

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!

Value Every Minute

To realize the value of one year,

ask a student who has failed a final exam.

To realize the value of one month,

ask a mother who has given birth to a premature baby.

To realize the value of one week,

ask an editor of a weekly newspaper.

To realize the value of one hour,

ask the lovers who are waiting to meet.

To realize the value of one minute,

ask the person who has missed the train, bus or plane.

To realize the value of one second,

ask a person who has survived an accident.

To realize the value of one millisecond,

ask the person who has won a silver medal in the Olympics.

Time waits for no one.

Treasure every moment you have.

FAMILY TREE OF VINCENT VAN GOGH

- His dizzy aunt ----- Verti Gogh
- The brother who ate prunes----- Gotta Gogh
- The brother who worked at a convenience store ----- Stop N Gogh
- The grandfather from Yugoslavia ----- U Gogh
- His magician uncle ----- Where-diddy Gogh
- His Mexican cousin ----- A Mee Gogh
- The Mexican cousin's American half-brother ----- Gring Gogh
- The nephew who drove a stage coach ----- Wells-far Gogh
- The constipated uncle ----- Can't Gogh
- The ballroom dancing aunt ----- Tang Gogh
- The bird lover uncle ----- Flamin Gogh
- The fruit- loving cousin ----- Man Gogh
- An aunt who taught positive thinking ----- Way-to-Gogh
- The little bouncy nephew ----- Poe Gogh
- A sister who loved disco ----- Go Gogh
- And his niece who travels the country in an RV ----- Winnie Bay Gogh
- I saw you smiling ----- there ya Gogh!

VERY INTERESTING

There are only two words in the English language that have all five vowels in order: abstemious and facetious.

More than 50% of the people in the world have never made nor received a phone call.

A group of geese on the ground is a gaggle, however, a group of geese in the air is a skein.

The winter of 1932 was so cold that Niagra Falls froze completely solid.

There is only one word in the English language with one vowel which occurs five times: indivisibility.

The "sixth sick sheik's sixth sheep's sick" is said to be the toughest tongue twister in the English language. Try it.

Rats and horses can't vomit.

The cigarette lighter was invented before the match.

In every episode of "Seinfeld," there is a Superman somewhere.

In the course of an average lifetime, you will, while sleeping, eat 70 assorted insects and ten spiders.

A snail can sleep for three years.

Cats have over one hundred vocal sounds; dogs only have about ten.

Shakespeare invented the words "assassination" and "bump."

"Typewriter" is the longest word that can be made using the letters on one row of the keyboard.

In most advertisements, including newspapers, the time displayed on a watch face is 10:10.

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

Your stomach has to produce a new layer of mucus every two weeks or it will digest itself.

There is no Betty Rubble in Flintstone Vitamins.

Like fingerprints, everyone's tongue print is different.

A crocodile cannot stick out its tongue.

February, 1865, is the only month in recorded history not to have a full moon.

The cruise liner, QE2, moves only six inches for every gallon of diesel fuel that it burns.

The name of all the continents end with the same letter that they start.

If you are an average American, you will spend an average of six months in your lifespan waiting at red lights.

Women blink nearly twice as much as men.

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

A "jiffy" is an actual unit of time for 1/100 of a second.

VOCABULARY 101

ADULT: A person who has stopped growing at both ends and is now growing in the middle.

BEAUTY PARLOR: A place where women curl up and dye.

CANNIBAL: Someone who is fed up with people.

CHICKENS: The only animals you eat before they are born and after they are dead.

COMMITTEE: A body that keeps minutes and wastes hours.

DUST: Mud with the juice squeezed out.

EGOTIST: Someone who is usually me-deep in conversation.

HANDKERCHIEF: Cold Storage

INFLATION: Cutting money in half without damaging the paper.

MOSQUITO: An insect that makes you like flies better.

RAISIN: Grape with a sunburn.

SECRET: Something you tell to one person at a time.

SKELETON: A bunch of bones with the person scraped off.

TOOTHACHE: The pain that drives you to extraction.

TOMORROW: One of the greatest labor saving devices of today.

YAWN: An honest opinion openly expressed.

WRINKLES: Something other people have. You have character lines.

We Learned It All In Kindergarten

By Robert Fulghum

Most of what I really need to know about how to live, and what to do, and how to be, I learned in kindergarten. Wisdom was not at the top of the graduate-school mountain, but there in the sandbox.

These are the things I learned. Save everything. Play fair. Don't hit people. Put things back where you found them. Clean up your own mess. Don't take things that aren't yours. Say you're sorry when you hurt somebody. Wash your hands before you eat. Live a balanced life. Learn some and think some, and draw and sing and dance and play and work every day some.

Take a nap in the afternoon. When you go out into the world, watch for traffic, hold hands and stick together. Be aware of wonder. Remember the little seed in the plastic cup? The roots go down and the plant goes up, and nobody really knows why, but we are all like that.

Goldfish and hamsters and white mice — and even the little seed in the plastic cup — they all die. So do we.

And then remember the book about Dick and Jane and the first word you learned, the biggest word of all: LOOK. Everything you need to know is in there somewhere. The golden rule and love and basic sanitation. Ecology and politics and sane living.

Think of what a better world it would be if we all had cookies and milk about three o'clock every afternoon and then laid down with our blankets for a nap. Or if we had a basic policy in our nation and other nations always to put things back where we found them and cleaned up our own messes.

And it is still true, no matter how old you are, when you go out into the world, it is best to hold hands and stick together.

WEIRD THINGS YOU WOULD NEVER THINK TO KNOW

Butterflies taste with their feet.

A duck's quack doesn't echo, and no one knows why.

In ten minutes, a hurricane releases more energy than all the world's nuclear weapons combined.

On the average, 100 people choke to death on ball point pens each year.

On the average, people fear spiders more than they do death.

90% of New York City cabbies are recently arrived immigrants.

35% of the people who use personal ads for dating are already married.

Elephants are the only animals that can't jump.

Only one person in two billion will live to be 116 or older.

It's possible to lead a cow upstairs, but not downstairs.

Women blink nearly twice as much as men.

It's physically impossible to lick your elbow.

The main library at Indiana University sinks over an inch every year, because when it was built, engineers failed to take into account the weight of all the books that would occupy the building.

A snail can sleep for over three years.

No word in the English language rhymes with "month."

The average lifespan of a major league baseball is seven pitches.

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

The electric chair was invented by a dentist.

All polar bears are left-handed.

In ancient Egypt, priests plucked EVERY hair from their bodies, including their eyebrows and eyelashes.

An ostrich's eye is bigger than its brain.

"Typewriter" is the longest word that can be made using the letters on only one row of the keyboard.

"Go" is the shortest complete sentence in the English language.

If Barbie were life-size, her measurements would be 39-23-33. She would stand 7'2".

A crocodile cannot stick its tongue out.

The cigarette lighter was invented before the match.

Americans, on the average, eat eighteen acres of pizza every day.

Almost everyone who read this tried to lick their elbow.

Weird Things You Would Never Know!! (But do now!)

A shrimp's heart is in its head.

The 'sixth sick sheik's sixth sheep's sick' is said to be the toughest tongue twister in the English language.

Rats multiply so quickly that in 18 months, two rats could have over a million descendants.

Wearing headphones for just an hour will increase the bacteria in your ear by 700 times.

If the government has no knowledge of aliens, then why does Title 14, Section 1211 of the Code of Federal Regulations, implemented on July 16 1969, make it illegal for U.S. citizens to have any contact with extraterrestrials or their vehicles?

In every episode of Seinfeld there is a Superman somewhere.

A duck's quack doesn't echo, and no one knows why.

23% of all photocopier faults world-wide are caused by people sitting on them and photocopying their butts.

Most lipstick contains fish scales.

Like fingerprints, everyone's tongue print is different.

If you sneeze too hard, you can fracture a rib. If you try to suppress a sneeze, you can rupture a blood vessel in your head or neck and die.

If you keep your eyes open by force, they can pop out.

In a study of 200,000 ostriches over a period of 80 years, no one reported a single case where an ostrich buried its head in the sand.

It is physically impossible for pigs to look up into the sky.

A pregnant goldfish is called a twit.

More than 50% of the people in the world have never made or received a telephone call.

Horses can't vomit.

Butterflies taste with their feet.

In 10 minutes, a hurricane releases more energy than all of the world's nuclear weapons combined.

On average, 100 people choke to death on ballpoint pens every year.

On average, people fear spiders more than they do death.

Ninety percent of New York City cabbies are recently arrived immigrants.

Thirty-five percent of the people who use personal ads for dating are already married.

Elephants are the only animals that can't jump.

Only one person in two billion will live to be 116 or older.

It's possible to lead a cow upstairs...but not downstairs.

Women blink nearly twice as much as men.

It's physically impossible for you to lick your elbow.

The Main Library at Indiana University sinks over an inch every year because when it was built, engineers failed to take into account the weight of all the books that would occupy the building.

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No word in the English language rhymes with 'MONTH.'

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TYPEWRITER is the longest word that can be made using the letters only on one row of the keyboard.

'Go,' is the shortest complete sentence in the English language.

If Barbie were life-size, her measurements would be 39-23-33. She would stand 7'2" tall.

A crocodile cannot stick its tongue out.

The cigarette lighter was invented before the match.

Americans on average eat 18 acres of pizza every day.

What is Real Success?

By Tim Conner

Everyone wants success, and yet they often don't know when they have it.

For most, it is the maddening chase toward a better way of life or more of something. More fame, power, recognition, money, or material stuff.

For some, it is the understanding of a loving partner, the love of their child, or the people that they can count on when life throws them a curve.

I am coming to believe that success is not more material wealth, but peace, happiness, contentment, and love.

Most of all love.

Real success is not to be sought after in the outer world, but discovered in your inner world. I am not condemning the stuff of life. We all want the things that life offers.

But we don't need as much as we think we do.

Sooner or later you will discover that real success is friends, strangers, and anyone who crosses our path.

It is kindness shared, support given and received, listening, giving, and caring.

These will endure while your car rusts, your toys break, and you tire of the temporary gratifications that bring you what you think is real.

What matters is people.

What lasts is love. What counts are true friends, and if you treasure these you can count yourself a success.

WHAT I'VE LEARNED

If you will take the time to read these, I promise you'll come away with an enlightened perspective. The subjects covered affect us all on a daily basis. Written by Andy Rooney, a man who had the gift of saying so much with so few words. Enjoy.

I've learned That the best classroom in the world is at the feet of an elderly person.

I've learned That when you're in love, it shows.

I've learned That just one person saying to me, 'You've made my day!' makes my day.

I've learned That having a child fall asleep in your arms is one of the most peaceful feelings in the world.

I've learned That being kind is more important than being right.

I've learned That you should never say no to a gift from a child.

I've learned That I can always pray for someone when I don't have the strength to help him in some other way.

I've learned That no matter how serious your life requires you to be, everyone needs a friend to act goofy with.

I've learned That sometimes all a person needs is a hand to hold and a heart to understand.

I've learned That simple walks with my father around the block on summer nights when I was a child did wonders for me as an adult.

I've learned That life is like a roll of toilet paper. The closer it gets to the end, the faster it goes.

I've learned That we should be glad God doesn't give us everything we ask for.

I've learned That money doesn't buy class.

I've learned That it's those small daily happenings that make life so spectacular.

I've learned ... That under everyone's hard shell is someone who wants to be appreciated and loved.

I've learned That to ignore the facts does not change the facts.

I've learned That when you plan to get even with someone, you are only letting that person continue to hurt you.

I've learned That love, not time, heals all wounds.

I've learned That the easiest way for me to grow as a person is to surround myself with people smarter than I am.

I've learned That everyone you meet deserves to be greeted with a smile.

I've learned That no one is perfect until you fall in love with them.

I've learned ... That life is tough, but I'm tougher.

I've learned That opportunities are never lost; someone will take the ones you miss.

I've learned That when you harbour bitterness, happiness will dock elsewhere.

I've learned That I wish I could have told my Mom that I love her one more time before she passed away.

I've learned That one should keep his words both soft and tender, because tomorrow he may have to eat them.

I've learned That a smile is an inexpensive way to improve your looks.

I've learned That when your newly born grandchild holds your little finger in his little fist, that you're hooked for life.

I've learned That everyone wants to live on top of the mountain, but all the happiness and growth occurs while you're climbing it.

I've learned That the less time I have to work with, the more things I get done.

To all of you.... Make sure you read all the way down to the last sentence.

It's National Friendship Week. Show your friends how much you care. Send this to everyone you consider a FRIEND, even if it means sending it back to the person who sent it to you. **HAPPY FRIENDSHIP WEEK TO YOU!!!!!! YOU ARE MY FRIEND AND I AM HONORED!** Now send this to every friend you have!! And to your family.

What Teachers Make

The dinner guests were sitting around the table discussing life. One man, a CEO, decided to explain the problem with education. He argued, "What's a kid going to learn from someone who decided his best option in life was to become a teacher?"

He reminded the other dinner guests what they say about teachers: "Those who can, do. Those who can't, teach" To stress his point he said to another guest; "You're a teacher, Bonnie. Be honest. What do you make?"

Bonnie, who had a reputation for honesty and frankness replied, "You want to know what I make?" She paused for a second, then began. . .

"Well, I make kids work harder than they ever thought they could.

I make a C+ feel like the Congressional Medal of Honor.

I make kids sit through 40 minutes of class time when their parents can't make them sit for 5 without an I Pod, Game Cube or movie rental.

You want to know what I make? " She paused again and looked at each and every person at the table.

"I make kids wonder.

I make them question.

I make them apologize and mean it.

I make them have respect and take responsibility for their actions.

I teach them to write and then I make them write.

Keyboarding isn't everything.

I make them read, read, read.

I make them show all their work in math. They use their God-given brain, not the man-made calculator.

I make my students from other countries learn everything they need to know about English while preserving their unique cultural identity.

I make my classroom a place where all my students feel safe.

I make my students stand, placing their hand over their heart to say the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, One Nation Under God, because we live in the United States of America .

I make them understand that if they use the gifts they were given, work hard, and follow their hearts, they can succeed in life."

Bonnie paused one last time and then continued.

"Then, when people try to judge me by what I make, with me knowing money isn't everything, I can hold my head up high and pay no attention because they are ignorant. You want to know what I make?

I MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

What do you make Mr. CEO?" His jaw dropped as he went silent.

WHAT'S UP?

This two-letter word in English has more meanings than any other two-letter word, and that word is UP. It is listed in the dictionary as an [adv], [prep], [adj], [n] or [v].

It's easy to understand UP, meaning toward the sky or at the top of the list, but when we awaken in the morning, why do we wake UP?

At a meeting, why does a topic come UP? Why do we speak UP, and why are the officers UP for election and why is it UP to the secretary to write UP a report? We call UP our friends, brighten UP a room, polish UP the silver, warm UP the leftovers and clean UP the kitchen. We lock UP the house and fix UP the old car.

At other times, this little word has real special meaning. People stir UP trouble, line UP for tickets, work UP an appetite, and think UP excuses. To be dressed is one thing but to be dressed UP is special.

And this UP is confusing: A drain must be opened UP because it is plugged UP.

We open UP a store in the morning but we close it UP at night. We seem to be pretty mixed UP about UP!

To be knowledgeable about the proper uses of UP, look UP the word UP in the dictionary. In a desk-sized dictionary, it takes UP almost 1/4 of the page and can add UP to about thirty definitions.

If you are UP to it, you might try building UP a list of the many ways UP is used. It will take UP a lot of your time, but if you don't give UP, you may wind UP with a hundred or more.

When it threatens to rain, we say it is clouding UP. When the sun comes out, we say it is clearing UP. When it rains, it soaks UP the earth. When it does not rain for awhile, things dry UP. One could go on and on, but I'll wrap it UP, for now . . . my time is UP!

Oh . . . one more thing: What is the first thing you do in the morning and the last thing you do at night?

U P!

Did that one crack you UP? Don't screw UP. Share this with everyone you look UP in your address book . . . or not . . . it's UP to you.

Now I'll shut UP!

When Insults Had Class

"He has all the virtues I dislike and none of the vices I admire." —Winston Churchill

"A modest little person, with much to be modest about." — Winston Churchill

"I have never killed a man, but I have read many obituaries with great pleasure." —Clarence Darrow

"He has never been known to use a word that might send a reader to the dictionary." — William Faulkner (about Ernest Hemingway)

"Poor Faulkner. Does he really think big emotions come from big words?" — Ernest Hemingway (about William Faulkner)

"Thank you for sending me a copy of your book; I'll waste no time reading it." — Moses Hadas

"He can compress the most words into the smallest idea of any man I know." — Abraham Lincoln

"I've had a perfectly wonderful evening. But this wasn't it." — Groucho Marx

"I didn't attend the funeral, but I sent a nice letter saying I approved of it." — Mark Twain

"He has no enemies, but is intensely disliked by his friends." — Oscar Wilde

"I am enclosing two tickets to the first night of my new play; bring a friend.... if you have one." — George Bernard Shaw to Winston Churchill

"Cannot possibly attend first night, will attend second... if there is one." — Winston Churchill, in response

"I feel so miserable without you; it's almost like having you here." — Stephen Bishop

"He is a self-made man and worships his creator." — John Bright

"I've just learned about his illness. Let's hope it's nothing trivial." — Irvin S. Cobb

"He is not only dull himself, he is the cause of dullness in others." —Samuel Johnson

"He is simply a shiver looking for a spine to run up." — Paul Keating

"He had delusions of adequacy." — Walter Kerr

"There's nothing wrong with you that reincarnation won't cure." — Jack E. Leonard

"He has the attention span of a lightning bolt." — Robert Redford

**"They never open their mouths without subtracting from the sum of human knowledge."
— Thomas Brackett Reed**

"He inherited some good instincts from his Quaker forebears, but by diligent hard work, he overcame them." — James Reston (about Richard Nixon)

"In order to avoid being called a flirt, she always yielded easily." — Charles, Count Talleyrand

"He loves nature in spite of what it did to him." — Forrest Tucker

"Why do you sit there looking like an envelope without any address on it?" — Mark Twain

"His mother should have thrown him away and kept the stork." — Mae West

"Some cause happiness wherever they go; others, whenever they go." — Oscar Wilde

"He uses statistics as a drunken man uses lamp-posts... for support rather than illumination." — Andrew Lang (1844-1912)

"He has Van Gogh's ear for music." — Billy Wilder

WHEN YOU THOUGHT I WASN'T LOOKING

(Written by a former child)

A message every adult should read, because children watch you and are doing as you do, not as you say.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

When you thought I wasn't looking..., I looked at you and wanted to say, "I want to be like you and thanks for all the things I saw..."

...When you thought I wasn't looking."

LITTLE EYES SEE A LOT.....

Now the question is, "What are they seeing?"

I AM SENDING THIS TO ALL OF THE PEOPLE I KNOW WHO DO SO MUCH FOR OTHERS AND THINK NO ONE EVER SEES.

Who thinks this stuff up???

Whatever hits the fan will not be distributed evenly.

I have kleptomania, but when it gets bad, I take something for it.

FOLLOW YOUR DREAMS! Except that one where you're naked in church.

Sometimes too much to drink isn't enough.

Kinky is using a feather. Perverted is using the whole chicken.

Heaven is Where:

The Police are British,

The Chefs are Italian,

The Mechanics are German,

The Lovers are French and

It's all organized by the Swiss.

Hell is Where:

The Police are German,

The Chefs are British,

The Mechanics are French,

The Lovers are Swiss and

It's all organized by the Italians.

Suicidal twin kills sister by mistake!

My short-term memory is not as sharp as it used to be. Also, my short-term memory's not as sharp as it used to be.

Welcome to Utah Set your watch back 20 years.

In just two days from now, tomorrow will be yesterday.

A bartender is just a pharmacist with a limited inventory

The statement below is true.

The statement above is false.

I may be schizophrenic, but at least I have each other.

I am a Nobody.

Nobody is Perfect.

Therefore I am Perfect.

KENTUCKY: Five million people. Fifteen last names.

I'm not your type. I'm not inflatable.

Dyslexics Have More Nuf.

In Memorium With all the sadness and trauma going on in the world at the moment, it is worth reflecting on the death of a very important person, which almost went unnoticed last week. Larry LaPrise, the man who wrote "The Hokey Pokey", died peacefully at age 93. The most traumatic part for his family was getting him into the coffin. They put his left leg in. And then the trouble started.

I LOVE COOKING WITH WINE. Sometimes I even put it in the food.

Preserve the Spotted Owl (in formaldehyde).

Other than that, Mrs. Lincoln, how was the play?

When you work here, you can name your own salary. I named mine, "Fred".

Money isn't everything, but it sure keeps the kids in touch.

Reality is only an illusion that occurs due to a lack of alcohol.

I like cats too. Let's exchange recipes.

Red meat is not bad for you Fuzzy green meat is bad for you.

I am having an out-of-money experience.

As a senior citizen was driving down the freeway, his car phone rang. Answering, he heard his wife's voice urgently warning him, "Herman, I just heard on the news that there's a car going the wrong way on 280 Interstate. Please be careful!"

"It's not just one car," said Herman. "It's hundreds of them!"

Don't sweat the petty things. Don't pet the sweaty things.

Corduroy pillows are making headlines!

I want to die while asleep like my grandfather, not screaming in terror like the passengers in his car.

Why, Why, Why. . .

do we press harder on a remote control when we know the batteries are getting dead?

Why do banks charge a fee on “insufficient funds” when they know there is not enough money?

Why does someone believe you when you say there are four billion stars, but check when you say the paint is wet?

Why doesn't glue stick to the bottle?

Why do they use sterilized needles for death by lethal injection?

Why doesn't Tarzan have a beard?

Why does Superman stop bullets with his chest, but ducks when you throw a revolver at him?

Why do Kamikaze pilots wear helmets?

Whose idea was it to put an “S” in the word “lisp”?

If people evolved from apes, why are there still apes?

Why is it that no matter what color bubble bath you use the bubbles are always white?

Is there ever a day that mattresses are not on sale?

Why do people constantly return to the refrigerator with hopes that something new to eat will have materialized?

Why do people keep running over a string a dozen times with their vacuum cleaner, then reach down, pick it up, examine it, then put it down to give the vacuum one more chance?

Why is it that no plastic bag will open from the end on your first try?

How do those dead bugs get into those enclosed light fixtures?

When we are in the supermarket and someone rams our ankle with a shopping cart then apologizes for doing so, why do we say, “It's all right?” Well, it isn't all right, so why don't we say, “That hurt, you stupid idiot?”

Why is it that whenever you attempt to catch something that's falling off the table you always manage to knock something else over?

In winter why do we try to keep the house as warm as it was in summer when we complained about the heat?

How come you never hear father-in-law jokes?

And my FAVORITE.....

The statistics on sanity are that one out of every four persons is suffering from some sort of mental illness. Think of your three best friends — if they're okay, then it's you.

Winners Are People Like You

Winners take chances. Like everyone else, they fear failing, but they refuse to let fear control them.

Winners don't give up. When life gets rough, they hang in until the going gets better.

Winners are flexible. They realize there is more than one way and are willing to try others.

Winners know they are not perfect. They respect their weaknesses while making the most of their strengths.

Winners fall but they don't stay down. They stubbornly refuse to let a fall keep them from climbing.

Winners don't blame fate for their failures, nor luck for their successes.

Winners accept responsibility for their lives.

Winners are positive thinkers who see good in all things. From the ordinary, they make the extraordinary.

Winners believe in the path they have chosen even when it is hard; even when others can't see where they are going.

Winners are patient. They know a goal is only worthy as the effort that is required to achieve it.

Winners are people who believe in themselves. They make this world a better place to be.

Wisdom for the Road

Cherish things while you still have them,
before they're gone,
and you realize how precious they really are.

Life can only be understood backwards,
but it must be lived forwards.

Everything in life is temporary.
So if things are going good,
enjoy it because it won't last forever.
And if things are going bad,
don't worry because it won't last forever either.

Destiny is not a matter of chance,
it is a matter of choice;
it is not a thing to be waited for,
it is a thing to be achieved.

A journey of a thousand miles
begins with a single step.

Never cross a bridge
without knowing how to swim the tides.

If you can not add years to your life
Add life to your years

WOODENISMS

The following is a collection of thoughts and sayings from UCLA Coach John Wooden. While one could debate that someone else said some of these quotes, Wooden also fine-tuned them to fit his philosophy.

You don't have to do things the way other people do. If you go out and do it a different way, you'll become a leader.

Talent is God-given; be humble.
Fame is man-given; be thankful.
Conceit is self-given; be careful.

It's the things you learn after you know it all that count.

Seven Life Principles from Joshua Hugh Wooden

1. Be true to yourself.
2. Help others.
3. Make each day your masterpiece.
4. Drink deeply from good books, especially the Bible.
5. Make friendship a fine art.
6. Build a shelter against a rainy day by the life you live.
7. Pray for guidance and counsel, and give thanks for your blessings each day.

Each day, once gone, is gone forever.

Four things a man must learn to do
If he would make his life more true:
To think without confusion clearly,
To love his fellow-man sincerely,
To act from honest motives purely,
To trust in God and Heaven securely.

Two Sets of Threes:

Never lie, never cheat, never steal.
Don't whine, don't complain, don't make excuses.

Just do the best you can. Nobody can do more than that.

You can fool anyone, but you should never fool yourself. As soon as you fool yourself, you are done.

Your character is what you really are, while your reputation is merely what others think you are.

Discipline yourself and others won't need to.

All you can control is today.

What you do is more important than what you say you do.

Success is peace of mind, which is a direct result of self-satisfaction in knowing you made the effort to become the best of which you are capable.

Things turn out best for the people who make the best of the way things turn out.

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

Don't ever stop being yourself.

Integrity means doing the right thing when no one is looking.

Remain true to the best that is within you.

Don't try to be better than somebody else, but never cease trying to be the best you can be. You have control over that. The other you don't.

Don't let making a living prevent you from making a life.

It's a lot easier to shave in the morning if you don't mind looking at the face in the mirror.

You have not lived a perfect day until you've done something for somebody who cannot repay you.

Gentleness can fix in a moment what an hour of shouting fails to achieve.

Time is life. When you kill time, you kill yourself, moment by moment, second by second, a little bit at a time.

Don't think you can make up for it by working twice as hard tomorrow. If you have it within your power to work twice as hard, why aren't you doing it now?

If you don't have time to do it right, when will you have time to do it over?

There are only two things you can control -- your effort and your attitude.

Things turn out best for those who make the best of the way things turn out.

So often we fail to acknowledge what we have because we're so concerned about what we want.

If you're not making mistakes, then you're not doing anything. I'm positive that a doer makes mistakes.

Never mistake activity for achievement.

Failure is not fatal, but failure to change might be.

Success is never final. Failure is never fatal.

Don't let what you cannot do interfere with what you can do.

from the book **Coach Wooden**
by Pat Williams

WORDS OF WISDOM ON HOW TO STAY YOUNG

1. Throw out nonessential numbers. This includes age, weight, and height. Let the doctors worry about them. That is why you pay them.
2. Keep only cheerful friends. The grouches pull you down.
3. Keep learning. Learn more about the computer, crafts, gardening, whatever. Never let the brain get idle. An idle mind is the devil's workshop. And the devil's name is Alzheimer's.
4. Enjoy the simple things.
5. Laugh often, long and loud. Laugh until you gasp for breath. And if you have a friend who makes you laugh, spend lots and lots of time with him/her.
6. The tears happen. Endure, grieve, and move on. The only person who is with you your entire life is yourself. Live while you are alive.
7. Surround yourself with what you love. Whether it's family, pets, keepsakes, plants, hobbies, whatever. Your home is your refuge.
8. Cherish your health. If it is good, preserve it. If it is unstable, improve it. If it is beyond what you can improve, get help.
9. Don't take guilt trips. Take a trip to the mall, even to the next county, to a foreign country, but not to where the guilt is.
10. Tell the people who you love that you love them, at every opportunity.

WORLD'S EASIEST QUIZ

(Passing requires 4 correct answers)

- 1) How long did the Hundred Years' War last?**
- 2) Which country makes Panama hats?**
- 3) From which animal do we get cat gut?**
- 4) In which month do Russians celebrate the October Revolution?**
- 5) What is a camel's hair brush made of?**
- 6) The Canary Islands in the Atlantic are named after what animal?**
- 7) What was King George VI's first name?**
- 8) What colour is a purple finch?**
- 9) Where are Chinese gooseberries from?**
- 10) What is the colour of the black box in a commercial airplane?**

Check your answers on back.

ANSWERS TO THE QUIZ

Remember, you need 4 correct answers to pass.

1) How long did the Hundred Years War last? 116 years

2) Which country makes Panama hats? Ecuador

3) From which animal do we get cat gut? Sheep and Horses

4) In which month do Russians celebrate the October Revolution? November

5) What is a camel's hair brush made of? Squirrel fur

6) The Canary Islands in the Pacific are named after what animal? Dogs

7) What was King George VI's first name? Albert

8) What colour is a purple finch? Crimson

9) Where are Chinese gooseberries from? New Zealand

10) What is the colour of the black box in a commercial airplane? Orange (of course)

What do you mean, you failed? Me, too. (And if you try to tell me you passed, you lie!) Pass this on to some brilliant friends, so they may feel useless too.

YOGISMS

Lawrence Peter Berra played Major League Baseball for 19 years for the New York Yankees

He played on 10 World Series Championship teams, is a MLB Hall of Famer and has some awe-inspiring stats. His name is consistently brought up as one of the best catchers in baseball history, and he was voted to the Team of the Century in 1999.

Amazing accomplishments aside, they probably aren't how you know Lawrence. You know him as Yogi, a nickname given to him by a friend who likened his cross-legged sitting to a yogi.

Yogi is famous for his fractured English, malapropisms and sometimes nonsensical quotes. He's closing in on 86, and there seems to be no end to his fan's love for him. Here are 25 Yogi Berra quotes that will make you shake your head and smile.

1. "It's like deja vu all over again."
2. "We made too many wrong mistakes."
3. "You can observe a lot just by watching."
4. "A nickel ain't worth a dime anymore."
5. "He hits from both sides of the plate. He's amphibious."
6. "If the world was perfect, it wouldn't be."
7. "If you don't know where you're going, you might end up some place else."
8. Responding to a question about remarks attributed to him that he did not think were his:
"I really didn't say everything I said."
9. "The future ain't what it use to be."
10. "I think Little League is wonderful. It keeps the kids out of the house."
11. On why he no longer went to Ruggeri's, a St. Louis restaurant: "Nobody goes there anymore because it's too crowded."
12. "I always thought that record would stand until it was broken."
13. "We have deep depth."
14. "All pitchers are liars or crybabies."
15. When giving directions to Joe Garagiola to his New Jersey home, which is accessible by two routes: "When you come to a fork in the road, take it."
16. "Always go to other people's funerals, otherwise they won't come to yours."
17. "Never answer anonymous letters."
18. On being the guest of honor at an awards banquet: "Thank you for making this day necessary."
19. "The towels were so thick there I could hardly close my suitcase."
20. "Half the lies they tell about me aren't true."
21. As a general comment on baseball: "90% of the game is half mental."
22. "I don't know (if they were men or women running naked across the field). They had bags over their heads."
23. "It gets late early out there."
24. Carmen Berra, Yogi's wife asked: "Yogi, you are from St. Louis, we live in New Jersey, and you played ball in New York. If you go before I do, where would you like me to have you buried?" Yogi's answer: "Surprise me."
25. "It ain't over till it's over."

You Are A Success. . .

You are a success when you clearly understand that failure is an event, not a person. That yesterday ended last night, and today is a brand-new day.

You are a success when you know that a success (a win) doesn't make you and that a failure (a loss) doesn't break you.

You are a success when you have made friends with your past, are focused on the present, and are optimistic about your future.

You are a success when you are filled with faith, hope, and love, and live without anger, greed, guilt, envy, or thoughts of revenge.

You are a success when you are mature enough to delay gratification and shift your focus from your rights to your responsibilities.

You are a success when you know that failure to stand for what is morally right is the prelude to becoming a victim of what is criminally wrong.

You are a success when you are secure in who you are, so you are at peace with your Creator and in fellowship with others.

You are a success when you have made friends of your adversaries and have gained the love and respect of those who know you best.

You are a success when you understand that others can give you pleasure, but genuine happiness comes when you do things for others.

You are a success when you give hope to the hopeless, love the unlovable, and are pleasant to the grouchy, courteous to the rude, and generous to the needy.

You are a success when you can look back in forgiveness, forward in hope, down in compassion, and up with gratitude.

You are a success when you know that the greatest are those who choose to be the servants of all.

You are a success when you recognize, confess, develop, and use your physical, mental, and spiritual abilities for the benefit of others.

You are a success when you know that you have been a good and faithful servant of the Creator of the universe.

-Zig Ziglar
Over the Top

You know you're from the Ohio Valley if...

- Towards the mall' means 'west' and 'towards Moundsville' means 'south.'
- You've ever missed school to go deer hunting.
- You measure distance in minutes.
- Your school classes were cancelled because of cold.
- You have repeatedly driven the Loop in Shadyside.
- You know that Gulla's classifies hotdogs gourmet food.
- Your school classes were cancelled because of heat.
- You've had to switch from 'heat' to 'A/C' in the same day.
- You end your sentences with unnecessary prepositions. Example: 'Where are you at?'
- You install security lights on your house and garage and leave both unlocked.
- Driving is better in the winter because the potholes are filled in with snow.
- The local paper covers national and international headlines on one page but requires six pages for high school sports.
- You know the subtle differences between DiCarlo's Pizza Downtown, the Grove, Wellsburg, and Glendale .
- You call Bellaire...BellDirty even though it is 'The All American Town.'
- You've gone out to Egypt Valley to get the crap scared outta you.
- You know that if you're looking for someone on a Friday night, you can find them sitting in either the mall or Krogers parking lot talking about anything and everything.
- You know that a fancy Italian dinner consists of The Roosevelt.
- You can't understand why Lowe's is in the middle of a residential area.
- Either you or someone you know has moonshine in their fridge.
- It's warsh not wash.
- It's crick not creek.
- It's buggy not cart.
- You know there is a difference between Elm Grove and Woodsdale.
- You hate your high school's rivalry and everything about their town with a passion...Ex:The Big Reds are also part of the 9th oldest high school football rivalry in the nation (Bellaire/Martins Ferry), and the 4th oldest rivalry in Ohio.

- The closest beach is at Bark Camp
- You have gotten drunk with a cop.
- You call the local supermarket 'Krogers' even though it is really called 'Kroger'.'
- You refer to Washington, PA as 'Little Warshington.'
- You've ever played golf on a course where you need a ski lift to get from the tee to the green.
- BDubs is the only cool place to go.
- *●Your Euchre skills improve in direct proportion to the number of beers you drink.
- You have ever watched a high school football game on TV at midnight even if you were at the game or saw the final score of the game on the news.
- Getting drunk triggers an involuntary craving for square pizza slices at 2 a.m. (and a bag of cheese)
- You've ever ordered french fries with gravy at the Alpha.
- You know who 'Moon Dog' is.

You think English is easy??

1. The bandage was wound around the wound.
2. The farm was used to produce produce.
3. The dump was so full that it had to refuse more refuse.
4. We must polish the Polish furniture.
5. He could lead if he would get the lead out.
6. The soldier decided to desert his dessert in the desert.
7. Since there is no time like the present, he thought it was time to present the present.
8. A bass was painted on the head of the bass drum.
9. When shot at, the dove dove into the bushes.
10. I did not object to the object.
11. The insurance was invalid for the invalid.
12. There was a row among the oarsmen about how to row.
13. They were too close to the door to close it.
14. The buck does funny things when the does are present.
15. A seamstress and a sewer fell down into a sewer line.
16. To help with planting, the farmer taught his sow to sow.
17. The wind was too strong to wind the sail.
18. Upon seeing the tear in the painting I shed a tear..
19. I had to subject the subject to a series of tests.
20. How can I intimate this to my most intimate friend?

Let's face it, English is a crazy language. There is no egg in eggplant, nor ham in hamburger, neither apple nor pine in pineapple. English muffins weren't invented in England or French fries in France. Sweetmeats are candies while sweetbreads, which aren't sweet, are meat. We take English for granted. But if we explore its paradoxes, we find that quicksand can work slowly, boxing rings are square and a guinea pig is neither from Guinea nor is it a pig.

And why is it that writers write but fingers don't fing, grocers don't groce and hammers don't ham? If the plural of tooth is teeth, why isn't the plural of booth, beeth? One goose, 2 geese. So one moose, 2 meese? One index, 2 indices? Doesn't it seem crazy that you can make amends but not one amend? If you have a bunch of odds and ends and get rid of all but one of them, what do you call it?

If teachers taught, why didn't preachers praught? If a vegetarian eats vegetables, what does a humanitarian eat? Sometimes I think all the English speakers should be committed to an asylum for the verbally insane. In what language do people recite at a play and play at a recital? Ship by truck and send cargo by ship? Have noses that run and feet that smell?

How can a slim chance and a fat chance be the same, while a wise man and a wise guy are opposites? You have to marvel at the unique lunacy of a language in which your house can burn up as it burns down, in which you fill in a form by filling it out and in which, an alarm goes off by going on.

English was invented by people, not computers, and it reflects the creativity of the human race, which, of course, is not a race at all. That is why, when the stars are out, they are visible, but when the lights are out, they are invisible.

PS. - Why doesn't 'Buick' rhyme with 'quick' ?

YOUR NAME

You got it from your parents
It was all they had to give.
It is yours to use and cherish
For as long as you shall live.
If you lose the watch they gave you
It can always be replaced.
But a bad mark on your name, son
Can never be erased.
It was clean the day you took it
And a worthy name to bear.
When you got it from your parents
There was no dishonor there.
So be sure to use it wisely
For after all is said and done,
You'll be glad the name is spotless
When you give it to your son.

ZEN AND WISDOM OF LIFE

A journey of a thousand miles begins with a broken fan belt and a leaky tire.

Always remember that you are unique, just like everyone else.

Before you criticize someone, you should walk a mile in their shoes. That way, when you do criticize them, you're a mile away and you have their shoes.

Give a man a fish, and he will eat for a day. Teach a man to fish, and he will sit in a boat and drink beer all day.

If you lend someone \$20 and never see that person again, it was probably worth it.

Do not walk behind me, for I may not lead.
Do not walk ahead of me, for I may not follow.
Do not walk beside me either.
Just pretty much leave me alone.

Good judgment comes from bad experience and a lot of that comes from bad judgment.

There are two theories to arguing with women, and neither one of them works.

Generally speaking, you aren't learning much when your lips are moving.

There is a fine line between "hobby" and "mental illness."

Everyone seems normal until you get to know them.

We are born naked, wet, and hungry, and get slapped on the butt. Then things get worse.

Never, **under any circumstances**, take a sleeping pill and a laxative on the same night.

Never miss a good chance to shut up.

No matter what happens, somebody will find a way to take it too seriously.

Experience is something you don't get until just after you need it.

If at first you don't succeed, skydiving is not for you.

Never test the depth of the water with both feet.

Don't be irreplaceable. If you can't be replaced, you can't be promoted either.

Duct tape is like The Force. It has a dark side and a light side and holds the Universe together.

'Teacher Of The Year' Bluntly Explains Why School Violence Is Out Of Control

Kelly Guthrie Raley has been teaching for 20 years and currently educates kids at Eustis Middle School in Lake County, Florida. Just last month she was named the 2017-2018 Teacher of the Year.

The day after the horrific shooting that took place at Marjorie Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, she posted a rant on Facebook that has since gone viral. In the post, she talked about parental responsibility, compassion, and respect, and more than 823,000 people have "liked" the post and agreed with it, while more than 649,000 have shared it with others.

Here's what Mrs. Raley had to say.

Okay, I'll be the bad guy and say what no one else is brave enough to say, but wants to say. I'll take all the criticism and attacks from everyone because you know what? I'm a TEACHER. I live this life daily. And I wouldn't do anything else! But I also know daily I could end up in an active shooter situation.

Until we, as a country, are willing to get serious and talk about mental health issues, lack of available care for the mental health issues, lack of discipline in the home, horrendous lack of parental support when the schools are trying to control horrible behavior at school (oh no! Not MY KID. What did YOU do to cause my kid to react that way?), lack of moral values, and yes, I'll say it, violent video games that take away all sensitivity to ANY compassion for others' lives, as well as reality TV that makes it commonplace for people to constantly scream up in each others' faces and not value any other person but themselves, we will have a gun problem in school. Our kids don't understand the permanency of death anymore!

I grew up with guns. Everyone knows that. But you know what? My parents NEVER supported any bad behavior from me. I was terrified of doing something bad at school, as I would have not had a life until I corrected the problem and straightened my ass out. My parents invaded my life. They knew where I was ALL the time. They made me have a curfew. They made me wake them up when I got home. They made me respect their rules. They had full control of their house, and at any time could and would go through every inch of my bedroom, backpack, pockets, anything! **Parents: it's time to STEP UP!** Be the parent that actually gives a crap! Be the annoying mom that pries and knows what your kid is doing. STOP being their friend. They have enough "friends" at school. Be their parent. Being the "cool mom" means not a damn thing when either your kid is dead or your kid kills other people because they were allowed to have their space and privacy in YOUR HOME. I'll say it again. My home was filled with guns growing up. For God's sake, my daddy was an 82nd Airborne Ranger who lost half his face serving our country. But you know what? I never dreamed of shooting anyone with his guns. I never dreamed of taking one! I was taught respect for human life, compassion, rules, common decency, and most of all, I was taught that until I moved out, my life and bedroom wasn't mine, it was theirs. And they were going to know what was happening because they loved me and wanted the best for me.

There. Say that I'm a horrible person. I didn't bring up gun control, and I will refuse to debate it with anyone. This post wasn't about gun control. This was me, loving the crap out of people and wanting the best for them. This was about my school babies and knowing that God created each one for greatness, and just wanting them to reach their futures. It's about 20 years ago this year I started my teaching career. Violence was not this bad 20 years ago. Lack of compassion wasn't this bad 20 years ago. And God knows 20 years ago that I wasn't afraid daily to call a parent because I KNEW that 9 out of 10 would cuss me out, tell me to go to Hell, call the news on me, call the school board on me, or post all over FaceBook about me because I called to let them know what their child chose to do at school because they are a NORMAL kid!

Those 17 lives mattered. When are we going to take our own responsibility seriously?

LEADERSHIP IS . . .

- the courage to put oneself at risk.
 - the passion to make a difference with others.
- being dissatisfied with the current reality.
 - taking responsibility while others are making excuses.
- seeing the possibilities in a situation while others are seeing the limitations.
 - the willingness to stand out in a crowd.
- an open mind and an open heart.
 - the ability to submerge your ego for the sake of what is best.
- evoking in others the capacity to dream.
 - inspiring others with a vision of what they can contribute.
- the power of one made many and the many made one.
 - your heart speaking to the hearts of others.
- the integration of heart, head, and soul.
 - the capacity to care, and in caring, to liberate the ideas, energy, and capacity of others.
- the dream made reality.

John C. Maxwell
The 21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership

To gain credibility, you must consistently demonstrate three things:

INITIATIVE:

You have to get up to go up.

SACRIFICE:

You have to give up to go up.

MATURITY:

You have to grow up to go up.

John C. Maxwell
The 21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership

THE BRIDGE BUILDER

An old man, going a lone highway,
Came at the evening cold and gray,
To a chasm, vast and deep and wide,
Through which was flowing a sullen tide.
The old man crossed in the twilight dim-
That sullen stream had no fears for him;
But he turned, when he reached the other side,
And built a bridge to span the tide.

“Old man,” said a fellow pilgrim near,
“You are wasting strength in building here.
Your journey will end with the ending day;
You never again must pass this way.
You have crossed the chasm, deep and wide,
Why build you the bridge at the eventide?”

The builder lifted his old gray head.
“Good friend, in the path I have come,” he said,
“There followeth after me today
A youth whose feet must pass this way.
This chasm that has been naught to me
To that fair-haired youth may a pitfall be.
He, too, must cross in the twilight dim;
Good friend, I am building the bridge for him.”

-WILL ALLEN DROMGOOLE

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.

AMBIGUITIES & IDIOSYNCRASIES

1. ONE TEQUILA, TWO TEQUILA, THREE TEQUILA. . . FLOOR.
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 TOILETS? ARE THEY AFRAID SOMEONE WILL BREAK-IN AND 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 MUTE, 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 MAN IN A CIRCLE THREE TIMES, DOES HE BECOME DISORIENTED?
33. CAN AN ATHEIST GET INSURANCE AGAINST ACTS OF GOD?
34. WHY DO SHOPS HAVE SIGNS, 'GUIDE DOGS ONLY'? THE DOGS CAN'T READ AND THEIR OWNERS ARE BLIND?

IT'S REALLY QUITE SIMPLE

1. Pray
2. Go to bed on time.
3. Get up on time so you can start the day unrushed.
4. Say no to projects that won't fit into your time schedule, or that will compromise your mental health.
5. Delegate tasks to capable others.
6. Simplify and unclutter your life.
7. Less is more. (Although one is often not enough, two are often too many.)
8. Allow extra time to do things and to get to places.
9. Pace yourself. Spread out big changes and difficult projects over time. Don't lump the hard things all together.
10. Take one day at a time.
11. Separate worries from concerns. If a situation is a concern, find out what God would have you do and let go of the anxiety. If you can't do anything about a situation, forget it.
12. Live within your budget; don't use credit cards for ordinary purchases.
13. Have backups: an extra car key in your wallet, an extra house key buried in the garden, extra stamps, etc.
14. K.M.S. (Keep Mouth Shut). This single piece of advice can prevent an enormous amount of trouble.
15. Do something for the Kid in You everyday.
16. Carry a spiritually enlightening book with you to read while waiting in line.
17. Get enough rest.
18. Eat right.
19. Get organized so everything has its place.
20. Listen to a tape while driving that can help improve your quality of life..
21. Write down thoughts and inspirations.
22. Every day, find time to be alone.
23. Having problems? Talk to God on the spot. Try to nip small problems in the bud. Don't wait until it's time to go to bed to try and pray.
24. Make friends with Godly people.
25. Keep a folder of favorite scriptures on hand.
26. Remember that the shortest bridge between despair and hope is often a good 'Thank you Jesus.'
27. Laugh.
28. Laugh some more!
29. Take your work seriously, but not yourself at all.
30. Develop a forgiving attitude (most people are doing the best they can).
31. Be kind to unkind people (they probably need it the most).
32. Sit on your ego.
33. Talk less; listen more.

34. Slow down.
35. Remind yourself that you are not the general manager of the universe.
36. Every night before bed, think of one thing you're grateful for that you've never been grateful for before. **GOD HAS A WAY OF TURNING THINGS AROUND FOR YOU.**

'If God is for us, who can be against us?'

You Are A Success. . .

You are a success when you clearly understand that failure is an event, not a person. That yesterday ended last night, and today is a brand-new day.

You are a success when you know that a success (a win) doesn't make you and that a failure (a loss) doesn't break you.

You are a success when you have made friends with your past, are focused on the present, and are optimistic about your future.

You are a success when you are filled with faith, hope, and love, and live without anger, greed, guilt, envy, or thoughts of revenge.

You are a success when you are mature enough to delay gratification and shift your focus from your rights to your responsibilities.

You are a success when you know that failure to stand for what is morally right is the prelude to becoming a victim of what is criminally wrong.

You are a success when you are secure in who you are, so you are at peace with your Creator and in fellowship with others.

You are a success when you have made friends of your adversaries and have gained the love and respect of those who know you best.

You are a success when you understand that others can give you pleasure, but genuine happiness comes when you do things for others.

You are a success when you give hope to the hopeless, love the unlovable, and are pleasant to the grouchy, courteous to the rude, and generous to the needy.

You are a success when you can look back in forgiveness, forward in hope, down in compassion, and up with gratitude.

You are a success when you know that the greatest are those who choose to be the servants of all.

You are a success when you recognize, confess, develop, and use your physical, mental, and spiritual abilities for the benefit of others.

You are a success when you know that you have been a good and faithful servant of the Creator of the universe.

-Zig Ziglar
Over the Top

PERSPECTIVES

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

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

"It was great, Dad."

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

"Oh yeah, " said the son.

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

The son answered:

"I saw that we have one dog and they had four.

We have a pool that reaches to the middle of our garden and they have a creek that has no end.

We have imported lanterns in our garden and they have the stars at night.

Our patio reaches to the front yard and they have the whole horizon.

We have a small piece of land to live on and they have fields that go beyond our sight.

We have servants who serve us, but they serve others.

We buy our food, but they grow theirs.

We have walls around our property to protect us; they have friends to protect them."

The boy's father was speechless.

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

Isn't perspective a wonderful thing? Makes you wonder what would happen if we all gave thanks for everything we have, instead of worrying about what we don't have. Appreciate every single thing you have, especially your friends!

"Life is too short and friends are too few."

Two Traveling Angels

Two traveling angels stopped to spend the night in the home of a wealthy family. The family was rude and refused to let the angels stay in the mansion's guest room. Instead the angels were given a small space in the cold basement.

As they made their bed on the hard floor, the older angel saw a hole in the wall and repaired it. When the younger angel asked why, the older angel replied, "Things aren't always what they seem"

The next night the pair came to rest at the house of a very poor, but very hospitable farmer and his wife. After sharing what little food they had, the couple let the angels sleep in their bed where they could have a good night's rest. When the sun came up the next morning the angels found the farmer and his wife in tears. Their only cow, whose milk had been their sole income, lay dead in the field.

The younger angel was infuriated and asked the older angel how could you have let this happen? The first man had everything, yet you helped him, she accused. The second family had little but was willing to share everything, and you let the cow die.

"Things aren't always what they seem," the older angel replied. "When we stayed in the basement of the mansion, I noticed there was gold stored in that hole in the wall. Since the owner was so obsessed with greed and unwilling to share his good fortune, I sealed the wall so he wouldn't find it."

"Then last night as we slept in the farmers bed, the angel of death came for his wife I gave him the cow instead. Things aren't always what they seem."

Sometimes that is exactly what happens when things don't turn out the way they should. If you have faith, you just need to trust that every outcome is always to your advantage. You just might not know it until some time later.

Some people come into our lives and quickly go.

Some people become friends and stay awhile, leaving beautiful footprints on our hearts and we are never quite the same because we have made a good friend.

Yesterday is history. Tomorrow a mystery. Today is a gift. That's why it's called the present. Live and savor every moment. This is not a dress rehearsal.

Right Now -

- 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 aren't 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 is celebrating your successes. -somebody wants to give you a gift.
- somebody thinks that you ARE a gift. -somebody loves you.
- somebody admires your strength. -somebody is thinking of you and smiling.
- somebody wants to be your shoulder to cry on.

Never take away anyone's hope, that may be all they have, is hope!

If Tomorrow Never Comes

If I knew it would be the last time that I'd see you fall asleep, I would tuck you in more tightly and pray the Lord, your soul to keep.

If I knew it would be the last time that I see you walk out the door, I would give you a hug and kiss and call you back for one more.

If I knew it would be the last time I'd hear your voice lifted up in praise, I would video tape each action and word, so I could play them back day after day.

If I knew it would be the last time, I could spare an extra minute or two to stop and say "I love you," instead of assuming, you would know I do.

If I knew it would be the last time I would be there to share your day, well I'm sure you'll have so many more, so I can let just this one slip away.

For surely there's always tomorrow to make up for an oversight, and we always get a second chance to make everything right.

There will always be another day to say our "I love you's", and certainly there's another chance to say our "Anything I can do's?"

But just in case I might be wrong, and today is all I get, I'd like to say how much I love you and I hope we never forget. Tomorrow is not promised to anyone, young or old alike, and today may be the last chance you get to hold your loved one tight.

So if you're waiting for tomorrow, why not do it today?

For if tomorrow never comes, you'll surely regret the day that you didn't take that extra time for a smile, a hug, or a kiss, and you were too busy to grant someone, what turned out to be their one last wish.

So hold your loved ones close today, whisper in their ear. Tell them how much you love them and that you'll always hold them dear. Take time to say "I'm sorry," "please forgive me," "thank you" or "it's okay".

And if tomorrow never comes, you'll have no regrets about today.

A POEM TO LIVE BY

I was shocked, confused, bewildered as I entered Heaven's door,
Not by the beauty of it all, nor the lights or its decor.

But it was the folks in Heaven who made me sputter and gasp;
The thieves, the liars, the sinners, the alcoholics, and the trash.

There stood the kid from seventh grade who swiped my lunch money twice.
Next to him was my old neighbor who never said anything nice.

Herb, who I always thought was rotting away in hell,
Was sitting pretty on cloud nine, looking incredibly well.

I nudged Jesus, 'What's the deal? I would love to hear Your take.
How'd all these sinners get up here? God must've made a mistake.'

'And why is everyone so quiet, so somber. Give me a clue.'
'Hush, child,' He said, 'they're all in shock. No one thought they'd be seeing you.'

JUDGE NOT!!

Remember: Going to church doesn't make you a Christian any more than standing in your garage makes you a car.

Every saint has a PAST...

Every sinner has a FUTURE.

Life is too short to wake up with regrets.

So love the people who treat you right. Forget about those who don't.

Believe everything happens for a reason.

If you get a chance, take it. If it changes your life, let it.

Nobody said life would be easy, they just promised it would most likely be worth it.

TRAVEL PLANS

I have been in many places, but I've never been in Cahoots.
Apparently, you can't go alone.
You have to be in Cahoots with someone.

I've also never been in Cognito.
I hear no one recognizes you there.

I have, however, been in Sane.
They don't have an airport; you have to be driven there.
I have made several trips there, thanks to friends, family and work.

I would like to go to Conclusions,
but you have to jump, and I'm not too much on physical activity anymore.

I have also been in Doubt.
That is a sad place to go, and I try not to visit there too often.

I've been in Flexible,
but only when it was very important to stand firm.

Sometimes I'm in Capable,
and I go there more often as I'm getting older.

One of my favorite places to be is in Suspense!
It really gets the adrenalin flowing and pumps up the old heart! At my age I need all the
stimuli I can get!

I may have been in Continent,
and I don't remember what country I was in. It's an age thing.

PLEASE DO YOUR PART!

Today is one of the many National Mental Health Days throughout the year. You can do your
bit by sharing this with at least one unstable person.

I have done my job!

Life is too short for negative drama and petty things. So laugh insanely, love truly, and forgive
quickly!

And from one unstable person to another, I hope everyone in your head is happy. We are all
doing well in mine!

SUMMARY OF LIFE

GREAT TRUTHS THAT LITTLE CHILDREN HAVE LEARNED:

1. No matter how hard you try, you can't baptize cats.
2. When your Mom is mad at your Dad, don't let her brush your hair.
3. If your sister hits you, don't hit her back. They always catch the second person.
4. Never ask your 3-year old brother to hold a tomato.
5. You can't trust dogs to watch your food.
6. Don't sneeze when someone is cutting your hair.
7. Never hold a Dust-Buster and a cat at the same time.
8. You can't hide a piece of broccoli in a glass of milk.
9. Don't wear polka-dot underwear under white shorts.
10. The best place to be when you're sad is Grandma's lap.

GREAT TRUTHS THAT ADULTS HAVE LEARNED:

1. Raising teenagers is like nailing jello to a tree.
2. Wrinkles don't hurt.
3. Families are like fudge . . . mostly sweet, with a few nuts.
4. Today's mighty oak is just yesterday's nut that held its ground.
5. Laughing is good exercise. It's like jogging on the inside.
6. Old age is when you choose your cereal for the fiber, not the toy.

THE FOUR STAGES OF LIFE:

1. You believe in Santa Claus.
2. You don't believe in Santa Claus.
3. You are Santa Claus.
4. You look like Santa Claus.

SUCCESS:

At age 4 success is Not piddling in your pants.
At age 12 success is . . . Having friends.
At age 17 success is . . Having a driver's license.
At age 35 success isHaving money.
At age 50 success is . . . Having money.
At age 70 success is Having a driver's license.
At age 75 success is Having friends.
At age 80 success is Not piddling in your pants.

Always remember to forget the troubles that pass your way; BUT NEVER forget the blessings that come each day.

Have a wonderful day with many *smiles*

Take the time to live!!!

Life is too short.

Dance naked. Woo-hoo!

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Ohio State's Urban Meyer on one of his players: "He doesn't know the meaning of the word fear. In fact, I just saw his grades and he doesn't know the meaning of a lot of words."

Why do Tennessee fans wear orange? So they can dress that way for the game on Saturday, go hunting on Sunday, and pick up trash on Monday.

What does the average Alabama player get on his SATs? Drool.

How many Michigan freshmen football players does it take to change a light bulb? None. That's a sophomore course.

How did the Georgia football player die from drinking milk? The cow fell on him.

Two West Virginia football players were walking in the woods. One of them said, "Look, a dead bird." The other looked up in the sky and said, "Where?"

A University of Cincinnati football player was almost killed yesterday in a tragic horseback-riding accident. He fell from a horse and was nearly trampled to death. Luckily, the manager of the Wal-Mart came out and unplugged the horse.

What do you say to a University of Miami Hurricane football player dressed in a three-piece suit? "Will the defendant please rise."

If three Florida State football players are in the same car, who is driving? The police officer.

How can you tell if an Auburn football player has a girlfriend? There's tobacco juice on both sides of the pickup truck.

What do you get when you put 32 Arkansas cheerleaders in one room? A full set of teeth.

University of Michigan Coach Brady Hoke is only going to dress half of his players for the game this week; the other half will have to dress themselves.

How is the Indiana football team like an opossum? They play dead at home and get killed on the road.

Why did the Nebraska linebacker steal a police car? He saw "911" on the side and thought it was a Porsche.

How do you get a former Illinois football player off your porch? Pay him for the pizza.

What are the longest three years of a University of Kentucky football player's life? Freshman I, Freshman II, and Freshman III.

A Great Lesson on Stress

A young lady confidently walked around the room while explaining stress management to an audience with a raised glass of water. Everyone knew she was going to ask the ultimate question, 'half empty or half full?'

She fooled them all. "How heavy is this glass of water?" she inquired with a smile.

Answers called out ranged from 8 ounces to 20 ounces.

She replied, "The absolute weight doesn't matter. It depends on how long I hold it.

If I hold it for a minute, that's not a problem.

If I hold it for an hour, I'll have an ache in my right arm .

If I hold it for a day, you'll have to call an ambulance.

In each case, it's the same weight, but the longer I hold it, the heavier it becomes." She continued, "and that's the way it is with stress. If we carry our burdens all the time, sooner or later, as the burden becomes increasingly heavy, we won't be able to carry on."

"As with the glass of water, you have to put it down for a while and rest before holding it again. When we're refreshed, we can carry on with the burden - holding stress longer and better each time practiced.

So, as early in the evening as you can, put all your burdens down.

Don't carry them through the evening and into the night. Pick them up tomorrow.

1. Accept the fact that some days you're the pigeon, and some days you're the statue!
2. Always keep your words soft and sweet, just in case you have to eat them.
3. Always read stuff that will make you look good if you die in the middle of it.
4. Drive carefully. It's not only cars that can be recalled by their Maker..
5. If you can't be kind, at least have the decency to be vague
6. If you lend someone \$20 and never see that person again, it was probably worth it.
7. It may be that your sole purpose in life is simply to serve as a warning to others.
8. Never buy a car you can't push.

9. Never put both feet in your mouth at the same time, because then you won't have a leg to stand on.

10. Nobody cares if you can't dance well. Just get up and dance.

11. Since it's the early worm that gets eaten by the bird, sleep late.

12. The second mouse gets the cheese .

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

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

16. Some mistakes are too much fun to make only once.

17. We could learn a lot from crayons. Some are sharp, some are pretty and some are dull. Some have weird names and all are different colors, but they all have to live in the same box.

18. A truly happy person is one who can enjoy the scenery on a detour.

19. Have an awesome day and know that someone has thought about you today

AND MOST IMPORTANTLY

20. Save the earth. It's the only planet with chocolate!

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!

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}

They Ask Why I Like Retirement !

Question: How many days in a week?

Answer: 6 Saturdays, 1 Sunday.

Question: When is a retiree's bedtime?

Answer: Three hours after he falls asleep on the couch.

Question: How many retirees to change a light bulb?

Answer: Only one, but it might take all day.

Question: What's the biggest gripe of retirees?

Answer: There is not enough time to get everything done.

Question: Why don't retirees mind being called Seniors?

Answer: The term comes with a 10% discount.

Question: Among retirees what is considered formal attire?

Answer: Tied shoes.

Question: Why do retirees count pennies?

Answer: They are the only ones who have the time.

Question: What is the common term for someone who enjoys work and refuses to retire?

Answer: NUTS!

Question: Why are retirees so slow to clean out the basement, attic or garage?

Answer: They know that as soon as they do, one of their adult kids will want to store stuff there.

Question: What do retirees call a long lunch?

Answer: Normal .

Question: What is the best way to describe retirement?

Answer: The never-ending Coffee Break.

Question: What's the biggest advantage of going back to school as a retiree?

Answer: If you cut classes, no one calls your parents.

Question: Why does a retiree often say he doesn't miss work, but misses the people he used to work with?

Answer: He is too polite to tell the whole truth.

And, my very favorite....

QUESTION: What do you do all week?

Answer: Monday through Friday, NOTHING. Saturday & Sunday, I rest.

~~CHILDREN~~

To those of us who have children in our lives, whether they are our own, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, or students . . . here is something to make you chuckle.

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

After creating heaven and earth, God created Adam and Eve. And the first thing he said was "DON'T!"

"Don't what?" Adam replied.

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

"Forbidden fruit? We have forbidden fruit? Hey Eve, we have forbidden fruit!"

"No Way!"

"Yes way!"

"Do NOT eat the fruit!" said God.

"Why?"

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

A few minutes later, God saw His children having an apple break and He was ticked!

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

"Uh huh," Adam replied.

"Then why did you?" said the Father.

"I don't know," said Eve.

"She started it!" Adam said.

"Did not!"

"Did too!"

"DID NOT!"

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

BUT THERE IS REASSURANCE IN THE STORY!

If you have persistently and lovingly tried to give children wisdom and they haven't taken it, don't be hard on yourself.

If God had trouble raising children, what makes you think it would be a piece of cake for you?

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT!

1. You spend the first two years of their life teaching them to walk and talk. Then you spend the next sixteen telling them to sit down and shut up.
2. Grandchildren are God's reward for not killing your own children.
3. Mothers of teens now know why some animals eat their young.
4. Children seldom misquote you. In fact, they usually repeat word for word what you shouldn't have said.
5. The main purpose of holding children's parties is to remind yourself that there are children more awful than your own.
6. We childproofed our homes, but they are still getting in.

ADVICE FOR THE DAY:

Be nice to your kids. They will choose your nursing home one day.

AND FINALLY: IF YOU HAVE A LOT OF TENSION AND YOU GET A HEADACHE, DO WHAT IT SAYS ON THE ASPIRIN BOTTLE:

"TAKE TWO ASPIRIN" AND "KEEP AWAY FROM CHILDREN"!!!!

Some good words of wisdom (from an old guy)

As I was lying around, pondering the problems of the world, I realized that at my age I don't really give a rat's ass anymore.

♥If walking is good for your health, the postman would be immortal.

♥A whale swims all day, mainly eat fish, drinks water, but is still fat.

♥A rabbit runs and hops and only lives 15 years, while a tortoise doesn't run and does mostly nothing, yet it lives for 150 years.

☺ And you tell me to exercise?? I don't think so.

Just grant me the senility to forget the people I never liked, the good fortune to remember the ones I do, and the eyesight to tell the difference.

Now that I'm older here's what I've discovered:

♥I started out with nothing, and I still have most of it.

♥My wild oats are mostly enjoyed with prunes and all-bran.

♥I finally got my head together, and now my body is falling apart.

♥Funny, I don't remember being absent-minded.

♥Funny, I don't remember being absent-minded.

♥If all is not lost, then where the heck is it?

♥It was a whole lot easier to get older, than to get wiser.

♥Some days, you're the top dog; some days you're the hydrant.

♥I wish the buck really did stop here; I sure could use a few of them.

♥Kids in the back seat cause accidents.

♥Accidents in the back seat cause kids.

♥It's hard to make a comeback when you haven't been anywhere.

♥The world only beats a path to your door when you're in the bathroom.

♥If God wanted me to touch my toes, he'd have put them on my knees.

♥When I'm finally holding all the right cards, everyone wants to play chess.

♥It's not hard to meet expenses . . . they're everywhere.

♥The only difference between a rut and a grave is the depth.

♥These days, I spend a lot of time thinking about the hereafter . . .

I go somewhere to get something, and then wonder what I'm "here after".

♥Funny, I don't remember being absent-minded.

HAVE I GIVEN YOU THIS MESSAGE BEFORE?

BACK NINE

I first started reading this message and was reading fast until I reached the third sentence. I stopped and started over reading slower and thinking about every word. This message is very thought provoking. Makes you stop and think. Read slowly!

You know, time has a way of moving quickly and catching you unaware of the passing years. It seems just yesterday that I was young, just married and embarking on my new life with my mate. Yet in a way, it seems like eons ago, and I wonder where all the years went. I know that I lived them all. I have glimpses of how it was back then and of all my hopes and dreams.

But, here it is - the 'back nine' of my life and it catches me by surprise. How did I get here so fast? Where did the years go and where did my youth go? I remember vividly seeing older people through the years and thinking that those older people were years away from me and that 'I was only on the first hole' and the 'back nine' was so far off that I could not fathom it or imagine fully what it would be like.

But, here it is . . . my friends are retired and getting grey. They move slower and I see an older person now. Some are in better and some worse shape than me, but I see the great change. Not like the ones that I remember who were young and vibrant, but like me, their age is beginning to show and we are now those older folks that we used to see and never thought we'd become.

Each day now, I find that just getting a shower is a real target for the day. And taking a nap is not a treat anymore, it's mandatory! If I don't on my own free will, I just fall asleep where I sit

And so, now I enter into this new season of my life unprepared for all the aches and pains and the loss of strength and ability to go and do things that I wish I had done but never did! But, at least I know, that though I'm on the 'back nine,' and I'm not sure how long it will last, this I know for sure, that when it's over on this earth it's over. A new adventure will begin.

Yes, I have regrets. There are things I wish I hadn't done, things I should have done, but indeed, there are many things I'm happy to have done. It's all in a lifetime.

So, if you're not on the 'back nine' yet, let me remind you, that it will be here faster than you think. So, whatever you would like to accomplish in your life, please do it quickly. Don't put things off too long. Life goes by quickly. So, do what you can today, as you can never be sure whether you're on the 'back nine' or not. You have no promise that you will see all the seasons of your life so, live for today and say all the things that you want your loved ones to remember, and hope that they appreciate and love you for all the things that you have done for them in all the years past.

"Life" is a gift to you. The way you live your life is your gift to those who come after. Make it a fantastic one. LIVE IT WELL. ENJOY TODAY. DO SOMETHING FUN. BE HAPPY. HAVE A GREAT DAY. Remember, "It is health that is real wealth, not pieces of gold and silver." LIVE HAPPY

LASTLY, CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING:

Your kids are becoming you, but your grandchildren are perfect.

Going out is good, but coming home is better.

You forget names, but it's OK because other people forgot they even knew you.

You realize you're never going to be really good at anything, especially golf.

The things you used to care to do, you no longer care to do, but you really do care that you don't care to do them anymore.

You sleep better on a lounge chair with the TV blaring than in bed. It's called "pre-sleep".

You miss the days when everything worked with just an "on" and "off" switch.

You tend to use more 4 letter words . . . "what?" . . . "when?" . . . "???"

Now that you can afford expensive jewelry, it's not safe to wear it anywhere.

What used to be freckles are now liver spots.

Everybody whispers.

You have three sizes of clothes in your closet, two of which you will never wear.

But Old is good in some things ~~~ Old Songs, Old Movies, and best of all, OLD FRIENDS. Stay well, "OLD FRIEND!"

It's Not What You Gather But What You Scatter That Tells What Kind Of Life You Have Lived.

TODAY IS THE OLDEST YOU'VE EVER BEEN, YET THE YOUNGEST YOU'LL EVER BE, SO ENJOY THIS DAY WHILE IT LASTS.

A MORNING PRAYER

Dear Lord:

So far today, I am doing all right.

I have not gossiped,

lost my temper,

been greedy, grumpy, nasty, selfish, or self-indulgent.

I have not whined, complained, cursed, or eaten any chocolate.

I have charged nothing to my credit card.

But I will be getting out of bed in a minute and I think that I will really need Your help then.

AMEN

***May your troubles be less,
Your blessing be more
And nothing but happiness
Come through your door.***

If anyone speaks badly of you, live so that none will believe it.

**Do what you can, for who you can, with what you have,
and where you are.**

ABSOLUTELY PRICELESS

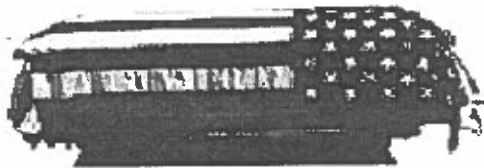
An elementary school teacher had twenty-six students in her class. She presented each child in her classroom the first half of a well-known proverb and asked them to come up with the remainder of the proverb. It's hard to believe these were actually done by first graders. Their insight may surprise you. While reading, keep in mind that these are first-graders, 6-year-olds, because the last one is a classic!

- | | | |
|-----|---|--------------------------------|
| 1. | Don't change horses | until they stop running. |
| 2. | Strike while the | bug is close. |
| 3. | It's always darkest before | Daylight Saving Time. |
| 4. | Never underestimate the power of | termites. |
| 5.. | You can lead a horse to water but | how? |
| 6. | Don't bite the hand that | looks dirty. |
| 7. | No news is | impossible. |
| 8. | A miss is as good as a | Mr. |
| 9. | You can't teach an old dog new | math. |
| 10. | If you lie down with dogs, | you'll stink in the morning. |
| 11. | Love all, trust | me. |
| 12. | The pen is mightier than the | pigs. |
| 13. | An idle mind is | the best way to relax. |
| 14. | Where there's smoke there's | pollution. |
| 15. | Happy the bride who | gets all the presents. |
| 16. | A penny saved is | not much. |
| 17. | Two's company, three's | the Musketeers. |
| 18. | Don't put off till tomorrow what | you put on to go to bed. |
| 19. | Laugh and the whole world laughs
with you, cry and | you have to blow your nose. |
| 20. | There are none so blind as | Stevie Wonder. |
| 21. | Children should be seen and not | spanked or grounded. |
| 22. | If at first you don't succeed | get new batteries. |
| 23. | You get out of something only what you | see in the picture on the box. |
| 24. | When the blind lead the blind | get out of the way. |
| 25. | A bird in the hand | is going to poop on you. |

And the WINNER and last one!

- | | | |
|-----|------------------|-----------|
| 26. | Better late than | pregnant. |
|-----|------------------|-----------|

The Meaning of the "Flag-Draped Coffin"



All Americans should be given this lesson. Those who think that America is an arrogant nation should really reconsider that thought. Our founding fathers used GOD's word and teachings to establish our Great Nation and I think it's high time Americans get re-educated about this Nation's history.

Pass it along and be proud of the country we live in, and even more proud of those who serve to protect our 'GOD-GIVEN' rights and freedoms.

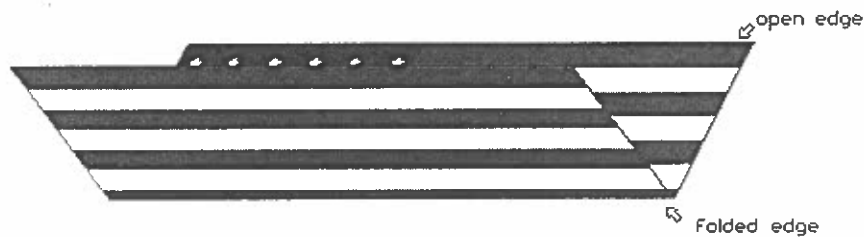
I hope you take the time to read this ... To understand what the flag draped coffin really means ... Here is how to understand the flag that laid upon it and is surrendered to so many widows and widowers:

Do you know that at military funerals, the 21-gun salute stands for the sum of the numbers in the year 1776?



Have you ever noticed that the honor guard pays meticulous attention to correctly folding the United States of America Flag 13 times? You probably thought it was to symbolize the original 13 colonies, but we learn something new every day!

The 1st fold of the flag is a symbol of life.



The 2nd fold is a symbol of the belief in eternal life.



The 3rd fold is made in honor and remembrance of the veterans departing the ranks who gave a portion of their lives for the defense of the country to attain peace throughout the world.



The 4th fold represents the weaker nature, for as American citizens trusting in God, it is to Him we turn in times of peace as well as in time

of war for
His divine guidance.



The 5th fold is a tribute to the country, for in the words of
Stephen Decatur,
'Our Country, in dealing with other countries, may she always
be right; but
it is still our country, right or wrong.'



The 6th fold is for where people's hearts lie. It is with their heart
that they
pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America,
and the
Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible,
with Liberty
and Justice for all.

The 7th fold is a tribute to its Armed Forces, for it is through the
Armed
Forces that they protect their country and their flag against all
her enemies,
whether they be found within or without the boundaries of their
republic..



The 8th fold is a tribute to the one who entered into the valley of
the shadow
of death, that we might see the light of day.



The 9th fold is a tribute to womanhood, and Mothers. For it has been through their faith, their love, loyalty and devotion that the character of the men and women who have made this country great has been molded.

The 10th fold is a tribute to the father, for he, too, has given his sons and daughters for the defense of their country since they were first born.



The 11th fold represents the lower portion of the seal of King David and King Solomon and glorifies in the Hebrews eyes, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.



The 12th fold represents an emblem of eternity and glorifies, in the Christians eyes, God the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit.

The 13th fold, or when the flag is completely folded, the stars are uppermost reminding them of their Nations motto, 'In God We Trust.'



After the flag is completely folded and tucked in, it takes on the appearance of a cocked hat, ever reminding us of the soldiers who served under General George Washington, and the Sailors and Marines who served under Captain John Paul Jones, who were followed by their comrades and shipmates in the Armed Forces of the United States, preserving for them the rights, privileges and freedoms they enjoy today.

There are some traditions and ways of doing things that have deep meaning. In the future, you'll see flags folded and now you will know why.

Share this with the children you love and all others who love what is referred to as the symbol of ' Liberty and Freedom.'

