Ahead of us in line were three young men. One was in an army uniform and the other two wore nice haircuts, dark suits and white shirts, all very professional looking. They approached Mrs. Miller, standing composed and smiling by her husband's casket. Each of the young men hugged her, kissed her on the cheek, spoke briefly with her, and moved on to the casket.

Her misty light blue eyes followed them as, one by one, each young man stopped briefly and placed his own warm hand over the cold pale hand in the casket. Each left the mortuary awkwardly, wiping his eyes.

Our turn came to meet Mrs. Miller. I told her who I was and reminded her of the story from those many years ago and what she had told me about her husband's bartering for marbles. With her eyes glistening, she took my hand and led me to the casket.

'Those three young men who just left were the boys I told you about. They just told me how they appreciated the things Jim 'traded' them. Now, at last, when Jim could not change his mind about color or size, they came to pay their debt.'

'We've never had a great deal of the wealth of this world,' she confided, 'but right now, Jim would consider himself the richest man in Idaho.'

With loving gentleness she lifted the lifeless fingers of her deceased husband. Resting underneath were three exquisitely shined red marbles.

***The Moral: We will not be remembered by our words, but by our kind deeds. Life is not measured by the breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath.***

Today I wish you a day of ordinary miracles ~ A fresh pot of coffee you didn't make yourself...An unexpected phone call from an old friend....Green stoplights on your way to work...The fastest line at the grocery store...A good sing-along song on the radio...Your keys found right where you left them.

Share this with the people you'll never forget. I just did. If you don't share it with anyone, it means you are in way too much of a hurry to even notice the ordinary miracles when they occur.

**IT'S NOT WHAT YOU GATHER, BUT WHAT YOU SCATTER THAT TELLS WHAT KIND OF LIFE YOU HAVE LIVED.**

# MEMORIES from a friend:

My Dad is cleaning out my grandmother's house (she died in December) and he brought me an old Royal Crown Cola bottle. In the bottle top was a stopper with a bunch of holes in it. I knew immediately what it was, but my daughter had no idea. She thought they had tried to make it a salt shaker or something. I knew it as the bottle that sat on the end of the ironing board to 'sprinkle' clothes with because we didn't have steam irons. Man, I am old.

How many do you remember?

- Head lights dimmer switches on the floor
- Ignition switches on the dashboard.
- Heaters mounted on the inside of the fire wall.
- Real ice boxes.
- Pant leg clips for bicycles without chain guards.
- Soldering irons you heat on a gas burner.
- Using hand signals for cars without turn signals.

Older Than Dirt Quiz :

Count all the ones that you remember not the ones you were told about. Ratings at the bottom.

1. Blackjack chewing gum
2. Wax Coke-shaped bottles with colored sugar water
3. Candy cigarettes
4. Soda pop machines that dispensed glass bottles
5. Coffee shops or diners with table side jukeboxes
6. Home milk delivery in glass bottles with cardboard stoppers
7. Party lines on the telephone
8. Newsreels before the movie
9. P.F. Flyers
10. Butch wax
- 11.. TV test patterns that came on at night after the last show and were there until TV shows started again in the morning. (there were only 3 channels...[if you were fortunate])
12. Peashooters
13. Howdy Doody
14. 45 RPM records
15. S&H green stamps
16. Hi-fi's
17. Metal ice trays with lever
18. Mimeograph paper
19. Blue flashbulb
20. Packard's
21. Roller skate keys
22. Cork popguns
23. Drive-ins
24. Studebakers
25. Wash tub 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,  
If you remembered 16-25 = You' re older than dirt!



# Remember Slow Food?

'Someone asked the other day, 'What was your favorite fast food when you were growing up?'

'We didn't have fast food when I was growing up, I informed him. 'All the food was slow.'

'C'mon, seriously. Where did you eat?'

'It was a place called 'at Home,' I explained. !

'Mom cooked every day and when Dad got home from work, we sat down together at the dining room table, and if I didn't like what she put on my plate I was allowed to sit there until I did like it.'

By this time, the kid was laughing so hard I was afraid he was going to suffer serious internal damage, so I didn't tell him the part about how I had to have permission to leave the table.

But here are some other things I would have told him about my childhood if I figured his system could have handled it :

Some parents NEVER owned their own house, never wore Levi's, never set foot on a golf course, never traveled out of the country or had a credit card.

In their later years they had something called a revolving charge card. The card was good only at Sears Roebuck. Or maybe it was Sears & Roebuck. Either way, there is no Roebuck anymore. Maybe he died

My parents never drove me to soccer practice. This was mostly because we never had heard of soccer.

I had a bicycle that weighed probably 50 pounds, and only had one speed, (slow)

We didn't have a television in our house until I was 11.

It was, of course, black and white, and the station went off the air at midnight, after playing the national anthem and a poem about God; it came back on the air at about 6 a.m. And there was usually a locally produced news and farm show on, featuring local people.

I was 19 before I tasted my first pizza, it was called 'pizza pie.' When I bit into it, I burned the roof of my mouth and the cheese slid off, swung down, plastered itself against my chin and burned that, too. It's still the best pizza I ever had.

I never had a telephone in my room. The only phone in the house was in the living room and it was on a party line. Before you could dial, you had to listen and make sure some people you didn't know weren't already using the line.

Pizzas were not delivered to our home. But milk was.

All newspapers were delivered by boys and all boys delivered newspapers--my brother delivered a newspaper, six days a week. It cost 7 cents a paper, of which he got to keep 2 cents. He had to get up at 6 AM every morning.

On Saturday, he had to collect the 42 cents from his customers. His favorite customers were the ones who gave him 50 cents and told him to keep the change. His least favorite customers were the ones who seemed to never be home on collection day.

Movie stars kissed with their mouths shut. At least, they did in the movies. There were no movie ratings because all movies were responsibly produced for everyone to enjoy viewing, without profanity or violence or most anything offensive.

If you grew up in a generation before there was fast food, you may want to share some of these memories with your children or grandchildren

Just don't blame me if they bust a gut laughing.

Growing up isn't what it used to be, is it?

# REMEMBER:

Somebody is very proud of you;  
Somebody is thinking of you;  
Somebody is caring about you;  
Somebody misses you;  
Somebody wants to talk to you;  
Somebody wants to be with you;  
Somebody hopes you are not in trouble;  
Somebody is thankful for the support you have provided;  
Somebody wants to hold your hand;  
Somebody hopes everything turns out all right;  
Somebody wants you to be happy;  
Somebody wants you to find him/her;  
Somebody wants to give you a gift;  
Somebody wants to hug you;  
Somebody thinks you ARE a gift;  
Somebody admires your strength;  
Somebody wants to protect you;  
Somebody can't wait to see you;  
Somebody loves you for who you are;  
Somebody treasures your spirit;  
Somebody is glad that you are their friend;  
Somebody wants to get to know you better;  
Somebody wants to be near you;  
Somebody wants you to know that you are there for them;  
Somebody would do anything for you;  
Somebody wants to share their dreams with you;  
Somebody is alive because of you;  
Somebody needs your support;  
Somebody will cry when they read this;  
Somebody needs you to have faith in them;  
Somebody trusts you;  
Somebody needs a song that reminds them of you;  
Somebody needs you to send this to them.

***“Many people will walk in and out of your life, but only true friends will leave footprints in your heart.”***

# Remembering You

*By Catherine Pulsifer*

If something were to happen to you tomorrow, what would people remember about you?

Would they remember the hours you worked?

Would they remember the material things you own?

Would they remember how much money you had in the bank?

Would they remember the number of vacations you took?

Would they remember the love you showed?

Would they remember your caring and your sharing?

Would they remember the help you gave them?

Would they remember your smile, your laugh?

What will they remember?

Your actions today will determine what they will remember.

# REST IN PEACE

Today we mourn the passing of a beloved old friend, Common Sense, who has been with us for many years. No one knows for sure how old he was, since his birth records were long ago lost in bureaucratic red tape. He will be remembered as having cultivated such valuable lessons as:

- Knowing when to come in out of the rain;
- Why the early bird gets the worm;
- Life isn't always fair;
- and maybe it was my fault.

Common Sense lived by simple, sound financial policies (don't spend more than you can earn) and reliable strategies (adults, not children, are in charge).

His health began to deteriorate rapidly when well-intentioned but overbearing regulations were set in place. Reports of a 6-year-old boy charged with sexual harassment for kissing a classmate; teens suspended from school for using mouthwash after lunch; and a teacher fired for reprimanding an unruly student, only worsened his condition.

Common Sense lost ground when parents attacked teachers for doing the job that they themselves had failed to do in disciplining their unruly children.

It declined even further when schools were required to get parental consent to administer sun lotion or an aspirin to a student, but could not inform parents when a student became pregnant and wanted to have an abortion.

Common Sense lost the will to live as the churches became businesses and criminals received better treatment than their victims.

Common Sense took a beating when you couldn't defend yourself from a burglar in your own home and the burglar could sue you for assault.

Common Sense finally gave up the will to live, after a woman failed to realize that a steaming cup of coffee was hot. She spilled a little in her lap, and was promptly awarded a huge settlement.

Common Sense was preceded in death, by his parents, Truth and Trust, by his wife, Discretion, by his daughter, Responsibility, and by his son, Reason.

He is survived by his 4 stepbrothers;

I Know My Rights

I Want It Now

Someone Else Is To Blame

I'm A Victim

Not many attended his funeral because so few realized he was gone. If you still remember him, pass this on. If not, join the majority and do nothing.

# Retired Person's Perspective

1. I'm not saying let's go kill all the stupid people. I'm just saying let's remove all the warning labels and let the problem work itself out.
2. I changed my car horn to gunshot sounds. People move out of the way much faster now.
3. You can tell a lot about a woman's mood just by her hands. If they are holding a gun, she's probably pissed.
4. Gone are the days when girls cooked like their mothers. Now they drink like their fathers.
5. You know that tingly little feeling you get when you really like someone you've just met? That's common sense leaving your body.
6. I don't like making plans for the day. Because then the word "premeditated" gets thrown around in the courtroom.
7. I didn't make it to the gym today. That makes 1,500 days in a row.
8. I decided to change calling the bathroom the John and renamed it the Jim. I feel so much better saying I went to the Jim this morning.
9. Dear paranoid people who check behind shower curtains for murderers. If you find one, what's your plan?
10. Everyone has a right to be stupid. Politicians just abuse the privilege.

# RETIREMENT

**My first job was working in an orange juice factory, but I got canned. Couldn't concentrate.**

**Then I worked in the woods as a lumberjack, but I just couldn't hack it, so they gave me the ax.**

**After that I tried to be a tailor, but I just wasn't suited for it. Mainly because it was a so-so job.**

**Next I tried working in a muffler factory, but that was too exhausting.**

**I wanted to be a barber, but I just couldn't cut it.**

**Then I tried to be a chef. Figured it would add a little spice to my life but I just didn't have the thyme.**

**I attempted to be a deli worker, but anyway I sliced it, I couldn't cut the mustard.**

**My best job was being a musician, but eventually I found I wasn't noteworthy.**

**I studied a long time to become a doctor but I didn't have the patients.**

**Next was a job in a shoe factory; I tried, but I just didn't fit in.**

**I became a professional fisherman, but soon discovered I couldn't live on my net income.**

**I managed to get a good job working for a pool maintenance company, but the work was just too draining.**

**Next, I found being an electrician interesting, but the work was shocking and I got discharged.**

**After many years of trying to find steady work, I finally got a job as a historian until I realized there was no future in it.**

***SO I RETIRED, AND FOUND I AM A PERFECT FIT FOR THIS JOB!!!***

# ***RICHARD CORY***

**by Edwin Arlington Robinson**

Whenever Richard Cory went downtown,  
We people on the pavement looked at him:  
He was a gentleman from sole to crown,  
Clean favored, and imperially slim.

And he was always quietly arrayed,  
And he was always human when he talked;  
But still he fluttered pulses when he said,  
"Good morning," and he glittered when he walked.

And he was rich - yes, richer than a king -  
And admirably schooled in every grace;  
In fine we thought that he was everything  
To make us wish that we were in his place.

So on we worked, and waited for the light,  
And went without the meat, and cursed the bread;  
And Richard Cory, one calm summer night,  
Went home and put a bullet through his head.

# **BULLETIN**

**The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has determined that the maximum safe load capacity on my butt is two persons at one time, unless I install handrails and safety straps. As you have arrived sixth in line to ride my ass today, please take a number and wait your turn.**

**Thank You.**



# **ROBBINS' RULES**

**ONE.** Give people more than they expect and do it cheerfully.

**TWO.** Marry a man/woman you love to talk to. As you get older, their conversational skills will be as important as any other.

**THREE.** Don't believe all you hear, spend all you have or sleep all you want.

**FOUR.** When you say, "I love you," mean it.

**FIVE.** When you say, "I'm sorry," look the person in the eye.

**SIX.** Be engaged at least six months before you get married.

**SEVEN.** Believe in love at first sight.

**EIGHT.** Never laugh at anyone's dream. People who don't have dreams don't have much.

**NINE.** Love deeply and passionately. You might get hurt but it's the only way to live life completely.

**TEN.** In disagreements, fight fairly. No name calling.

**ELEVEN.** Don't judge people by their relatives.

**TWELVE.** Talk slowly but think quickly.

**THIRTEEN.** When someone asks you a question you don't want to answer, smile and ask, "Why do you want to know?"

**FOURTEEN.** Remember that great love and great achievements involve great risk.

**FIFTEEN.** Say "bless you" when you hear someone sneeze.

**SIXTEEN.** When you lose, don't lose the lesson .

**SEVENTEEN.** Remember the three R's: Respect for self; Respect for others; and responsibility for all your actions.

**EIGHTEEN.** Don't let a little dispute injure a great friendship.

**NINETEEN.** When you realize you've made a mistake, take immediate steps to correct it.

**TWENTY.** Smile when picking up the phone. The caller will hear it in your voice.

**TWENTY-ONE.** Spend some time alone.

# A STATE OF MIND

If you think you are beaten, you are;  
If you think that you dare not, you don't;  
If you'd like to win, but you think you can't,  
It's almost certain you won't.

If you think you'll lose, you've lost;  
For out in the world you'll find  
Success begins with a fellow's will.  
It's all in the state of mind.

If you think you are outclassed, you are;  
You've got to think high to rise;  
You've got to be sure of yourself before  
you can ever win a prize.

Life's battles don't always go  
to the stronger or faster man;  
but sooner or later the man who wins  
is the fellow who thinks he can.

# **A THOUSAND MARBLES**

The older I get, the more I enjoy Saturday mornings. Perhaps it's the quiet solitude that comes with being the first to rise, or maybe it's the unbounded joy of not having to be at work. Either way, the first few hours of a Saturday morning are most enjoyable.

A few weeks ago, I was shuffling toward the garage with a steaming cup of coffee in one hand and the morning paper in the other. What began as a typical Saturday morning turned into one of those lessons that life seems to hand you from time to time. Let me tell you about it:

I turned the dial up into the phone portion of the band on my ham radio in order to listen to a Saturday morning swap net. Along the way, I came across an older sounding chap, with a tremendous signal and a golden voice. You know the kind; he sounded like he should be in the broadcasting business. He was telling whoever he was talking with something about "a thousand marbles." I was intrigued and stopped to listen to what he had to say.

"Well, Tom, it sure sounds like you're busy with your job. I'm sure they pay you well but it's a shame you have to be away from home and your family so much. Hard to believe a young fellow should have to work sixty or seventy hours a week to make ends meet. It's too bad you missed your daughter's "dance recital" he continued. "Let me tell you something that has helped me keep my own priorities." And that's when he began to explain his theory of a "thousand marbles."

"You see, I sat down one day and did a little arithmetic. The average person lives about seventy-five years. I know, some live more and some live less, but on average, folks live about seventy-five years.

"Now then, I multiplied 75 times 52 and I came up with 3900, which is the number of Saturdays that the average person has in their entire lifetime. Now, stick with me, Tom, I'm getting to the important part.

It took me until I was fifty-five years old to think about all this in any detail," he went on, "and by that time I had lived through over twenty-eight hundred Saturdays. I got to thinking that if I lived to be seventy-five, I only had about a thousand of them left to enjoy. So I went to a toy store and bought every single marble they had. I ended up having to visit three toy stores to round up 1000 marbles. I took them home and put them inside a large, clear plastic container right here in the shack next to my gear."

"Every Saturday since then, I have taken one marble out and thrown it away. I found that by watching the marbles diminish, I focused more on the really important things in life. There is nothing like watching your time here on this earth run out to help get your priorities straight."

"Now let me tell you one last thing before I sign-off with you and take my lovely wife out for breakfast. This morning, I took the very last marble out of the container. I figure! that if I make it until next Saturday then I have been given a little extra time. And the one thing we can all use is a little more time."

"It was nice to meet you Tom. I hope you spend more time with your family, and I hope to meet you again here on the band. This is a 75-year old man, K9NZQ, clear and going QRT, good morning!"

You could have heard a pin drop on the band when this fellow signed off. I guess he gave us all a lot to think about. I had planned to work on the antenna that morning, and then I was going to meet up with a few hams to work on the next club newsletter.

Instead, I went upstairs and woke my wife up with a kiss. "C'mon honey, I'm taking you and the kids to breakfast." "What brought this on?" she asked with a smile. "Oh, nothing special, it's just been a long time since we spent a Saturday together with the kids. And hey, can we stop at a toy store while we're out? I need to buy some marbles.

And so, as one smart bear once said...

"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.

"Be kinder than necessary, for everyone you meet is fighting some kind of battle."

# A TWENTY DOLLAR BILL

A well-known speaker started off his seminar by holding up a \$20.00 bill. In the room of 200, he asked, "Who would like this \$20 bill?"

Hands started going up.

He said, "I am going to give this \$20 to one of you but first, let me do this." He proceeded to crumple up the \$20 dollar bill. He then asked, "Who still wants it?"

Still the hands were up in the air.

Well, he replied, "What if I do this?" And he dropped it on the ground and started to grind it into the floor with his shoe. He picked it up, now crumpled and dirty. "Now, who still wants it?"

Still the hands went into the air.

My friends, we have all learned a very valuable lesson. No matter what I did to the money, you still wanted it because it did not decrease in value. It was still worth \$20.

Many times in our lives, we are dropped, crumpled, and ground into the dirt by the decisions we make and the circumstances that come our way. We feel as though we are worthless. But no matter what has happened or what will happen, you will never lose your value.

Dirty or clean, crumpled or finely creased, you are still priceless to those who LOVE you. **The worth of our lives comes not in what we do or who we know, but by WHO WE ARE and WHOSE WE ARE.** You are special - Don't EVER forget it."

**Count your blessings, not your problems.** "And remember: amateurs built the ark .. professionals built the Titanic.

## **Sayings you'd like to see on those office inspirational posters...**

If you do a good job and work hard, you may get a job with a better company someday.

The light at the end of the tunnel has been turned off due to budget cuts.

Sure, you may not like working here, but we pay your rent.

If you think we're a bad firm, you should see our rivals!

Rome did not create a great empire by having meetings; they did it by killing all those who opposed them.

A person who smiles in the face of adversity probably has a scapegoat.

Abandon all hope, ye who enter here!

We make great money! We have great benefits! We do no work! We are union members!

Two days without a Human Rights Violation!

If at first you don't succeed, try management.

It's only unethical if you get caught.

Never put off until tomorrow what you can avoid altogether.

Never quit until you have another job.

Work harder slaves!

The beatings will continue until morale improves.

If you can read this, you're not working!

Hang in there; retirement is only thirty years away!

Go the extra mile, it makes your boss look like an incompetent slacker.

Pride, commitment, teamwork - words we use to get you to work for free.

Succeed in spite of management.

Work - it isn't just for sleeping anymore.

There are two kinds of people in life: people who like their jobs, and people who don't work here anymore.

# SCHOOL ANSWERING MACHINE

This is the message that Pacific Palisades High School (CA) voted unanimously to record on their school telephone answering machine. This came about because they implemented a policy requiring students and parents to be responsible for their children's absences and missing homework. The school and teachers are being sued by parents who want their children's failing grades changed to passing grades, even though those children were absent 15-30 times during the semester and did not complete enough school work to pass their classes.

This is the actual answering machine message for the school.

"Hello. You have reached the automated answering service for Pacific Palisades High School. In order to assist in connecting you to the right staff member, please listen to all your options before making a selection:

To lie why your child is absent, press one.

To make excuses why your child did not do his work, press two.

To complain about what we do, press three.

To swear at staff members, press four.

To ask why you didn't get information that was already enclosed in your newsletter and mailed several times to you, press five.

If you want us to raise your child, press six.

If you want us to reach out and touch, slap, or hit someone, press seven.

To request another teacher for the third time this year, press eight.

To complain about bus transportation, press nine.

To complain about school lunches, press zero.

If you realize that this is the real world and your child must be accountable for his/her behavior, class work, and home work, and that it's not the teacher's fault for your child's lack of effort. . .hang up and have a nice day."

# **SCHOOL 1957 vs. 2007**

**SCENARIO: Jack goes quail hunting before school, pulls into school parking lot with shotgun in gun rack.**

**1957** - Vice-Principal comes over, looks at Jack's shotgun, goes to his car and gets his shotgun to show Jack.

**2007** - School goes into lock down, FBI called, Jack hauled off to jail and never sees his truck or gun again. Counselors called in for traumatized students and teachers.

**SCENARIO: Johnny and Mark get into a fistfight after school.**

**1957** - Crowd gathers. Mark wins. Johnny and Mark shake hands and end up buddies.

**2007** - Police called, SWAT team arrives, arrests Johnny and Mark. Charge them with assault, both expelled even though Johnny started it.

**SCENARIO: Jeffrey won't be still in class, disrupts other students.**

**1957** - Jeffrey sent to office and given a good paddling by the Principal. Returns to class, sits still and does not disrupt class again.

**2007** - Jeffrey given huge doses of Ritalin. Becomes a zombie. Tested for ADD. School gets extra money from state because Jeffrey has a disability.

**SCENARIO: Billy breaks a window in his neighbor's car and his Dad gives him a whipping with his belt.**

**1957** - Billy is more careful next time, grows up normal, goes to college, and becomes a successful businessman.

**2007** - Billy's dad is arrested for child abuse. Billy removed to foster care and joins a gang. State psychologist tells Billy's sister that she remembers being abused herself and their dad goes to prison. Billy's mom has affair with psychologist.

**SCENARIO: Mark gets a headache and takes some aspirin to school .**

**1957** - Mark shares aspirin with Principal out on the smoking dock.

**2007** - Police called, Mark expelled from school for drug violations. Car searched for drugs and weapons.

**SCENARIO: Pedro fails high school English.**

**1957** - Pedro goes to summer school, passes English, goes to college.

**2007** - Pedro's cause is taken up by state. Newspaper articles appear nationally explaining that teaching English as a requirement for graduation is racist. ACLU files class action lawsuit against state school system and Pedro's English teacher. English banned from core curriculum. Pedro given diploma anyway but ends up mowing lawns for a living because he cannot speak English.

**SCENARIO: Johnny takes apart leftover firecrackers from 4th of July, puts them in a model airplane paint bottle, blows up a red ant bed.**

**1957** - Ants die.

**2007** - BATF, Homeland Security, FBI called. Johnny charged with domestic terrorism, FBI investigates parents, siblings removed from home, computers confiscated, Johnny's Dad goes on a terror watch list and is never allowed to fly again.

**SCENARIO: Johnny falls while running during recess and scrapes his knee. He is found crying by his teacher, Mary. Mary hugs him to comfort him.**

**1957** - In a short time, Johnny feels better and goes on playing.

**2007** - Mary is accused of being a sexual predator and loses her job. She faces 3 years in State Prison. Johnny undergoes 5 years of therapy.

***Some would call this progress!***



# The Senility Prayer

God, grant me the senility to forget the people I never liked anyway;  
the good fortune to run into the ones I do;  
and the eyesight to tell the difference.

Now that I'm older (but refuse to grow up), here's what I've discovered:

**ONE:** I started out with nothing, and I still have most of it.

**TWO:** My wild oats have turned into prunes and all-bran.

**THREE:** I finally got my head together; now my body is falling apart.

**FOUR:** Funny, I don't remember being absent-minded.

**FOUR:** Funny, I don't remember being absent-minded.

**FIVE:** All reports are in; life is now officially unfair.

**SIX:** If all is not lost, where is it?

**SEVEN:** It is easier to get older than it is to get wiser.

**EIGHT:** Somedays you're the dog; someday you're the hydrant.

**NINE:** I wish the buck stopped here; I sure could use a few.

**TEN:** Kids in the back seats cause accidents.

**ELEVEN:** Accidents in the back seats cause kids.

**TWELVE:** It's hard to make a comeback when you haven't been anywhere.

**THIRTEEN:** The only time the world beats a path to your door is when you're in the bathroom.

**FOURTEEN:** If God wanted me to touch my toes, He would have put them on my knees.

**FIFTEEN:** When I'm finally holding all the cards, why does everybody decide to play chess?

**SIXTEEN:** It's not hard to meet expenses. They're everywhere.

**SEVENTEEN:** The only difference between a rut and the grave is a matter of dimension.

**EIGHTEEN:** These days, I spend a lot of time thinking about the hereafter. I go somewhere to get something, and then I wonder what I'm here after.

YES, I'M A SENIOR CITIZEN!

I'm the life of the party, even if it lasts until 8 p.m.

I'm very good at opening childproof caps.... with a hammer.

I'm awake many hours before my body allows me to get up.

I'm smiling all the time because I can't hear a thing you're saying.

I'm sure everything I can't find is in a safe secure place, somewhere.

I'm wrinkled, saggy, lumpy, and that's just my left leg.

I'm beginning to realize that aging is not for wimps.

Yes, I'm a SENIOR CITIZEN and I think I am having the time of my life!

Now if I could only remember who sent this to me, I wouldn't send it back to them, but I would send it to many more too!

Spread the laughter  
Share the cheer  
Let's be happy  
While we're here.

Go Green -  
Recycle CONGRESS!!!

{Made in larger print so you can read it}

# SENIOR CITIZENS

## [Yes, I'm talking to you!]

Senior citizens are constantly being criticized for every conceivable deficiency of the modern world, real or imaginary. We know we take responsibility for all we have done and do not blame others.

HOWEVER, upon reflection, we would like to point out that it was **NOT** the senior citizens who took:

The melody out of music,  
The pride out of appearance,  
The courtesy out of driving,  
The romance out of love,  
The commitment out of marriage,  
The responsibility out of parenthood,  
The togetherness out of the family,  
The learning out of education,  
The service out of patriotism,  
The Golden Rule from rulers,  
The nativity scene out of cities,  
The civility out of behavior,  
The refinement out of language,  
The dedication out of employment,  
The prudence out of spending,  
The ambition out of achievement, or  
God out of government and school.

And we certainly are **NOT** the ones who eliminated patience and tolerance from personal relationships and interactions with others!

And, we do understand the meaning of patriotism, and remember those who have fought and died for our country. Just look at the Seniors with tears in their eyes and pride in their hearts as they stand at attention with their hand over their hearts!

## *Serenity Prayer*

*God grant me the serenity to accept  
the things I cannot change,*

*The courage to change the things  
I can,*

*And the wisdom to know  
the difference.*

# SEVEN CARDINAL RULES FOR LIFE

1. Make peace with your past so it doesn't spoil your present. Your past does not define your future. Your actions and beliefs do.
2. What others think of you is none of your business. It's how much you value yourself and how important you think you are that matters.
3. Time heals almost anything. Pain will be less hurting. Scars make us who we are. They explain our life and why we are the way we are. Our scars challenge us and force us to be stronger.
4. No one is the reason for your happiness, except yourself. Waste no time and effort searching for peace and contentment in the world outside.
5. Don't compare your life with others. You have no idea what their journey is all about. If we threw all of our problems in a pile and saw everyone else's, we would grab ours back as fast as we could.
6. Stop thinking too much. It is alright not to know all the answers. Sometimes there is **no** answer.
7. Smile. You don't own all the problems in the world. A smile can brighten the darkest day. It is the potential cure to turn a life around.

# “7%”

Written by Regina Brett, 90 years old, of the Plain Dealer, Cleveland, Ohio. “To celebrate growing older, I once wrote the 45 lessons life taught me. It is the most requested column I’ve ever written. My odometer rolled over to 90 in August, so here is the column once more.

1. Life isn’t fair, but it’s still good.
2. When in doubt, just take the next small step.
3. Life is too short - enjoy it.
4. Your job won’t take care of you when you are sick. Your friends and family will.
5. Pay off your credit cards every month.
6. You don’t have to win every argument. Stay true to yourself.
7. Cry with someone. It’s more healing than crying alone.
8. It’s OK to get angry with God. He can take it.
9. Save for retirement starting with your first paycheck.
10. When it comes to chocolate, resistance is futile.
11. Make peace with your past so it won’t screw up the present.
12. It’s OK to let your children see you cry.
13. Don’t compare your life to others. You have no idea what their journey is all about.
14. If a relationship has to be a secret, you shouldn’t be in it.
15. Everything can change in the blink of an eye, but don’t worry, God never blinks.
16. Take a deep breath. It calms the mind.
17. Get rid of anything that isn’t useful. Clutter weighs you down in many ways.
18. Whatever doesn’t kill you really does make you stronger.
19. It’s never too late to be happy. But it’s all up to you and no one else.
20. When it comes to going after what you love in life, don’t take no for an answer.
21. Burn the candles, use the nice sheets, wear the fancy lingerie. Don’t save it for a special occasion. Today is special.
22. Over prepare, then go with the flow.
23. Be eccentric now. Don’t wait for old age to wear purple.
24. The most important sex organ is the brain.
25. No one is in charge of your happiness but you.
26. Frame every so-called disaster with these words, ‘In five years, will this matter?’
27. Always choose life.
28. Forgive
29. What other people think of you is none of your business.
30. Time heals almost everything. Give time time.
31. However good or bad a situation is, it will change.
32. Don’t take yourself so seriously. No one else does.
33. Believe in miracles.
34. God loves you because of who God is, not because of anything you did or didn’t do.
35. Don’t audit life. Show up and make the most of it now.
36. Growing old beats the alternative of dying young.
37. Your children get only one childhood.
38. All that truly matters in the end is that you loved.
39. Get outside every day. Miracles are waiting everywhere.
40. If we all threw our problems in a pile and saw everyone else’s, we’d grab ours back.

41. Envy is a waste of time. Accept what you already have, not what you need
42. The best is yet to come.
43. No matter how you feel, get up, dress up, and show up.
44. Yield.
45. Life isn't tied with a bow, but it's still a gift.

# **SEVEN SECRETS OF SUCCESS**

***There is no secret of success.***

***Success is for everyone.***

***Your life becomes better only when  
you become better.***

***There is no success without sacrifice.***

***Success is achieved in inches,  
not miles.***

***The greatest enemy of tomorrow's  
success is today's success.***

***No advice on success works  
unless you do.***



## HAVEN'T WE ALL THOUGHT THIS AT ONE TIME?

A old man was sitting on a bench at the mall. A teenager walked up to the bench and sat down. He had spiked hair in all different colors: green, red, orange, blue, and yellow. The old man just stared. Every time the teenager looked, the old man was staring. The teenager finally said sarcastically,

“What’s the matter, old timer? Never done anything wild in your life?”

Without batting an eye, the old man replied:

“Got drunk once and had sex with a peacock. I was just wondering if you were my son.”

What do fish say when they hit a concrete wall?

Dam!

How do crazy people go through a forest?

They take the psycho path.

What do you call cheese that isn't yours?

Nacho cheese.

What do you call a boomerang that doesn't work?

A stick.

What do you call Santa's helpers?

Subordinate Clauses.

What's the difference between a Harley and a Hoover?

The location of the dirt bag.

What's the difference between a bad golfer and a bad sky diver?

A bad golfer goes “Whack! Dang!”

A bad sky diver goes “Dang! Whack!”

How are a Texas tornado and a Tennessee divorce the same?

Somebody's gonna lose a trailer.

What kind of coffee was served on the Titanic?

Sanka

How long a minute is depends on which side of the bathroom door you're on.

Birthdays are good for you. The more you have, the longer you live.

If Wal-Mart is lowering prices every day, how's come nothing is free yet?

Ever notice that the people who are late are often much jollier than the people who had to wait on them?

You may be only one person in the world, but you may be the world to one person.

# SHORT, HARD, EXPENSIVE LESSONS

from Larry Winget

Do what you know is the right thing to do. And don't kid yourself; you always know the right thing to do. The right thing is rarely the easy thing to do.

People will usually lie to protect themselves.

Individuals overpromise and underdeliver. It is a fact of life. Knowing that will save you time, money, and disappointment.

Everything takes longer than you originally thought it would.

When someone says "I'm a people person," that means he will spend more time socializing than working.

When someone says "I don't really like working with others," hire them, give them an office with a door and a lot of work to do and then watch it get done.

Prove you are smarter than everyone by hiring people who are smarter than you.

People are selfish. Understand it, and manage it as best you can.

**Never tolerate mediocrity.**

Don't expect others to make you rich by keeping them broke.

The more successful you become, the fewer friends you will have.

Take your job seriously, not yourself.

Everyone wants you to be successful, just not more successful than they are.

When someone says they will try, bet your money it won't happen.

Stress comes from knowing what is right and doing what is wrong.

Implement now, perfect later.

There is no such thing as giving 110%. A hundred percent is all there is. You can't give more than all there is. That's why it's called all there is.

People motivate themselves.

Be on time. There is never an excuse for being late.

Look at the numbers, look at the facts, then trust your gut.

Disrespect is the number one grounds for dismissal.

Knowledge is not power; the implementation of knowledge is power.

Few people will take responsibility for their results until they have exhausted all opportunities to blame someone else.

It is impossible to grow without risk.

Don't worry too much about making the right decision. Just make the decision, and then make the decision right.

Inspect what you expect. Stuff doesn't just happen. You have to make sure it happens.

Change is inevitable; growth is optional.

When you screw up, admit it, ask forgiveness, and get back to work.

What you resist persists.

You can't get a good deal from a bad guy.

Question everything.

Sometimes the best thing you can do is walk away.

Not all problems can be fixed.

Trust, once destroyed, can never be fully regained.

If it starts to become complicated, then stop, regroup, and start over. Success is always simple.

The activity that you reward will get done.

People treat you the way you teach them to treat you.

Praise in public and critique in private.

Don't expect respect if you don't show respect.

Everything has a price, including success and failure. Choose either one and be expected to pay the price.

Do the right thing. No matter what. Even when it's the unpopular thing. Even when it's the most expensive thing. Even when it's embarrassing. And if you have to ask if it's the right thing, it isn't. You never have to ask if it's the right thing. You always know. So do it.

# Should I Really Join Facebook?

A good laugh for people in the "Should I really join Facebook?" over 50 group !!! (Under 50, read it anyway!) Also for those who know people like us.

When I bought my Blackberry I thought about the 30-year business I ran with 1800 employees, all without a cell phone that plays music, takes videos, pictures and communicates with Facebook and Twitter. I signed up under duress for Twitter and Facebook, so my seven kids, their spouses, 13 grandkids and 2 great grandkids could communicate with me in the modern way. I figured I could handle something as simple as Twitter with only 140 characters of space.

That was before one of my grandkids hooked me up for Tweeter, Tweetree, Twhirl, Twitterfon, Tweetie and Twittererific Tweetdeck, Twitpix and something that sends every message to my cell phone and every other program within the texting world.

My phone was beeping every three minutes with the details of everything except the bowel movements of the entire next generation. I am not ready to live like this. I keep my cell phone in the garage in my golf bag.

The kids bought me a GPS for my last birthday because they say I get lost every now and then going over to the grocery store or library. I keep that in a box under my tool bench with the Blue tooth [it's red] phone I am supposed to use when I drive. I wore it once and was standing in line at Barnes and Noble talking to my wife and everyone in the nearest 50 yards was glaring at me. I had to take my hearing aid out to use it, and I got a little loud.

I mean the GPS looked pretty smart on my dash board, but the lady inside that gadget was the most annoying, rudest person I had run into in a long time. Every 10 minutes, she would sarcastically say, "Re-calc-u-lating." You would think that she could be nicer. It was like she could barely tolerate me. She would let go with a deep sigh and then tell me to make a U-turn at the next light. Then if I made a right turn instead. Well, it was not a good relationship.

When I get really lost now, I call my wife and tell her the name of the cross streets and while she is starting to develop the same tone as Gypsy, the GPS lady, at least she loves me.

To be perfectly frank, I am still trying to learn how to use the cordless phones in our house. We have had them for 4 years, but I still haven't figured out how I can lose three phones all at once and have run around digging under chair cushions and checking bathrooms and the dirty laundry baskets when the phone rings.

The world is just getting too complex for me. They even mess me up every time I go to the grocery store. You would think they could settle on something themselves but this sudden "Paper or Plastic?" every time I check out just knocks me for a loop. I bought some of those cloth reusable bags to avoid looking confused, but I never remember to take them in with me.

Now I toss it back to them. When they ask me, "Paper or Plastic?" I just say, "Doesn't matter to me. I am bi-sacksual." Then it's their turn to stare at me with a blank look. I was recently asked if I tweet. I answered, No, but I do toot a lot."

# SIXTEEN THINGS IT TOOK ME OVER 50 YEARS TO LEARN

by Dave Barry

1. Never, under any circumstances, take a sleeping pill and a laxative on the same night.
2. If you had to identify, in one word, the reason why the human race has not achieved, and never will achieve, its full potential, that word would be "meetings."
3. There is a very fine line between "hobby" and "mental illness."
4. People who want to share their religious views with you almost never want you to share yours with them.
5. You should not confuse your career with your life.
6. Nobody cares if you can't dance well. Just get up and dance.
7. Never lick a steak knife.
8. The most destructive force in the universe is gossip.
9. You will never find anybody who can give you a clear and compelling reason why we observe daylight savings time.
10. You should never say anything to a woman that even remotely suggests that you think she's pregnant unless you can see an actual baby emerging from her at that moment.
11. There comes a time when you should stop expecting other people to make a big deal about your birthday. That time is age eleven.
12. The one thing that unites all human beings, regardless of age, gender, religion, economic status, or ethnic background, is that, deep down inside, we ALL believe that we are above average drivers.
13. A person who is nice to you but rude to a waiter is not a nice person. **(This is very important. Pay attention. It never fails.)**
14. Your friends love you anyway.
15. Never be afraid to try something new. Remember that a lone amateur built the ark. A large group of professionals built the Titanic.

And finally: Men are like fine wine. They start out as grapes. Then it's up to women to stomp the crap out of them until they turn into something acceptable to have dinner with.

# SLOW DANCE

Have you ever watched kids on a merry-go-round?  
Or listened to the rain slapping on the ground?  
Ever followed a butterfly's erratic flight?  
Or gazed at the sun into the fading night?

You better slow down.  
Don't dance so fast.  
Time is short.  
The music won't last.

Do you run through each day on the fly?  
When you ask How are you? do you hear the reply?  
When the day is done do you lie in your bed  
With the next hundred chores running through your head?

You better slow down.  
Don't dance so fast.  
Time is short.  
The music won't last.

Ever told your child, we'll do it tomorrow?  
And in your haste, not see his sorrow?  
Ever lost touch, let a good friendship die  
Cause you never had time to call and say, 'Hi'

You better slow down.  
Don't dance so fast.  
Time is short.  
The music won't last.

When you run so fast to get somewhere  
You miss half the fun of getting there.  
When you worry and hurry through your day,  
It is like an unopened gift....thrown away.

Life is not a race.  
Do take it slower  
Hear the music  
Before the song is over.

This young girl has 6 months left to live, and as her dying wish, she wanted to send this message telling everyone to live their life to the fullest, since she never will. She'll never make it to prom, graduate from high school, or get married and have a family of her own.

You better slow down.  
Don't dance so fast.  
Time is short.  
The music won't last.

## SO HOW OLD ARE YOU?

I very quietly confided to my best friend that I was having an affair. She turned to me and asked, 'Are you having it catered?' And that, my friend, is the definition of 'OLD'!

Just before the funeral services, the undertaker came up to the very elderly widow and asked, 'How old was your husband?' '98,' she replied: 'Two years older than me' 'So you're 96,' the undertaker commented. She responded, 'Hardly worth going home, is it?'

Reporters interviewing a 104-year-old woman: 'And what do you think is the best thing about being 104?' the reporter asked. She simply replied, 'No peer pressure.'

I've sure gotten old! I've had two bypass surgeries, a hip replacement, new knees, fought prostate cancer and diabetes, I'm half blind, can't hear anything quieter than a jet engine, take 40 different medications that make me dizzy, winded, and subject to blackouts. Have bouts with dementia. Have poor circulation; hardly feel my hands and feet anymore. Can't remember if I'm 85 or 92. Have lost all my friends. But, thank God, I still have my driver's license.

I feel like my body has gotten totally out of shape, so I got my doctor's permission to join a fitness club and start exercising. I decided to take an aerobics class for seniors. I bent, twisted, gyrated, jumped up and down, and perspired for an hour. But, by the time I got my leotards on, the class was over.

An elderly woman decided to prepare her will and told her preacher she had two final requests. First, she wanted to be cremated, and second, she wanted her ashes scattered over Wal-Mart.

'Wal-Mart?' the preacher exclaimed. 'Why Wal-Mart?' 'Then I'll be sure my daughters visit me twice a week.'

My memory's not as sharp as it used to be.  
Also, my memory's not as sharp as it used to be.

Know how to prevent sagging? Just eat till the wrinkles fill out.

It's scary when you start making the same noises as your coffee maker.

These days about half the stuff in my shopping cart says, 'For fast relief.'

### THE SENILITY PRAYER :

Grant me the senility to forget the people I never liked anyway,  
the good fortune to run into the ones I do, and  
the eyesight to tell the difference.

## SO YOU THINK YOU KNOW EVERYTHING?

A dime has 118 ridges around the edge.

A cat has 32 muscles in each ear.

The sentence "The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog" uses every letter of the alphabet.

The average person's left hand does 56% of the typing.

There are only four words in the English language which end in "dous": tremendous, horrendous, stupendous, and hazardous.

There are 293 ways to make change for a dollar.

Almonds are a member of the peach family.

Babies are born without kneecaps. They don't appear until the child reaches two to six years of age.

Our eyes are always the same size from birth, but our nose and ears never stop growing.

It's impossible to sneeze with your eyes open.

There are more chickens than people in the world.

There's no Betty Rubble in the Flintstones Chewable Vitamins.

Winston Churchill was born in a ladies' room during a dance.

Women blink nearly twice as much as men.

Rubber bands last longer when refrigerated.

A goldfish has a memory span of three seconds.

All fifty states are listed across the top of the Lincoln Memorial on the back of the \$5 bill.

A crocodile cannot stick out its tongue.

"Stewardesses" is the longest word typed with only the left hand, and "lollipop" with the right.

The cruise liner, Queen Elizabeth II, moves only six inches for every gallon of diesel fuel that it burns.

If the population of China walked past you, in single file, the line would never end because of the rate of reproduction.



# **SOCRATES' TRIPLE FILTER TEST**

Keep this in mind the next time you are about to repeat a rumor or spread gossip.

In ancient Greece (469 - 399 BC), Socrates was widely lauded for his wisdom. One day an acquaintance ran up to him excitedly and said, "Socrates, do you know what I just heard about Diogenes?"

"Wait a moment," Socrates replied. "Before you tell me, I'd like you to pass a little test. It's called the Triple Filter Test."

"Triple filter?" asked the acquaintance.

"That's right," Socrates continued. "Before you talk to me about Diogenes, let's take a moment to filter what you're going to say. The first filter is Truth. Have you made absolutely sure that what you are about to tell me is true?"

"No," the man said. "Actually I just heard about it."

"All right," said Socrates. "So you don't really know if it's true or not. Now let's try the second filter, the filter of Goodness. Is what you are about to tell me about Diogenes something good?"

"No, on the contrary..."

"So," Socrates continued. "You want to tell me something about Diogenes that may be bad, even though you're not certain it's true?"

The man shrugged, a little embarrassed.

Socrates continued. "You may still pass the test though, because there is a third filter, the filter of Usefulness. Is what you want to tell me about Diogenes going to be useful to me?"

"No, not really."

"Well," concluded Socrates, "if what you want to tell me is neither True nor Good nor even Useful, why tell it to me or anyone at all?"

The man was bewildered and ashamed.

This is an example of why Socrates was a great philosopher and held in such high esteem. Too bad more people don't utilize the test today.

# ***STAY CLOSE TO YOUR FRIENDS***

Around the corner I have a friend, in this great city that has no end.  
Yet the days go by and weeks rush on, and before I know it, a year is gone.  
And I never see my old friend's face, for life's a swift and terrible race.  
He knows I like him just as well, as in the days when I rang his bell.  
And he rang mine, but we were younger then, and now we are busy, tired men.  
Tired of playing a foolish game, tired of trying to make a name.  
"Tomorrow" I say! "I will call on Jim, just to show that I'm thinking of him."  
But tomorrow comes and tomorrow goes, and distance between us grows and grows.  
Around the corner, yet miles away, "Here's a telegram sir," "Jim died today."  
And that's what we get and deserve in the end, around the corner, a vanished friend.  
Remember to always say what you mean.  
If you love someone, tell them.  
Don't be afraid to express yourself.  
Reach out and tell someone what they mean to you.  
Because when you decide that it is the right time, it might be too late.  
Seize the day. Never have regrets.  
And most importantly, stay close to your friends and family,  
For they have helped make you the person that you are today.

# Strange Facts . . . .

- ♦ Look at your zipper. See the initials YKK? It stands for Yoshida Kogyo Kabushibibaisha, the world's largest zipper manufacturer.
- ♦ 40 percent of McDonald's profits come from the sales of Happy Meals.
- ♦ 315 entries in Webster's 1996 dictionary were misspelled.
- ♦ On the average, 12 newborns will be given to the wrong parents daily.
- ♦ Chocolate kills dogs. True, chocolate affects a dog's heart and nervous system. A few ounces is enough to kill a small sized dog.
- ♦ Ketchup was sold in the 1830's as a medicine.
- ♦ Leonardo Da Vinci could write with one hand and draw with the other at the same time.
- ♦ Because metal was scarce, the Oscars given out during World War II were made of wood.
- ♦ There are no clocks in Las Vegas gambling casinos.
- ♦ Leonardo Da Vinci invented scissors. Also, it took him 10 years to paint Mona Lisa's lips.
- ♦ Bruce Lee was so fast that they actually had to slow a film down so you could see his moves. That's the opposite of the norm.
- ♦ The original name for the butterfly was "flutterby"!
- ♦ By raising your legs slowly and lying on your back, you can't sink in quicksand.
- ♦ Mosquito repellents don't repel, they hide you. The spray blocks the mosquito's sensors so they don't know you're there.
- ♦ The "pound" (#) key on your keyboard is called an octothorp.
- ♦ Dentists recommend that a toothbrush be kept at least six feet away from a toilet to avoid airborne particles resulting from the flush.
- ♦ The first product to have a bar code was Wrigley's gum.
- ♦ Michael Jordan makes more money from Nike annually than the entire Nike factory workers in Malaysia combined.
- ♦ Marilyn Monroe had six toes on one foot.
- ♦ Adolf Hitler's mother seriously considered having an abortion but was talked out of it by her doctor.
- ♦ The three most valuable brand names on earth: Marlboro, Coca-Cola, and Budweiser, in that order.
- ♦ The average person falls asleep in seven minutes.
- ♦ To escape the grip of a crocodile's jaws, poke your fingers into its eyeballs. It will let you go instantly.
- ♦ The only domestic animal not mentioned in the Bible is the cat.
- ♦ Rubber bands last longer when refrigerated.
- ♦ The average person's left hand does 56% of the typing.
- ♦ "Dreamt" is the only word in the English language that ends in "MT."
- ♦ It's impossible to sneeze with your eyes open.
- ♦ In Chinese, the KFC slogan "finger lickin' good" comes out as "eat your fingers off."
- ♦ A cockroach can live for 10 days without a head.
- ♦ We shed 40 pounds of skin a lifetime.
- ♦ Yo-Yos were once used as weapons in the Philippines
- ♦ Every human spent about half an hour as a single cell.
- ♦ Each square inch of human skin consists of twenty feet of blood vessels.

- ♦ Mexico City sinks about 10 inches a year.
- ♦ Brains are more active sleeping than watching TV.
- ♦ Blue is the favorite color of 80 percent of Americans.
- ♦ When a person shakes their head from side to side, he is saying “yes” in Sri Lanka
- ♦ There are more chickens than people in the world.
- ♦ The thumbnail grows the slowest, and the middle nail grows the fastest.
- ♦ There are more telephones than people in Washington, D.C.
- ♦ The average four year-old child asks over four hundred questions a day.
- ♦ The average person presses the snooze button on their alarm clock three times each morning.
- ♦ The three wealthiest families in the world have more assets than the combined wealth of the forty-eight poorest nations.
- ♦ The first owner of the Marlboro cigarette company died of lung cancer.
- ♦ Intelligent people have more zinc and copper in their hair.
- ♦ The world’s youngest parents were 8 and 9 and lived in China in 1910.
- ♦ Our eyes remain the same size from birth onward, but our noses and ears never stop growing.
- ♦ You burn more calories sleeping than you do watching TV.
- ♦ A person will die from total lack of sleep sooner than from starvation. Death will occur about 10 days without sleep, while starvation takes a few weeks.
- ♦ Chewing gum while peeling onions will keep you from crying.
- ♦ The Mona Lisa has no eyebrows.
- ♦ When the moon is directly overhead, you weigh slightly less.
- ♦ Alexander Graham Bell, the inventor of the telephone, never telephoned his wife or mother because they were both deaf.
- ♦ A psychology student in New York rented out her spare room to a carpenter in order to nag him constantly and study his reactions. After weeks of needling, he snapped and beat her repeatedly with an axe leaving her mentally retarded.
- ♦ “I am.” is the shortest complete sentence in the English language.
- ♦ Colgate faced a big obstacle marketing toothpaste in Spanish speaking countries because Colgate translates into the command “go hang yourself.”
- ♦ Like fingerprints, everyone’s tongue print is different.
- ♦ “Bookkeeper” is the only word in the English language with three consecutive double letters.
- ♦ Right-handed people live, on average, nine years longer than left-handed people.
- ♦ The sentence “the quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog” uses every letter in the English language.
- ♦ If the population of China walked past you in single line, the line would never end because of the rate of reproduction.
- ♦ China has more English speakers than the United States.
- ♦ Beards are the fastest growing hairs on the human body. If the average man never trimmed his beard, it would grow to nearly 30 feet long in his lifetime.
- ♦ According to Genesis 1:20-22, the chicken came before the egg.
- ♦ The longest place name still in use is: Taumatawhakatangihangaoauotameteaturipukakpikimaungahoronukupokaiwhenuakitanatahu - a New Zealand hill.
- ♦ Wearing headphones for an hour increases the bacteria in your ear 700 times.
- ♦ More than 40,000 parasites and 250 types of bacteria are exchanged during a French kiss.
- ♦ Men can read smaller print than women, but women can hear better.

- ◆An average person uses the bathroom 6 times per day.
- ◆Babies are born with 300 bones, but by adulthood we have only 206 in our bodies.
- ◆If you leave Tokyo by plane at 7:00am, you will arrive in Honolulu at approximately 4:30pm the previous day.
- ◆Scientists in Australia's Parkes Observatory thought they had positive proof of alien life, when they began picking up radio-waves from space. However, after investigation, the radio emissions were traced to a microwave in the building.
- ◆Coca-Cola was originally green.
- ◆The most common name in the world is Mohammed.
- ◆The name of all the continents ends with the same letter that they start with.
- ◆There are two credit cards for every person in the United States
- ◆TYPEWRITER is the longest word that can be made using the letters only on one row of the keyboard.
- ◆Women blink nearly twice as much as men.
- ◆You can't kill yourself by holding your breath.
- ◆It is impossible to lick your elbow.
- ◆People say "Bless you" when you sneeze because when you sneeze, your heart stops for a millisecond. Also, it was believed in olden times that the sneeze expelled an evil spirit.

# TO ALL THE KIDS WHO SURVIVED the 1930's, 40's, 50's, 60's and 70's !!

First, we survived being born to mothers who smoked and/or drank while they were pregnant. They took aspirin, ate blue cheese dressing, tuna from a can, and didn't get tested for diabetes.

Then after that trauma, we were put to sleep on our tummies in baby cribs covered with bright colored lead-based paints.

We had no childproof lids on medicine bottles, doors, or cabinets, and when we rode our bikes, we had no helmets, not to mention the risks we took hitchhiking

As infants and children, we would ride in cars with no car seats, booster seats, seat belts or air bags. Riding in the back of a pick-up on a warm day was always a special treat.

We drank water from the garden hose and NOT from a bottle. We shared one soft drink with four friends, from one bottle, and NO ONE actually died from this. We ate cupcakes, white bread and real butter and drank koolade made with sugar, but we weren't overweight because **WE WERE ALWAYS OUTSIDE PLAYING!** We would leave home in the morning and play all day, as long as we were back when the streetlights came on. No one was able to reach us all day. And we were okay.

We would spend hours building our go-carts out of scraps and then ride down the hill, only to find out we forgot the brakes. After running into the bushes a few times, we learned to solve the problem. We did not have Playstations, Nintendo's, X-boxes, no video games at all, no 150 channels on cable, no video movies or DVD's, no surround-sound or CD's, no cell phones, no personal computers, no Internet or chat rooms. **WE HAD FRIENDS** and we went outside and found them!

We fell out of trees, got cut, broke bones and teeth and there were no lawsuits from these accidents. We ate worms and mud pies made from dirt, and the worms did not live in us forever. We were given BB guns for our 10th birthday, made up games with sticks and tennis balls and, although we were told it would happen, we did not put out very many eyes. We rode bikes or walked to a friend's house and knocked on the door or rang the bell, or just walked in and talked to them!

Little League had tryouts and not everyone made the team. Those who didn't had to learn to deal with disappointment. Imagine that!!

The idea of a parent bailing us out if we broke the law was unheard of. They actually sided with the law!

These generations have produced some of the best risk-takers, problem solvers and inventors ever! The past 50 years have been an explosion of innovation and new ideas. We had freedom, failure, success and responsibility, and we learned **HOW TO DEAL WITH IT ALL!**

If YOU are one of them, CONGRATULATIONS! You might want to share this with others who have had the luck to grow up as kids, before the lawyers and the government regulated so much of our lives for our own good.

And while you are at it, forward it to your kids so they will know how

## **TAKE THE FOLLOWING QUIZ**

You don't need a pen, pencil, or paper.

1. Name the five wealthiest people in the world.
2. Name the last five Heisman trophy winners.
3. Name the last five winners of the Miss America Contest.
4. Name ten people who have won a Nobel or Pulitzer Prize.
5. Name the last five Academy Award winners for Best Actor and Actress.
6. Name the last ten World Series winners.

How did you do?

### **THE LESSON?**

None of us remembers the headliners of yesterday.  
There are no second-rate achievers on the above quiz.  
They are the best in their fields.

But the applause dies.  
Awards tarnish.  
Achievements are forgotten.  
Accolades and certificates are buried with their owners.

### **NOW HERE'S ANOTHER QUIZ.**

See how you do on this one.

1. List five teachers who aided your journey through school.
2. Name five friends who have helped you through a difficult time.
3. Name five people who have taught you something worthwhile.
4. Name five people who have made you feel appreciated and special.
5. Think of five people you enjoy spending time with.
6. Name five heroes whose stories have inspired you.

Wasn't that a lot easier?

### **THE LESSON?**

The people who make a difference in your life aren't the ones with the most credentials, the most money, the most awards.

They're the ones who care enough to spend personal time and effort for you.

Take a minute to call one of these people and let them know how special they are.

Or do you have to go accept an award?

# Take Time

## Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

Take Time:

Take time to dream-  
It is what the future is made of.

Take time to think-  
It is the source of all power.

Take time to pray-  
It is the greatest power on earth.

Take time to read-  
It is the fountain of wisdom.

Take time to give-  
It is too short a day to be selfish.

Take time to play-  
It is the source of perpetual youth.

Take time to work-  
It is the price of success.

Take time to be quiet-  
It is the opportunity to seek God.

There is a time for everything.

Take time to be aware-  
It is the opportunity to help others.

Take time to love and be loved-  
It is God's greatest gift.

Take time to laugh-  
It is the music of the soul.

Take time to be friendly-  
It is the road to happiness.



## FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO TAKE LIFE TOO SERIOUSLY. . .

A day without sunshine is like night.

I just got lost in thought. It was unfamiliar territory.

42.7 percent of statistics are made up on the spot.

99 percent of lawyers give the rest a bad name.

I feel like I'm diagonally parked in a parallel universe.

Remember, half the people you know are below average.

He who laughs last thinks slowest

Support bacteria. They're the only culture some people have.

Monday is an awful way to spend 1/7 of your week.

A clear conscience is usually the sign of a bad memory.

Change is inevitable, except from vending machines.

Get a new car for your spouse. It will be a great trade!

Plan to be spontaneous tomorrow.

Always try to be modest, and be proud of it.

So what's the speed of dark?

If everything seems to be going well, you have obviously overlooked something.

When everything is coming your way, you're in the wrong lane.

Hard work pays off in the future. Laziness pays off now.

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

If Barbie is so popular, why do we have to buy her friends?

Eagles may soar, but weasels don't get sucked into jet engines.

What happens if you get scared half to death twice?

I used to have an open mind, but my brains kept falling out.

Why do psychics have to ask for your name?

Inside every person is a younger person wondering what the heck happened.

They sent my Census form back! **AGAIN!!!**

In response to the question: “Do you have any dependents?”

I replied -

“20 million illegal immigrants;

3 million crack heads;

42 million unemployable people,

2 million people in over 243 prisons;

and 535 idiots in the U.S. House

and Senate”.

Apparently, that was **NOT** an acceptable answer.

## T-Bones, Yellow Roses, and Friendship

I walked into the grocery store not particularly interested in buying groceries. I wasn't hungry. The pain of losing my husband of 57 years was still too raw. And this grocery store held so many sweet memories.

He often came with me and almost every time he'd pretend to go off and look for something special. I knew what he was up to. I'd always spot him walking down the aisle with the three yellow roses in his hands.

He knew I loved yellow roses. With a heart filled with grief, I only wanted to buy my few items and leave, but even grocery shopping was different since he had passed on. Shopping for one took time, a little more thought than it had for two.

Standing by the meat, I searched for the perfect small steak and remembered how he had loved his steak. Suddenly a woman came beside me. She was blonde, slim and lovely in a soft green pantsuit. I watched as she picked up a large package of T-bones, dropped them in her basket; hesitated, and then put them back. She turned to go and once again reached for the pack of steaks.

She saw me watching her and she smiled. 'My husband loves T-bones, but honestly, at these prices, I don't know.'

I swallowed the emotion down my throat and met her pale blue eyes.

'My husband passed away eight days ago,' I told her. Glancing at the package in her hands, I fought to control the tremble in my voice. 'Buy him the steaks. And cherish every moment you have together.'

She shook her head and I saw the emotion in her eyes as she placed the package in her basket and wheeled away.

I turned and pushed my cart across the length of the store to the dairy products. There I stood, trying to decide which size milk I should buy. A quart, I finally decided and moved on to the ice cream. If nothing else, I could always fix myself an ice cream cone.

I placed the ice cream in my cart and looked down the aisle toward the front. I saw first the green suit, then recognized the pretty lady coming toward me. In her arms she carried a package. On her face was the brightest smile I had ever seen! I would swear a soft halo encircled her blonde hair as she kept walking toward me, her eyes holding mine.

As she came closer, I saw what she held and tears began misting in my eyes. 'These are for you,' she said and placed three beautiful long stemmed yellow roses in my arms. 'When you go through the line, they will know these are paid for.' She leaned over and placed a gentle kiss on my cheek, then smiled again. I wanted to tell her what she'd done, what the roses meant, but still unable to speak, I watched as she walked away as tears clouded my vision.

I looked down at the beautiful roses nestled in the green tissue wrapping and found it almost unreal. How did she know? Suddenly the answer seemed so clear. I wasn't alone.

Oh, you haven't forgotten me, have you? I whispered, with tears in my eyes. He was still with me, and she was his angel. Every day be thankful for what you have and who you are.

This is a simple request. If you appreciate life, share this with your friends.

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, tempers are short, and 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 picture in magazines and the menu is at times unbalanced, thank you, Lord, for the food we have. There are many who are hungry.

Even though the routine of my job often is 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.

Please share this with the friends you know. It might help a bit to make this world a better place to live. A friend is someone we turn to when our spirits need a lift. A friend is someone to treasure.

For friendship is a gift. A friend is someone who fills our lives with Beauty, Joy and Grace and makes the world we live in a better and happier place!

**YOU ARE MY FRIEND! God bless you and yours.**

# TELLING IT LIKE IT IS

A little boy goes to his dad and asks, "What are Politics?"

Dad says, "Well son, let me try to explain it this way:

1. I'm the head of the family, so call me The President.
2. Your mother is the administrator of the money, so we call her the Government.
3. We're here to take care of your needs, so we'll call you the People.
4. The nanny, we'll consider her the Working Class.
5. And your baby brother, we'll call him the Future.

"Now, think about that and see if it makes sense."

So, the little boy goes off to bed thinking about what Dad has said.

Later that night, he hears his baby brother crying, so he gets up to check on him. He finds that the baby has severely soiled his diaper. So, the little boy goes to his parent's room and finds his mother sound asleep. Not wanting to wake her, he goes to the nanny's room. Finding the door locked, he looks in the peephole and finds his father in bed with the Nanny. He gives up and goes back to bed.

The next morning, the little boy says to his father, "Dad, I think I understand the concept of politics now."

The father says, "Good, son, tell me in your own words what you think politics is all about".

The little boy replies, "The President is screwing the Working Class, while the Government is sound asleep. The People are being ignored and the Future is in deep shit."