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Young men are coming of age in a culture that denigrates traditional masculinity. They fail to learn that all men worthy of the name live by a code.

The Code of Men

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YIANNIS PAPADIMITRIOU/SHUTTERSTOCK



The Code of Men

JEFF MINICK

Being a man is tough these days. Becoming a man is even tougher. Several years ago, I wrote the book “Movies Make the Man: The Hollywood Guide to Life, Love, and Faith for Young Men.” I hoped to offer some movies as mentors for young men under 30, “to inspire you in your quest for a full life, and to encourage you to seek out and practice the virtues and time-honored ideals of true manhood.” I wrote this book because some young men I knew seemed clueless about the meaning of manhood.

Our Present Confusion

Though many men in their 20s are already mature adults, taking responsibility for themselves and those they love, and making their way in the world, there are others who enter adulthood baffled as to what it means to be a man, to raise a family, and to take personal responsibility in the workplace and the home. Many of them grow up without positive male examples—fathers, teachers, coaches—in households headed up by divorced or single moms, and consequently lack the training and guidance such mentors might provide.

Factors other than absentee fathers also undermine their sense of masculinity. All too often, the welfare state takes the place of the man of the household. People these days who seek special treatment by virtue of their race or gender, who feel they are victims, go against the grain of the masculine ideal of taking charge of one's life and actions. In addition, rock stars, actors, and athletes have replaced the exemplars who once inspired the young—men like George Washington, Robert E. Lee, Booker T. Washington, and other guides who fought and sacrificed in an arena larger and more consequential than a stage or a football field.

The young also are also coming of age in a culture that denigrates traditional masculinity, where television shows frequently belittle manhood and schools neglect to teach virtue and to prepare their students for the punches delivered by life.

Worst of all, perhaps, these young men fail to learn that all men worthy of the name live by a code.

The Code

This code is a man's set of principles shaped from his breeding, background, education, and experience. A man's code is that set of rules he cannot break without compromising his very soul. He may be unable to articulate this code, but if he breaks it, if he fails to practice its tenets, a part of him dies. Too many of these little deaths, and this broken man becomes a zombie, a ghost of himself, joining the ranks of what T.S. Eliot called “the hollow men.”

In “What Is a Man? 3,000 Years of Wisdom on the Art of Manly Virtue,” professor Waller Newell writes: “There is an unbroken pedigree in the Western conception of what it means to be a man. Honor tempered by prudence, ambition tempered by compassion for the suffering and the oppressed, love

The neglected virtue of manliness



Being a man is tough these days. Becoming a man is even tougher.

OLIVER BAGELTY UNSPLASH

“There is an unbroken pedigree in the Western conception of what it means to be a man ... We don't need to reinvent manliness. We need only to reclaim it.”

Waller Newell, professor of political science and philosophy, Carleton University

restrained by delicacy and honor toward the beloved—from Plato through today, there is a common store of richly textured observations, maxims, illustrations and confirmations of this enduringly noble standard of conduct... We don't need to reinvent manliness. We need only to reclaim it.”

“Sometimes the things that may or may not be true are the things a man needs to believe in the most: that people are basically good; that honor, courage, and virtue mean everything; that power and money, money and power mean nothing; that good always triumphs over evil. And I want you to remember this, that love ... true love never dies. Does not matter if it's true or not. You see, a man should believe in those things, because those are the things worth believing in.”

This code sits inside every good man as if carved in stone.

Living the Code

So what are these qualities that make for good men?

Let's look at life, love, and faith.

The manly virtues as practiced by people like the Romans (stoicism, fortitude, pietas), by the knights of the Middle Ages (prowess, largesse, protecting the oppressed), and even by the Boy Scouts (the Scout Law with its principles such as friendship, courtesy, good cheer, and bravery), whatever some in our present age may think, remain a part of the code of good men.

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Newell devotes nearly 800 pages to this subject. If you wish a shorter version, read Rudyard Kipling's poem “If.”

True Love

Note that Newell brings up “love restrained by delicacy and honor toward the beloved.”

In an interview with William Bennett in “The Book of Man,” David Gerlenter, who survived an Unabomber attack and became a staunch advocate of tradition and the family, says: “Women have an urge to nurture and cherish children; men don't have that, but they can substitute an urge to nurture and cherish women. Men need to turn their sexual interest into something that goes deeper, emotionally and spiritually.”

In “Movies Make the Man,” I concurred with Gerlenter's view: a woman “wants a man with manners and a sense of civility, a man who respects her, who puts her on a bit of a pedestal—not too grand a pedestal, but a pedestal nonetheless... She wants, in short, a man who is both gentle and manly.”

Ashes and Temples

Death comes for every man. How we face death may depend on how we have lived and what we have believed.

In Thomas Babington Macaulay's “Lays of Ancient Rome,” he writes of Horatius, the Roman who defends a bridge against the invading Etruscans, in verse applicable to us today:

*Then out spake brave Horatius,
The Captain of the Gate:
‘To every man upon this earth
Death cometh soon or late.
And how can man die better
Than facing fearful odds,
For the ashes of his fathers,
And the temples of his gods, ...’*

And whatever our religious faith, a prayer found in the pocket of a dead unknown Confederate soldier at the end of the Civil War tells us that enduring and overcoming adversity is the blacksmith's forge for making men:

I asked God for strength, that I might achieve; I was made weak, that I might learn to humbly obey.

I asked for health, that I might do greater things; I was given infirmity, that I might do better things.

I asked for riches, that I might be happy; I was given poverty, that I might be wise.

I asked for power, that I might have the praise of men; I was given weakness, that I might feel the need of God.

I asked for all things, that I might enjoy life; I was given life, that I might enjoy all things.

I got nothing I asked for, but everything I hoped for.

Almost despite myself, my unspoken prayers were answered.

I am, among all men, most richly blessed.

Cutting to the Quick

To define manliness is difficult, but we can follow the advice of Marcus Aurelius, emperor of Rome and Stoic philosopher, whose “Meditations” remains in print today. Like Alexander the Great slaying the Gordian Knot, the philosopher-king cuts straight to the chase regarding the question of manhood:

“Waste no more time arguing about what a good man should be. Be one.”

Young men, it's as simple and as complicated as that.

Jeff Minick has four children and a growing platoon of grandchildren. For 20 years, he taught history, literature, and Latin to seminars of homeschooling students in Asheville, N.C. Today, he lives and writes in Front Royal, Va. Visit JeffMinick.com to follow his blog.

Making a True Man

ANNIE HOLMQUIST

Sometimes the simplest conversations yield the most profound insights.

I discovered that the other day when I stopped to chat with our UPS delivery man. Always friendly, the two of us had some good conversations in 2019 or 2020 BC (that's “Before COVID”), but we hadn't seen each other since the great plague. When I asked how he was, he let loose.

“Ah, man! Busy! It's like Christmas but worse, because we don't have the extra help we have then,” he replied.

He then told me that he had well over 300 stops to make that day and would likely fail to get all of them done, even though he was working 14- to 15-hour days in the COVID rush. Although he'd planned to stay with the company longer, he confessed, “I'm thinking of retiring early and finding another job.”

Who could blame him? Certainly not I. But then my delivery friend returned to his normal, cheery, matter-of-fact self as he made the following statement:

“But you know? It's all worth it because of my little daughter. She's three. When I get home and see her—boy! It's like, you're taller. You feel like a man, you know?”

Obviously as a female, I didn't know, but I'm glad he uttered that statement, because it was a glimpse into the male mind I had never had before. Sure, I've always heard that marriage does wonders for a man. He earns more, takes more responsibility, and seems to automatically gain favor with management and climb the ladder of his profession. But that a man would actually verbalize how his child makes him feel more like a man and makes all the blood, sweat, and tears he puts in at work seem worth it? I find that amazing.

Unfortunately, while my friend the UPS man is experiencing this, it is something that many men are missing. We've all seen the headlines about declining fertility rates. Initially, many thought we'd see these rates briefly reverse course when the pandemic hit, with the quarantine potentially causing a mini baby-boom. News now tells us that's not happening. In fact, global fertility rates are dropping so drastically that some experts are pleading with families to have children.

Putting these low fertility rates and my friend's revealing statement together, I suddenly had a revelation. Is it possible that the lack of children, the lack of fertility in our world, is why we struggle with manhood in



Is it possible that men grow over time into the big shoes they are called to fill, as they marry, have children, and assume more responsibilities?

CONNOR BAKER/UNSPLASH

this day and age? Is it possible that the big shoes men are called to fill are shoes they can only grow into over time as they marry, have children, and work hard to support and head up a household?

In recent years, there have been numerous complaints by women that there just aren't any good men out there. They're not masculine enough, or ambitious enough, or they don't want to lead. But could this problem be the result of a society that seeks to emasculate them?

Since the advent of “the pill,” men have been able to gain the sexual intimacy they naturally crave at a cheap price, avoiding the strings of a wife to provide for and children to raise. It's easy to see how this cheap sex hurts women ... but does it hurt men as well? Does it keep grown men in the little boy stage, unable to mature, unable to reach the heights of protector and provider that many women are looking for (even if they don't realize it or won't admit it to protect their feminist sensibilities)?

The joy on my friend's face when he talked about his wife and child—the joy with which he does a job which, though difficult, provides for his family—was a pleasure to see. I only hope that same joy and masculine pride spreads to more men in this nation.

Annie Holmquist is the editor of *Intellectual Takeout*. This article was originally published on *Intellectual Takeout*.

DEAR JUNE with June Kellum



When It's Hard to Find Friendships

→ Advice for meeting like-minded people

QUESTION: Dear June, Midlife, I was caught up with my job, marriage, caring for aging and then dying parents, etc. Then I turned 60, only to find myself single, without children or a family, and just plain lonely. For a while, I was looking to remarry, but found dating sites were not for me as I wanted more wholesome men. I turned my focus from dating to just finding friendships. It is difficult to just meet people, male or female, to develop friendships. My job isn't really offering that avenue, nor my hobbies, nor do I have a church to draw from. I don't drink, and I don't dance, and I don't have a pet. Any suggestions?

Lonely in a small town, Cathy R., Kansas

ANSWER: Dear Cathy, True friendships are really a blessing and they seem to come up in unlikely places. It may also be that one person will not fulfill all your wishes for a friendship, so perhaps there are several people who can each fill a part. For example, maybe a friendship from the past can be rekindled? Maybe this person is in your season of life, and you can understand, empathize with, and support one another.

It may also be nice to meet people who share your interests. Now is not the time for traveling, but maybe in the future, a group tour in your area of interest might be a way to meet like-minded folks. Or maybe you could try a solo trip. Generally, when we travel, we become more open to making new connections, and sometimes these last a lifetime.

Closer to home, perhaps taking a workshop or class in a nearby town or city might also be a good way to meet like-minded people.

Another way to fill the void more locally is to see where you might be of service in your community. This may not lead to close friendships, but being of service also fills the heart. Does the idea of working with children or the elderly appeal? Or maybe giving a class in your hobby area? Organizing a clean-up in a local park? Making baked goods for families in need? Or you could offer to come over and hold the infant of a neighbor so she can take a break.

There are so many ways to give; choose one that inspires you.

Sincerely, June

QUESTION: Dear June, I am a homeschooling mom of two young children. I have been involved in a very wonderful co-op for the last two years. However, this year for personal

reasons, I decided to go with a private school-type of homeschooling. I still wish to remain friends with our former co-op families; however, some dynamics are currently making this difficult.

Before I made my decision to leave the co-op, three other ladies and I had been talking about forming our own smaller group. Then, one of the ladies (let's call her Friend #4) decided to join a different co-op but did not tell us right away. We found out when we started trying to plan our own co-op and now the rest of us are hurt, and we don't know what to do about Friend #4. We really needed her guidance and light. I didn't feel we could be successful without her. She said that she didn't mean for it to seem like we couldn't have our other co-op still, but the other ladies (rightfully, in my opinion) feel that we should invest our time in just one circle of friends.

I'm disappointed right now because I shared something very sensitive yesterday (in a text), and Friend #4 didn't even comment. This tells me that she is shying away from us because she has some discomfort about the way she handled the situation (although I freely admit that I am not a mind reader). Personally, I am not nearly as upset as my other two friends are. Friend #4 has almost as many children as the rest of us put together. So I get why she did what she did. She has to do what's best for her family, right? But now if I even hang out with her, or let her daughter hang out with my daughter, my other two friends are going to be angry. What do I do with everyone?

Adrienne B., California

ANSWER: Dear Adrienne, Human dynamics can be so complex—especially among us ladies and especially when times are stressful. Giving grace to others can really take so much burden off our shoulders. It sounds like you are

already doing this, but try pushing it a bit further.

There could be any number of innocent reasons for Friend #4's poor handling of the co-op situation and her silence after your text. It may also be you are seeing a weak, thoughtless side of her, or perhaps she is also overwhelmed and struggling. In any case, the beauty of giving grace is that you don't need to know, you can just allow her (and your other friends) to be where they are—faults and all.

From within grace—which should be a calmer place—do some deep, honest reflection, and then have a heart-to-heart conversation with Friend #4 about how you and the group may have come across to her.

It may be painful to hear her reasons for leaving, so you may want to wait until you feel grounded and able to listen. Using some terminology from nonviolent communication may also help keep the conversation on the right track.

Hopefully what comes to light will also help your other friends understand and let go of any hard feelings toward Friend #4. But if they continue to be upset and your daughter really enjoys the company of Friend #4's children, I see no reason why you shouldn't get together. Of course we should be considerate of others' emotions, but we cannot let them dictate our lives.

Sincerely, June

Do you have a question for our advice columnist, Dear June? Whether it's a frustrating family matter, a social etiquette issue, a minor annoyance, or a big life question, send it to DearJune@EpochTimes.com or Attn: Dear June, The Epoch Times, 229 W. 28th St., Floor 7, New York, NY 10001

June Kellum is a married mother of two and longtime Epoch Times journalist covering family, relationships, and health topics.

NEW COLUMN!

Dear Next Generation

THE EPOCH TIMES

What advice would you like to give to the younger generations?

foundation can future generations thrive.

Send your advice, along with your full name, state, and contact info to nextgeneration@epochtimes.com or mail it to:

Next Generation, The Epoch Times
229 W. 28th St., Floor 7
New York, NY 10001

SUBMIT YOUR ADVICE TO:

NextGeneration@EpochTimes.com

We call on all of our readers to share the timeless values that define right and wrong, and pass the torch, if you will, through your wisdom and hard-earned experience. We feel that the passing down of this wisdom has diminished over time, and that only with a strong moral

Diamond and Silk on Their Formative Years as Preachers' Kids and Their Hopes for America

How being children of a sharecropping mother and entrepreneur father shaped how they see the world

CATHERINE YANG

Popular conservative political commentators Diamond and Silk are so close they can finish each other's sentences. Born just 10 months apart, the sisters, Lynette "Diamond" Hardaway and Rochelle "Silk" Richardson, had no political ambitions when they sat down together to film a video to air their opinions back in 2015. But their directness struck a chord with viewers, and they shot to fame before they even realized what was happening.

They have an interesting cast of characters to thank, as the sisters detail in their new book "Uprising," a candid memoir that reads just the way they sound when they speak. Silk said they had no plans for politics or fame, but they've told their story in their new book "so you can understand how God works."

The book opens with a little anecdote of a vision board the sisters had in 2008; on it was a picture of the wine-colored chair that Donald Trump had sat in on "The Apprentice," and it went onto the board with the hopes of one day being able to afford the chair. Little did they know, seven years later they would be sharing the stage with Trump during his run for president.

"While I had my eyes on the chair, God had his eyes on something much bigger for me and my sister's life," the book opens.

"God is not going to bring you to it if he's not going to see you through it," Silk added. "He had a plan and we went totally with God and this plan, we went with the flow of it, we didn't question it, and now here we are."

Parents Who Paved the Way

In "Uprising," the sisters go all the way back to even before their childhood, introducing their parents, Elder and Evangelist Hardaway, and the unique lives they led that shaped their children.

Their mother grew up on a sharecropping farm and lived in a cottage with holes in the roof so big she could see the stars at night, with no running water or electricity. But



We have to really look past our skin color and realize we are Americans first.

Diamond



unlike many around her, she refused to settle for what she was given or become another statistic of poverty, and she set out to build a better life for herself. Their father is a preacher and an entrepreneur who found a way to see opportunity where others saw failure, and who together with their mother built both businesses and churches.

Profit margins weren't big, and success was hard-won, but there was freedom in it. Silk is the oldest of six siblings; she was born in January and Diamond arrived on Thanksgiving Day that same year. They grew up hearing their parents' stories, which undeniably shaped their own entrepreneurial spirits and ambition. But they also grew up keenly aware that other people did not always look on their family's success positively; even relatives would respond with a mixture of disdain and envy. Learning to ignore it would prove essential later on.

"They wouldn't walk around as victims," Diamond said of their parents. "They knew it was going to be a better day, a better life." "With everything they told us and we saw, we didn't realize that at the end of the day they were instilling the tools that we needed," Silk said. "They gave us what we needed—they probably didn't even know what they were doing then—but that's what was happening."

"When we say we were created for such a time as this, that's how we're able to withstand the storm," Silk said of the mounting backlash they received as they grew in popularity.

Growing up in the center of their community came with its own set of difficulties for the girls, too. As preachers' kids, they were expected to be community leaders, and to look, act, and dress a certain way. The weight of their parents' expectations combined with bullying at school led to cracking under pressure, and both girls distanced themselves from religion. They candidly talk about how, despite bad memories of church, they never lost faith or their trust in God.

"We believe faith is something you should have, to sustain your life source," Diamond said. Their parents also taught them a lot about believing in themselves. "That is one thing our parents taught us ... Believe it and you will achieve it—and you have to know that, and that was instilled in us very early on."

When Diamond and Silk's videos and social media took off, they once again found themselves in the spotlight, this time for sharing their opinions on politics. "We've been outspoken," Silk said. "And being outspoken has this particular boldness of not going along with the status quo."

For daring to say that they shouldn't be expected to vote for a particular candidate or support this or that political movement just because they are black, the sisters have both become sought-after voices and received a great deal of backlash.

"Realizing that it was OK to think for ourselves and have a difference of opinion, it's not that we're controversial, what we are is opinionated," Silk said. "But what happens is, because our opinions don't fit someone's narrative, they are the ones that make it controversial."

Most of the media is left-leaning, Diamond added, and they bombard the public with the same narrative over and over until people believe the whole country adheres to this narrative.

"We have to have our own place and our own space," Diamond said. Social media became that platform. "When I look back at our life, growing up, we learned how to speak our mind and tell the truth about it," Silk said. "Tell the truth, because it hurts to bite my tongue."

"Life prepared us for today," Diamond added. "Everything prepared us for this day, everything that we went through growing up prepared us for today."

Changing Hearts and Minds

Diamond and Silk aren't political pundits who talk about the Left, Right, or legislation in the abstract. Their initial interest came from lived experience, and things

ers were wondering why they weren't seeing Diamond and Silk's posts. The sisters then discovered this was deliberate.

"We did not know what the way forward was going to be, but we did know that we were not going to let these social media companies get away with it, to tell everyone what was happening," Diamond said.

Silk spent over half a year going back and forth with companies before receiving an email stating they had been penalized for being "unsafe to the community" and the decision was final and they could not appeal. The sisters made the email public but were still accused of making things up, promoting a hoax or a conspiracy.

The decision to go public about the "shadowbanning" was just a gut feeling, as the sisters recount in their book, but they soon saw this as being part of God's bigger plan once again. Just days after they received the email, in April 2018, Mark Zuckerberg testified before Congress on an unrelated matter—and because Diamond and Silk had caused a stir online, Zuckerberg was asked about this decision. Later that month, the sisters testified before Congress themselves about what was happening on social media, and still then it was met with skepticism.

"Back then it was called a hoax, and now it's called the truth," Silk said. "And frankly, the pushback deserves some credit for growing Diamond and Silk's platform. There's a whole section in their book about how 'your haters make you greater.'"

"The backlash came from the black community back in 2015, but the more they hate the more we continue to educate. Since we've got your attention now we have to keep talking, and the more we talk the more black people started seeing what we were talking about, it was like, 'Oh you know what, y'all are right,'" Diamond said. "And now we have those same people who used to bash us come and apologize, and now they're on the Trump train."

"We could be at the airport and the person you least expect will walk up to us, 'Oh my

For example, in 2019, members of the New Jersey state government attempted to remove Mark Twain's "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" from the state's educational institutions, citing numerous uses of racial slurs and stereotypes. But the 19th-century book, which shares the title of "Great American Novel" with the likes of "The Great Gatsby" and "To Kill a Mockingbird," is in fact an anti-racist one. It unmasks the racist falsehoods that were used to justify slavery for centuries while also showcasing the humanity of enslaved characters and bringing an egalitarian message to readers.

Unfortunately, the near-sighted crowd that wants to ban this book from schools has failed to critically analyze the book's meaning. The usage of the n-word in the novel to showcase racist attitudes moved many to press for its removal from America's literary canon. Some schools have already heeded their words.

The idea is that the removal of such a novel will shield the nation's schoolchildren from bigoted words and sentiments, but this will not be the real outcome.

By removing "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" from our schools, we lose one of the most influential anti-racist books of our time.

Continually canceling old figures as we update our definition of "woke" or "PC" will lead to the obliteration of our most important works as a species. There would be no historical mistakes to learn from, nor successes to admire.

We would be left on an artificial and isolated loop of history—and if we cannot teach the nation's youth about the prob-

lems of the past, they are bound to imitate them in the future.

Twain's novel was obviously one that spoke out against racism, but what about figures who outright supported bigoted views? Are they to be tossed into the dustbin of history?

Aristotle, who is regarded as one of the greatest philosophers to ever live, was himself openly supportive of slavery. Only several weeks ago, The New York Times published a piece that argued against the cancellation of Aristotle for these views. It was met with criticism from professors such as Bryan W. Van Norden, who stated that "[professors] also need to remember that among our students are people who have felt firsthand the continuing practical consequences of Aristotle's more heinous views."

Now, of course, nobody (and especially not me) is arguing that we should be defending Aristotle's views against equality, which belong in antiquity. But it is important to remember his positive contributions to modern political theory, physics, economics, and psychology—some things that we, in the modern era, regard as integral parts of Western civilization.

Should we cast away the remainder of Aristotle's thoughts and ideas because of a few bad apples? We would lose some of the very foundations of the modern world.

In addition, it is unreasonable to hold the "heinous" beliefs of ancient figures to modern ethical standards. Instead of ignoring their thoughts as a whole, we should understand their faults and teach them to our youth, so they understand why our society deems them to be unacceptable.

All that being said, Professor Van Norden's statement resonated at first with me. As a Jewish person myself, I have cringed at works like William Shakespeare's "The Merchant of Venice," which contains highly stereotypical depictions of Jewish people. Many of these stereotypes ended up influencing centuries of antisemitic sentiment in Europe and worldwide.

Nevertheless, I have come to understand that the Bard's other works—"Macbeth," "Romeo and Juliet," and "Hamlet"—have all had profound positive impacts on literature. Rest assured, I won't be trying to cancel Shakespeare anytime soon.

The burden of a society that continually condemns old figures as progressive quotas change with time lies on the students of America. It is nothing short of Orwellian: yesterday, at war with Eurasia; tomorrow, at war with Eastasia. Yesterday, reading Aristotle; tomorrow, burning his works in the name of progressivism.

I introduced my experiences with Conrad's books in the beginning of this article for a very important reason: the alternative introduction to his novels that my class was given was not just a simple trigger warning. It foreshadowed a long, dark path of literary suppression, one that will continue to significantly limit intellectual domains in the pursuit of a society free of offense at the cost of our most beloved texts: a society where ignorance is strength.

(Far left) Diamond and Silk speak at the Conservative Political Action Conference in National Harbor, Md., on Feb. 28, 2019.

(Left) Diamond (L) and Silk at the Save the Storks 2nd Annual Stork Charity Ball at the Trump International Hotel on Jan. 17, 2019 in Washington.



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By removing "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" from our schools, we lose one of the most influential anti-racist books of our time.

Continually canceling old figures as we update our definition of "woke" or "PC" will lead to the obliteration of our most important works as a species. There would be no historical mistakes to learn from, nor successes to admire.

We would be left on an artificial and isolated loop of history—and if we cannot teach the nation's youth about the prob-

lems of the past, they are bound to imitate them in the future.

Twain's novel was obviously one that spoke out against racism, but what about figures who outright supported bigoted views? Are they to be tossed into the dustbin of history?

Aristotle, who is regarded as one of the greatest philosophers to ever live, was himself openly supportive of slavery. Only several weeks ago, The New York Times published a piece that argued against the cancellation of Aristotle for these views. It was met with criticism from professors such as Bryan W. Van Norden, who stated that "[professors] also need to remember that among our students are people who have felt firsthand the continuing practical consequences of Aristotle's more heinous views."

Now, of course, nobody (and especially not me) is arguing that we should be defending Aristotle's views against equality, which belong in antiquity. But it is important to remember his positive contributions to modern political theory, physics, economics, and psychology—some things that we, in the modern era, regard as integral parts of Western civilization.

Should we cast away the remainder of Aristotle's thoughts and ideas because of a few bad apples? We would lose some of the very foundations of the modern world.

In addition, it is unreasonable to hold the "heinous" beliefs of ancient figures to modern ethical standards. Instead of ignoring their thoughts as a whole, we should understand their faults and teach them to our youth, so they understand why our society deems them to be unacceptable.



Greek philosopher Plato (427–347 B.C.) with the philosopher and scientist Aristotle (384–322 B.C.).

Cancel Culture Is Undermining Learning and Harming Students Like Me

THOMAS ULLMAN

In my 10th-grade English class, just like many other American students, I read some of the works of the late Joseph Conrad, an unbowed explorer and captivating writer.

But my class did not analyze Conrad's books as my father or grandfather did when they were my age.

Instead of discussing how his works shaped authors-to-come and how his novels were some of the earliest modernist ones, we debated whether or not he should even be taught in the classroom.

We did not study the stories of exploration and tragedy that captivated the many authors who shaped the Western psyche; rather, we had long arguments over whether to cast Conrad out of the literary canon entirely because of some of his racially insensitive statements, which in his time were not unorthodox.

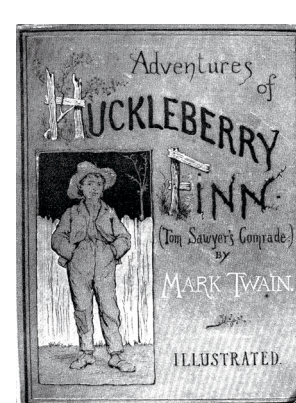
Put simply, we were taught to throw the baby out with the bathwater—to hold past figures like Conrad to a modern standard unthinkable for those of his era, and to throw those who could not meet such standards out of the libraries of our schools.

One year later, I have grown to see cancel

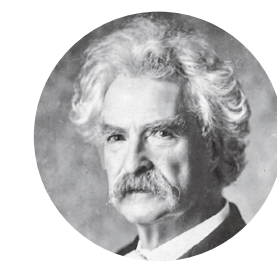
culture intensify with the capricious nature of political debate in 2020, with some of humanity's most pivotal philosophers and writers like Aristotle and Shakespeare being its current targets. While the immediate consequences may be hard to see, our youth—the future of our nation—will ultimately end up having to pay the price for America's cancel culture.

While the immediate consequences may be hard to see, our youth—the future of our nation—will ultimately end up having to pay the price for America's cancel culture.

Some of the country's schools, pushed by activists and influencers to embrace cancel culture, have begun focusing on the supposed harm of individual out-of-context words without understanding their broader meaning in a text.



The cover of "Adventures of Huckleberry Finn (Tom Sawyer's Comrade)" by Mark Twain, 1884.



Writer Mark Twain (Samuel Clemens, 1835–1910), circa 1900.

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Should we cast away the remainder of Aristotle's thoughts and ideas because of a few bad apples? We would lose some of the very foundations of the modern world.

In addition, it is unreasonable to hold the "heinous" beliefs of ancient figures to modern ethical standards. Instead of ignoring their thoughts as a whole, we should understand their faults and teach them to our youth, so they understand why our society deems them to be unacceptable.

All that being said, Professor Van Norden's statement resonated at first with me. As a Jewish person myself, I have cringed at works like William Shakespeare's "The Merchant of Venice," which contains highly stereotypical depictions of Jewish people. Many of these stereotypes ended up influencing centuries of antisemitic sentiment in Europe and worldwide.

Nevertheless, I have come to understand that the Bard's other works—"Macbeth," "Romeo and Juliet," and "Hamlet"—have all had profound positive impacts on literature. Rest assured, I won't be trying to cancel Shakespeare anytime soon.

The burden of a society that continually condemns old figures as progressive quotas change with time lies on the students of America. It is nothing short of Orwellian: yesterday, at war with Eurasia; tomorrow, at war with Eastasia. Yesterday, reading Aristotle; tomorrow, burning his works in the name of progressivism.

I introduced my experiences with Conrad's books in the beginning of this article for a very important reason: the alternative introduction to his novels that my class was given was not just a simple trigger warning. It foreshadowed a long, dark path of literary suppression, one that will continue to significantly limit intellectual domains in the pursuit of a society free of offense at the cost of our most beloved texts: a society where ignorance is strength.

Thomas Ullman is a high school student attending Marin Academy in San Rafael, Calif. This article was originally published on FEE.org

An Army Widow Honors Our Nation's Heroes

ANDREW THOMAS

Army Maj. Brent Taylor knew the only way to train Afghan forces to take over their own security was by forming real relationships with them. Tragically, in November 2018, he was killed by one of the men he was training who had been radicalized. Maj. Taylor was just 39 years old.

"His great leadership capacity—his commitment and love for these people—is really what cost him his life," his widow, Jennie Taylor, said.

Taylor remembers her husband as old-fashioned, traditional, driven, and respectful. She joked that he would have been happy to have been born in colonial times. He was also fun-loving and had a wonderful sense of humor. She remembered how he and his fellow soldiers sang "12 Days of Christmas" with a "Lord of the Rings" spin on his first deployment.

"He had a sense of duty that drove him in everything he did, but he also really knew how to have fun in life," Taylor said.

Service and Faith

Taylor said God inspired her husband's service as mayor and city councilman in their hometown of North Ogden, Utah. He always valued people and empowered them to be their best. It was his patriotism and sense of duty that led him into the Army.

"He always from a young age had a sense [that] he was part of something bigger than himself," Taylor said.

Furthermore, he saw his family as a gift and responsibility from God. He would come up with his own creative tales for bedtime stories with the underlying principles he wanted to teach their children. He taught his kids the value of work by planting crops and rais-



Jennie Taylor with her late husband, Maj. Brent Taylor, and their seven children.

ing chickens on a small farm they owned.

"He was very deliberate. Day-to-day things had meaning," Taylor said.

Faith in God was what allowed Taylor and her seven children to cope with his death.

"God can make reason of all things that happen," she said. "I think when it happened, God was saying: 'Have faith in me and I'll help you make sense of this. I'll help you still find beautiful happiness in life.'"

"I really believe even though my husband's body is dead—this is not the end of his life."

Taylor learned how to be humble and ask for other people's help when she needed it most. She also discovered the good that people can do when the unimaginable happens.

Maj. Taylor had been a student at the University of Utah and Brigham Young University, and when he was killed, his professors agreed to grant him his doctoral

degree posthumously. During these discussions among his professors, someone suggested forming a scholarship in his name.

Instead of dwelling on her husband's death, Taylor began by hosting a fundraiser on what would have been her husband's 40th birthday on July 5, 2019.

"I didn't want to just spend his birthday crying," Taylor said. She invited friends and community members to thank them for their support during Maj. Taylor's deployments and after his death.

Honoring Heroes

Ultimately, she founded the Major Brent Taylor Foundation as a vehicle for donations to the scholarship fund for both universities. The organization's mission is to train future leaders, honor military members and their families, and engage with the community.

To date, the foundation has raised funds for two undergraduate and two graduate scholarships. Taylor helps honor service

members and veterans by assisting their families and telling the stories of military service members on social media. Before his death, Maj. Taylor was able to help engage the community through concerts in the park and fundraising for a local amphitheater. Now, every Veterans Day, the foundation holds a blood drive in his honor.

"Brent really believed that the way to strengthen a community was to bring people together. He would talk a lot about how we have far more that unites us than divides us," Taylor said. "We just need to remember that."

Taylor also had become involved with an organization called Follow the Flag when community members asked to borrow its gigantic Fourth of July flag to honor Maj. Taylor, who had been mayor of North Ogden at the time of his death.

That ignited a patriotic movement in town and led to the purchase of another large flag called

"The Major" to honor him. Every Veterans Day, it hangs in a canyon close to their home. It was after this series that Taylor embarked on a journey to honor our nation's service members and first responders.

Taylor has helped families grieve, comforted them, and has assisted with the funeral arrangements for other military members who have been killed in action, such as pilot Kenneth Allen, from North Ogden, who was killed in a helicopter crash in Afghanistan in December 2019, as well as for local police officer Nate Lyday, who was killed in the line of duty.

"There's something about the bond you create with someone when you help them through their own tragedy," Taylor said.

Community

In addition to Taylor's efforts to help these heroes' families, she recently supplied the National Guard in Salt Lake City with food and water during the riots that marred the peaceful protests over the police killing of George Floyd.

Two days later, Taylor and others visited with more refreshments and expressed their gratitude for their service.

Taylor is currently fundraising for a Gold Star Memorial in North Ogden. The national movement honors not only the fallen, but also their families.

The monument is designed without a single name on it, but instead features a cutout silhouette of a service member. Taylor wanted to offer a gift to her community that would ensure that the price of freedom is never forgotten. The plan is to place the monument between North Ogden's city hall and the community library.

"I feel like North Ogden is a Gold Star community," Taylor said.

HISTORY

Jenny Lind: The Swedish Nightingale Who Sang Her Way to Fame and Fortune in America

LAWRENCE W. REED

On Sept. 1, 1850, 170 years ago, a 29-year-old Swedish woman arrived in America for her first visit. By the following spring, she earned (in today's money) more than \$10 million. It was easily one of the quickest and biggest fortunes ever made in this country by a foreigner.

Now you may be asking yourself, especially if you are a "progressive," who did she swindle? How many victims did she exploit along the way? At a time when we didn't yet have a federal income tax, did we find another way to punish her for her success? Or did she escape to Sweden before we could vilify her and swipe her money?

You wouldn't only be wrong to ask such loaded questions, you would be utterly uninformed, perhaps even motivated by envy, one of the most low-brow and destructive attitudes imaginable.

The woman's name was Jenny Lind. She didn't swindle or exploit anyone. When she returned to Stockholm in 1852, she left behind millions of adoring American fans who didn't want to see her go. Back then, nobody of any consequence sought to punish her and thankfully, we didn't yet have a government big enough or dumb enough to try.

Lind was already famous in Europe for a decade before she disembarked in New York in late summer 1850. Her trade? Singing. She was an opera soprano with such a gifted voice that she became world-renowned as "the Swedish Nightingale." Throngs greeted her when she arrived and even bigger, sellout



Swedish soprano Jenny Lind (1820–1887), circa 1870.

crowds showed up for performance after performance in city after city. American media dubbed it "Lind Mania."

The great showman P.T. Barnum of circus fame convinced Lind to contract with him to perform in America. Barnum and Lind parted ways amicably in 1851, and she continued her

tour but under her own management for another year.

In all, she regaled American audiences at nearly 100 concerts—in cities such as New York, Boston, Providence, Philadelphia, Washington, Richmond, Wilmington, Charleston, New Orleans, Natchez, Memphis, St. Louis, Nashville, Louisville,

Cincinnati, Wheeling, and Pittsburgh. She even found time to sing in Havana, Cuba, between engagements in Charleston and New Orleans.

Usually she sang in theaters and concert halls, but biographer Sarah Jenny Dunsmore, in the book "Jenny Lind: The Story of the Swedish Nightingale," tells of an incident in a most unlikely place:

"The company gave three successful concerts in Louisville but then suffered a low moment at Madison, Indiana: 800 people had crammed into a pork butcher's shed to hear the Swedish Nightingale but the organizer refused to pay the agreed fee. Barnum wanted to cancel the whole event. Jenny refused, saying it was not the people's fault and she was prepared to sing—indeed, she wished to sing—and thanks to her determination the concert went ahead. [Then] at Cincinnati they were greeted by a crowd of 2,000. Audiences were so enthusiastic that Barnum added an extra evening and Jenny was able to give \$3,000 [about \$90,000 in 2020 dollars] to the mayor for charities."

The 2017 movie "The Greatest Showman" (so bad I ejected the DVD after a half hour) suggests an adulterous relationship between Barnum and Lind. By all accounts of the day and biographers since, that never happened. It's another case of Hollywood rewriting history for hype at the expense of accuracy. If you didn't see the film, pat yourself on the back for good judgment.

So what did Lind do with all that money those many happy audiences freely gave her? She could have invested it and earned even more, providing lots of jobs for workers and products for consumers. But she chose to give most of it away to charities she loved—primarily music scholarships and private schools. Some of the recipients were in the United States and the rest were mostly in England and Sweden.

Not only are streets named for this remarkable singer in a dozen or more American cities,

but two towns bear her name as well: Jenny Lind, Arkansas, and Jenny Lind, California. Her name is honored at Mammoth Cave in Kentucky, and her image adorns the Swedish 50-krona banknote, among numerous recognitions still visible more than 130 years since she died in 1887.

Lind was already famous in Europe for a decade before she disembarked in New York in late summer 1850.

Don't let Lind's wealth bother you. Count your blessings, not hers. Lind was a great and talented entertainer who earned every penny. In free societies, unlike socialized ones, you can get rich by serving others and never exploit anybody. Most Americans knew that back then and it's not a compliment to our times that we have to re-teach it so often today.

For Additional Information:

- "Jenny Lind: The Story of the Swedish Nightingale" by Sarah Jenny Dunsmore
- "P.T. Barnum Presents Jenny Lind" by W. Porter Ware and Thaddeus C. Lockard
- "P.T. Barnum Brings European Opera Star Jenny Lind to New York" by History.net

Lawrence W. Reed is president emeritus and Humphreys family senior fellow at FEE, having served for nearly 11 years as FEE's president (2008–2019). He is author of the 2020 book "Was Jesus a Socialist?" as well as "Real Heroes: Incredible True Stories of Courage, Character, and Conviction" and "Excuse Me, Professor: Challenging the Myths of Progressivism." His website is LawrenceWReed.com

This article was originally published on FEE.org



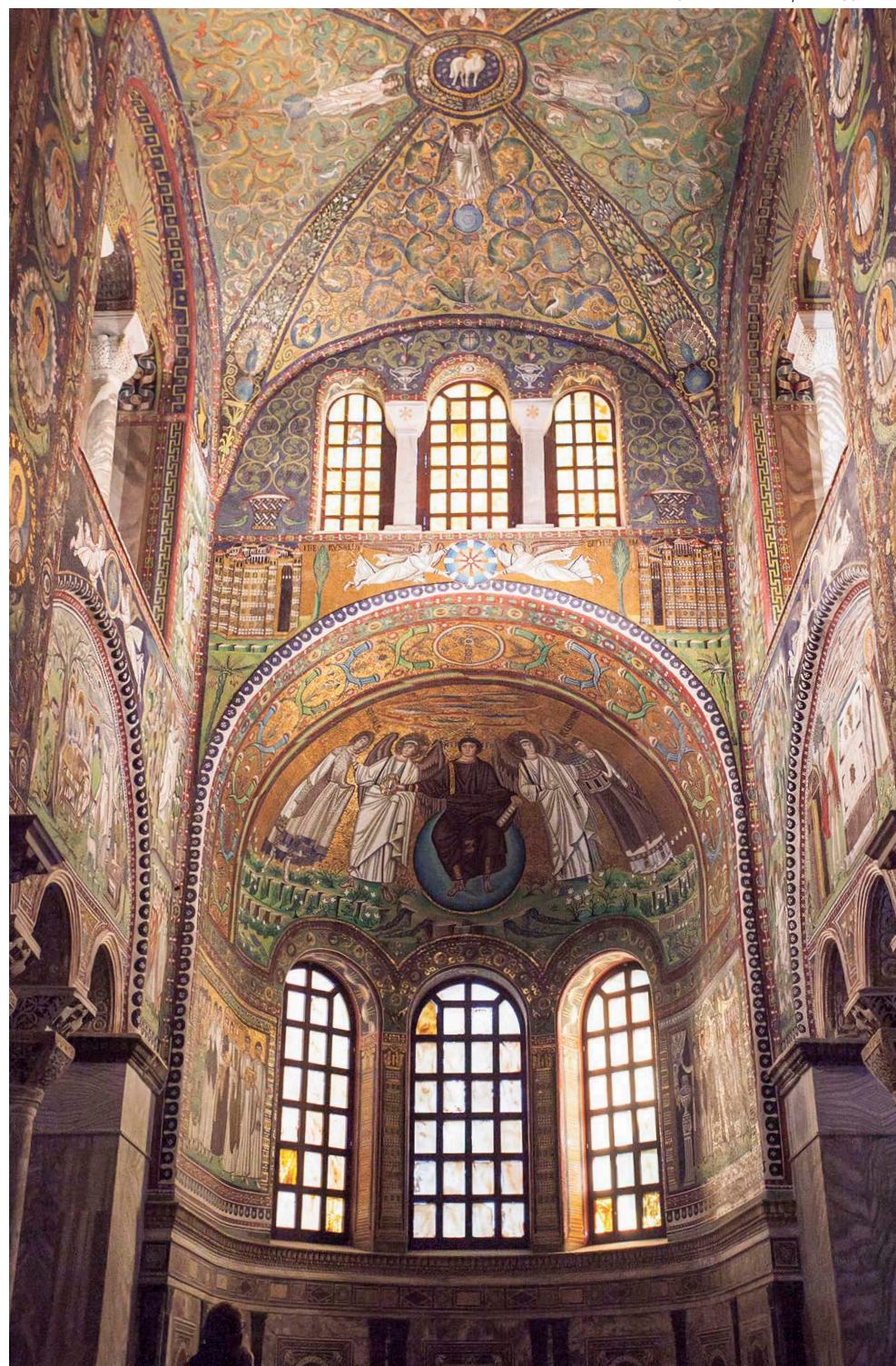
A night sky of mosaic stars cover the ceiling of the Mausoleum of Galla Placidia, dating from the fifth century.

LARGER THAN LIFE: ART THAT INSPIRES US THROUGH THE AGES

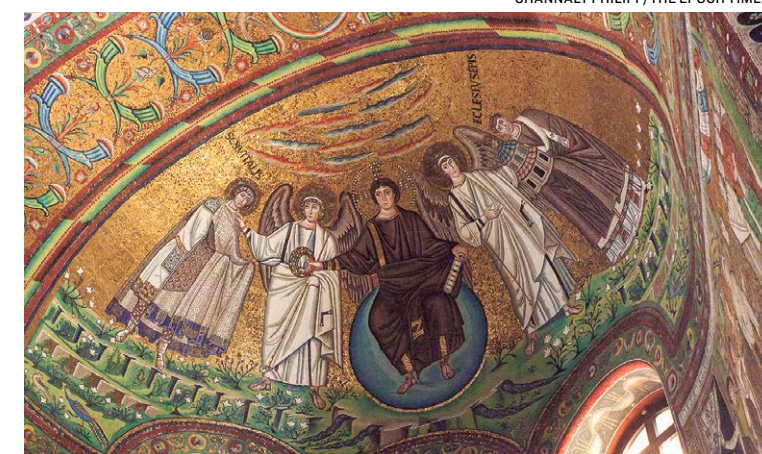
Ravenna: City of Mosaics

The city of Ravenna in Italy lies outside of the main tourist axis of Venice, Florence, and Rome. And yet, its wonders are well worth admiring. As the last capital of the Western Roman Empire, back in the fifth century, Ravenna has a wealth of history; it lays claim to eight UNESCO World Heritage sites.

Dazzling in detail, color, and artistry, its famous mosaics cover the walls and ceilings of basilicas, baptistries, chapels, and mausoleums. The differences in scale are also bewildering, from the small Mausoleum of Galla Placidia, where the ceiling is an exquisite dark blue, starry sky of mosaics, to the Basilica of San Vitale, whose soaring columns draw the eyes heavenward to mosaics that glitter green and gold.



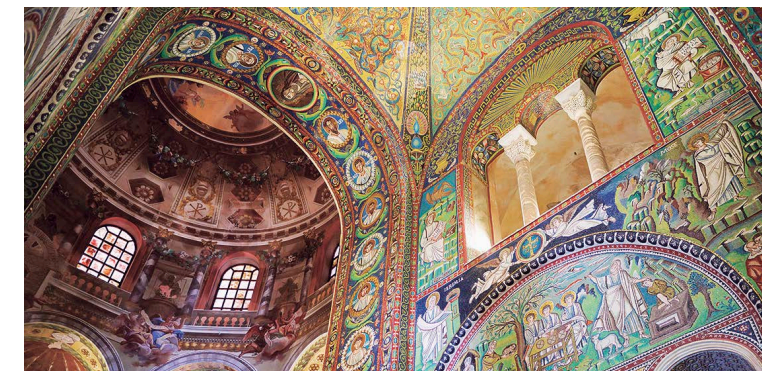
The Basilica of San Vitale, built in 547.



The apse mosaic in the Basilica of San Vitale, featuring (L–R) St. Vitalis, an archangel, Jesus Christ, a second archangel, and Ecclesiastus, Bishop of Ravenna.



The ceiling mosaics in the Neonian Baptistery.



The Basilica di San Vitale.



The Basilica of Sant'Apollinare Nuovo.

Succeeding With Distance Learning

A conversation with educator Lisa Collum

BARBARA DANZA

School will look quite different this year. Some students will spend their days in a classroom, socially distanced from peers and faces covered by a mask. Others will spend some days like that and some days learning from a distance. Some will spend all of their school time at home, “distance learning” for the foreseeable future. Still others are opting out altogether, with parents taking education into their own hands by choosing to homeschool instead.

For parents sticking with the public school system or their private school’s arrangement, worries abound, including keeping their children safe, maintaining a healthy mental state, and keeping up with their education, not to mention the responsibilities of home, family, and, in many cases, career.

I asked Lisa Collum, who’s a mother of four, an educator, and the owner of Coastal Middle and High School in Florida for her advice on handling this very unique school year. Here’s what she had to say.



Educator Lisa Collum.

“It is crucial to develop a system and routine. Train the students on the daily procedures and systems, how to submit assignments, how to communicate, et cetera.”

Lisa Collum, educator

THE EPOCH TIMES: As a principal and owner of a school, what are your biggest concerns about this very different school year?

LISA COLLUM: My biggest concern is the safety of my students and teachers. I want to provide the best education and a sense of normalcy with opening, but I want to make sure everyone is healthy and safe.

My concern with being closed for so long was the mental health of my students. A lot of them did not do well with online learning and really needed school as their safe place. They needed the interaction, the communication, and the relationships they built with the teachers and students. So, opening the doors [recently] was important to me. We have many safety precautions we are taking to ensure the safety of everyone. It is not easy, but it is definitely worth it to provide this for the students.

THE EPOCH TIMES: What advice would you give to teachers who are heading into uncharted waters this year?

MS. COLLUM: I think it is important to remember why we became teachers. We are changing the lives of children. They need us more now than ever.

As a mom and wife, I know it is important for our teachers to stay healthy for their own families. We need to make sure our schools have a plan and are on board with specific safety precautions to keep teachers safe. There are a lot of precautions we can take. I believe we can keep our teachers safe, but the school has to be on board and abide by the plan at all times.

THE EPOCH TIMES: How can parents best support their children as they navigate the different school models being used this year?

MS. COLLUM: Communicating with our children is key. Talk about it. Let them know this is affecting everyone, not just



FIZKES/SHUTTERSTOCK

them. Remind them that everyone is in this together. We have to make sure we are communicating all of this and explaining why we wear masks, why we wash our hands, et cetera.

Also, we have to make sure we are reminding our kids frequently of these safety precautions. This is new for everyone. Remind them to wash their hands, remind them to wear their masks, and remind them to change their clothes after attending school.

The biggest thing for parents is to make sure our children don’t see our frustration and worries. Do not let the children take on that burden and think they are a cause of it. See the positive in everything and share it with them. For example, online school means more time with Mommy! This is a lot for everyone, but especially for our children.

THE EPOCH TIMES: How can teachers and students best succeed with distance learning?

MS. COLLUM: It is crucial to develop a system and routine. Train the students on the daily procedures and systems, how to submit assignments, how to communicate, et cetera. This is the same as being in the classroom.

The first week or two is learning the way the class will be run. I think the best way to teach is through live lessons. Kids need to see their teachers and peers. They need to participate in group discussions. They cannot be expected to listen to recorded lessons all day and do everything independently. As much as possible, teachers should try to resume a normal school day through the computer.

For parents, make sure students are set up with a school area in the house and have all of the necessary supplies.

THE EPOCH TIMES: Many parents are still deciding which option to choose—in-

person schooling, distance learning, some combination of those, or homeschooling. What do you recommend they consider in making that decision?

MS. COLLUM: There are so many factors that go into this decision. It is ultimately up to the family situation. If someone is immune-compromised, they should choose distance learning. That is the best option for families to make sure they are extra safe but still getting an education.

Other families should think about their work schedules and how well their students learn online. If one or both parents don’t have to work, it may be worth it to try homeschooling. This is an opportunity to see if your child enjoys a non-traditional classroom way of learning. Who knows, they may flourish and do better than being in school.

However, parents who work full-time and are not able to be with their kids at home should choose in-school learning if it is available. Kids need supervision and support, no matter the age.

THE EPOCH TIMES: What are your greatest hopes for the coming school year?

MS. COLLUM: After much preparation and planning, I hope our online learning is bigger and better. I think most schools were thrown into online learning with no resources and training in the spring and were not able to provide the best learning experience. Now we have had time to prepare and learn. This online learning experience will be new, better, and overall provide a classroom experience unlike before.

I also hope that schools that do open are able to stick with their safety precautions and keep everyone safe and healthy. I want to continue to see more and more schools open to provide in-person learning for students. I hope that we will see some families in school, and some families from home, and all families enjoying it and receiving a great education.

Collum says it’s important for parents to be positive and not let their children see their worries or frustrations: “Do not let the children take on that burden and think they are a cause of it.”



FOR KIDS ONLY

THE EPOCH TIMES

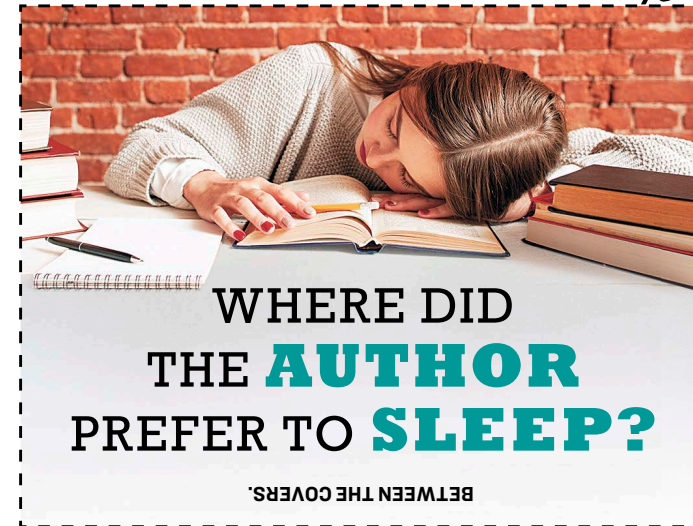
There is no Frigate like a Book

by Emily Dickinson

There is no Frigate like a Book
To take us Lands away,
Nor any Coursers like a Page
Of prancing Poetry –
This Traverse may the poorest take
Without oppress of Toll –
How frugal is the Chariot
That bears a Human soul.



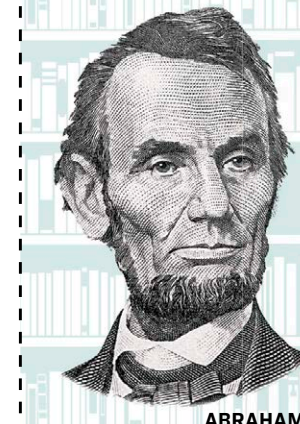
VASILVEX ALEXANDR/SHUTTERSTOCK



WHERE DID THE **AUTHOR** PREFER TO **SLEEP?**

BETWEEN THE COVERS.

“Get books, sit yourself down anywhere, and go to reading them yourself.”



ABRAHAM LINCOLN (1809-1865), 16TH PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

This Week in History



THE **LIBERTY BELL** ARRIVES

On Sept. 1, 1752, the Liberty Bell made its arrival to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, from London. It was hung in the State House of Pennsylvania, known today as Independence Hall.

On its first ring, the bell cracked. It was melted down and recast in Philadelphia and inscribed with its famous message: Proclaim Liberty Throughout All the

The Liberty Bell in 2008.

Land Unto All the Inhabitants thereof.”

It cracked again in the mid 1800s and hasn’t rung since. It can be seen today in Philadelphia and remains a symbol of America and freedom for all.

By Aidan Danza, age 14

SPECIES SPOTLIGHT: WOOD DUCK

Ducks are a jolly bunch—splashing and dabbling in our lakes, seemingly without a care in the world.

Most of them are quite pretty in their own way, but the wood duck stands out in a crowd. Looks aren’t everything for a wood duck, though—their story is remarkable from day one.

Male wood ducks are really beautiful. The head of a male is a shiny, dark green, with white streaks and a long crest. The bill is red, and so are his eyes. The chest is a deep-mahogany brown, and the sides are a golden tan. His back is every tint of green, blue, and purple, all glistening in the sun, made all the better by the water droplets on its back.

The female has her own graceful beauty. She is overall a gray-brown, but with white spots, streaks, and spots wherever they are due, and iridescent blue wings.

The wood duck has an unusual diet for a duck. Living in the woods, they like to eat all kinds of nuts, wild cabbage, seeds, tubers, roots, and other plant food, while they will also eat insects, and love to eat spiders.

Wood ducks have a sweet courtship. The male will bow to his female, and raise his crest, and they will both preen each other. Soon the female has 10–15 white eggs, which she lays in a hollow of a tree, be it rotten, made by

a woodpecker, or in a birdhouse specially erected for them.

They may nest up to 65 feet off the ground. In the first part of the incubation, the male and female will feed together, and come back to the nest together. In the early part of incubation, the male will abandon the female to raise her ducklings alone.

When the eggs hatch, the female will let her children dry off from the liquid inside the eggs, and then leaves the nest, calling softly from the bottom of the tree. Without

hesitation, the newly hatched ducklings climb up the side of the nest, which is sometimes eight feet below the hole. With the encouraging calls of their mother, the ducklings will jump the 50 feet or more, and land unharmed, whether the surface is leaf litter, water, or concrete. Once out of the nest, the duckling will follow their mother to the nearest pond.



Wood duckling in a tree.



ALL PHOTOS BY SHUTTERSTOCK



JACK FROG/SHUTTERSTOCK

Some of your best family memories will be incorporated into your homeschool life.

How to Bring More Joy Into Your Homeschool

2 key questions to ask yourself

BARBARA DANZA

As the pumpkin spice begins to waft through the air, many new homeschooling parents are about to dive into the school year.

Some can’t wait to get started. They may feel confident, knowing that they’re totally prepared. Others may be nervous, constantly refining and reviewing their plans

or questioning their sanity. It’s natural to set off into the unknown with apprehension. As you begin to dive in, and as the year progresses and you assess and reassess how it’s all going, ask yourself the following two questions.

What Would This Look Like If It Were Easy?

Author and investor Tim Ferriss

described his use of this question in his book “Tribe of Mentors.”

“It’s easy to convince yourself that things need to be hard, that if you’re not redlining, you’re not trying hard enough. This leads us to look for paths of most resistance, creating unnecessary hardship in the process,” he said.

“But what happens if we frame things in terms of elegance instead of strain? In doing so, we sometimes find incredible results with ease instead of stress. Sometimes, we ‘solve’ the problem by simply rewording it.”

Since reading this a few years ago, I’ve started to implement this question into all of my work—from writing articles like this one, to doing laundry, to planning my children’s homeschooling. Especially when the stakes are high—less so with laundry, more so with holding the keys to our children’s education—it can be tempting to make things elaborate or complicated.

The truth is, though, particularly when it comes to learning—the goal of homeschooling—it truly is a natural and simple thing. As you look at your plans, your curriculum, your schedule, and your routine, ask yourself this question: What would it look like if it were easy?

If your child understands the math concept easily, could you move on after she shows you three or four times, or do you have to slog through the entire worksheet? If your child loves cars, might he be more willing to write a five-paragraph essay about them rather than some summary of a boring textbook excerpt? Would the same—or even better—learning be happening?

How else can you make things easy? What about your homeschooling feels hard? How would it look if it were easy? Keep asking yourself this all year long.

What Would This Look Like If It Were Fun?

Homeschooling is a lifestyle and what you’re planning is not simply a few lessons but your children’s childhood. Some of your best family memories will be incorporated into your homeschool life. You’ll soon find that homeschooling is not something that happens within the confines of the hours you deem “school time,” but a lifestyle of learning and exploring that happens 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Fun is an important part of learning and childhood. So, ask yourself, as you plan away and count the number of lessons it

will take to mark one subject as finished: What would this look like if it were fun?

Perhaps instead of that math worksheet full of multiplication problems, you go outside and bounce a ball while skip-counting by each number, 1 through 12! What if you scrapped math for the day and gave your kids a \$100 budget to do the grocery shopping? Put them in charge of calculating coupons, sales discounts, making a list, and choosing all the items to be purchased. Would that count as learning? Would it be fun?

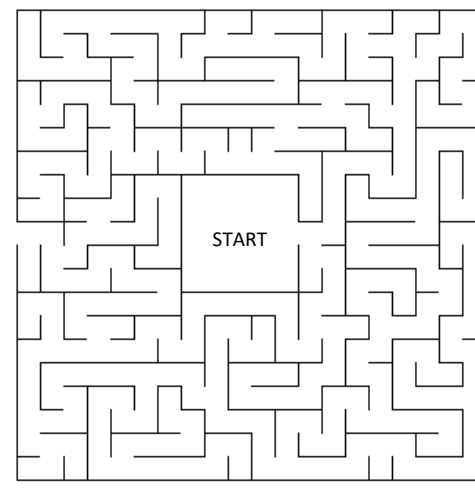
What if you took your science vocabulary words and turned them into clues for a game of Pictionary? What if you went to the site of that famous war battle instead of reading about it in a book?

What would this look like if it were fun? What a valuable question—to your children’s well-being and their education, and to everyone your family encounters.

You’ve researched, you’ve pondered, you’ve purchased, you’ve organized. You’re almost ready. Just ask yourself these questions to put the delicious whipped cream and delightful sprinkles on top of this homeschool sundae.

It’s going to be a great year. You’ve got this.

AMAZING ESCAPES!



USE THE FOUR NUMBERS IN THE CORNERS, AND THE OPERANDS (+, -, AND X) to build an equation to get the solution in the middle. There may be more than one “unique” solution but, there may also be “equivalent” solutions. For example: 6 + (7 X 3) + 1 = 28 and 1+ (7 X 3) + 6 = 28

Easy puzzle 1

4	10		
44			
3	6		
+	-	x	÷

Solution For Easy 1
4 - 3 = (6 + 0)

Medium puzzle 1

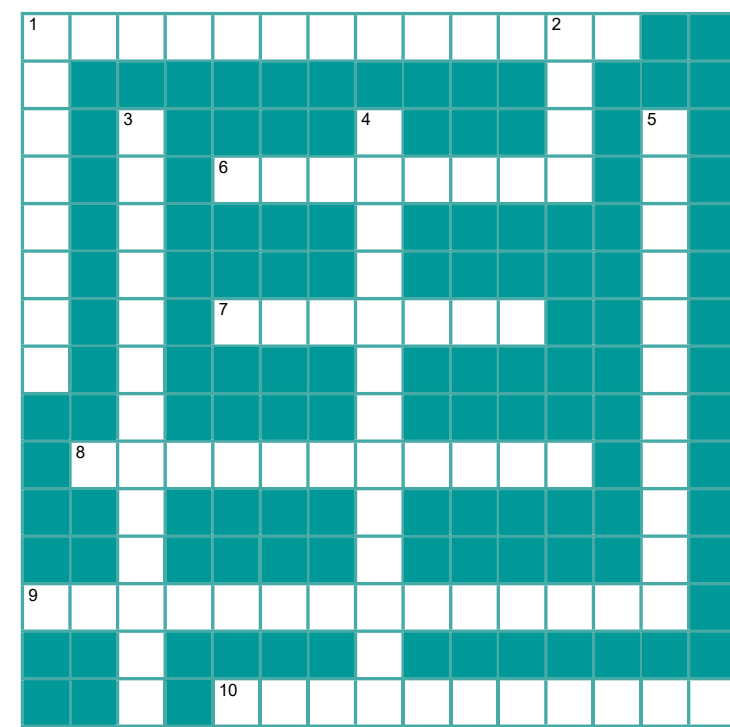
13	20		
12			
10	15		
+	-	x	÷

Solution for Medium 1
01 - 01 - 51 + 02

Hard puzzle 1

8	35		
33			
4	9		
+	-	x	÷

Solution for Hard 1
4 - 56 - 8 x 6
56 - 8 x 4 = (6 + 6)



Across

- Rudyard Kipling’s story about Mowgli (3,6,4)
- Michael Morpurgo’s WWI story about a pet named Joey (3,5)
- Roald Dahl title character who can move things with her mind (7)
- Horatio Alger’s rags-to-riches kid (8,3)
- Robert Muchamore’s WWI stories about young spies (10,4)
- Companion of Hermione Granger (5,6)



Honest Journalism Is Always ‘Essential’

Greetings, Epoch VIP, and welcome to your print edition of The Epoch Times!

This might be your first time actually meeting us in person, which is great! Not that our online edition isn't just as good, but there's nothing quite like the feel of a good old-fashioned newspaper in your hands over a cup of coffee—at least, in our opinion.

And don't worry; while we do have many opinions of our own, we do our best to put them in our editorial and op-ed sections where opinions belong. Our news reporting is reserved for facts that we can prove with credible sources, so that we can deliver you an accurate, unbiased, and comprehensive picture of what's going on in the world today.

We're believers in the idea that news reporting

should inspire people of all different opinions to think independently and speak up, instead of being silenced in favor of a majority narrative.

That's why our job stops after we give you the facts: your reactions, emotions, and opinions are all your own. Maybe a report on injustice might sadden you, perhaps it might make you angry, perhaps you might want to do your own research and then decide. Maybe one of our lifestyle articles might make you laugh, or it might make you nostalgic. Maybe one of our mind and body articles will get you to think about life in a way you didn't before.

We don't know what your reaction will be, but what we do hope is that the paper in your hands inspires you to have an open, honest conversation—with your friends and family, with society, or even with us.

Tell us if you agree, let us know if you disagree, write a letter to our editors; we'd love to hear from you. For we believe that freedom of expression is the fire that forges a society's best ideas, and that principle is also what drives the kind of classic American journalism we want to restore to the limelight.

So let's bring back news that's accountable to its readers. Let's bring back the dialogue that comes with getting the paper in the morning. Let us know if we're putting our money where our mouth is, because we want to prove that "truth and tradition" isn't just a motto.

With you on our side, we hope to get even better at living out that motto every day.

In truth and tradition,
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