

# THE EPOCH TIMES

# LIFE &

# TRADITION

## How Stalin Canceled 'Hamlet' in the Soviet Union

What it can teach us about cancel culture

JON MILTIMORE

William Shakespeare's play "Hamlet" is considered by some to be the single greatest story ever written.

"Hamlet" has it all: ghosts, sword fights, suicide, revenge, lust, murder, philosophy, faith, manipulation, and a climactic bloodbath worthy of a Tarantino film. It's a masterpiece of both high art and sensationalism, the only play I've seen performed live three times.

Not everyone likes "Hamlet," of course. One of its detractors was Soviet premier Joseph Stalin.

Stalin's hatred for the play has almost become a thing of legend, in part because it's unclear precisely why Stalin hated the play. Entire academic papers are dedicated to answering the question.

In his autobiography "Testimony," the famous Russian composer Dmitri Shostakovich suggests that Stalin saw the play as excessively dark and potentially subversive.

"[Stalin] simply didn't want people watching plays with plots that displeased him," Shostakovich wrote. "You never know what might pop into the mind of some demented person."

Stalin didn't ban the play, however. He merely let it be known he disapproved of "Hamlet" during a rehearsal at the Moscow Art Theater, Stalin's favorite theater.

"Why is this necessary—playing 'Hamlet' in the Art Theater?" the Soviet leader asked.

That was all it took, Shostakovich said.

"Everyone knew about Stalin's question directed at the Art Theater and no one wanted to risk it. Everyone was afraid," Shostakovich observed. "And for many long years 'Hamlet' was not seen on the Soviet stage."

### Cancel Culture and Fear

"Hamlet" is safe in the United States today, fortunately. Yet today's "cancel culture" has purged many works of art—from Dr. Seuss books and "Gone With the Wind" to Disney movies such as "Peter Pan" and "Dumbo."

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PUBLIC DOMAIN



A poster for "Hamlet," circa 1884.



Actor John Wayne outdoors on a film set, circa 1959.

HULTON ARCHIVE/GETTY IMAGES

## Movies, Morality, and Men: Gifts From Hollywood

From heroes to villains, fathers to loners, film characters can show us different models of manhood

JEFF MINICK

Grab a bowl of popcorn and your favorite beverage, hit the sofa, dim the lights, and flick on the television screen.

We're off to the movies. Specifically, movies about men.

Over the past century, Hollywood has produced thousands of cinematic portraits of men and manhood. They've

stepped onto the big screen as good guys and bad, rich and poor, heroes and villains. For every famous star like Jimmy Stewart, John Wayne, Russell Crowe, and Matt Damon, directors and writers have brought us 100 other lesser-known actors whose characters provide models of manhood.

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Rick (Humphrey Bogart, L) and Sam (Dooley Wilson), in "Casablanca."

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"Casablanca," for example, gives us Rick, the heart-broken cynic; his loyal friend and musician, Sam; the idealistic freedom fighter, Victor; the corrupt but affable policeman Louis; and other men who run the gamut from hero to bum.

And that's just one movie.

Given that my task is to examine some ways in which Hollywood depicts men and manhood, and given there are several hundred movies from which I might choose, I feel like a man assigned to whittle a fork from an oak tree with a pocket knife. After some thought, I've opted to select movies featuring opposites: loners versus fathers and zeros versus heroes.

## Loners

Many of us—including me—relish movies that pit one man against a mob of opponents. In "Rambo," for example, Sylvester Stallone plays a former Special Forces soldier who battles a town's police department. "Cool Hand Luke" brings us Paul Newman as a convict who refuses to buckle to the guards and the warden of a southern prison. The "Dirty Harry" movies feature Clint Eastwood as an outlier cop, sickened by the pussyfooting of the law and prepared to enforce his own brand of justice on the bad guys.

One of my favorites in this genre is 1962's

"Lonely Are the Brave." Kirk Douglas plays drifter and modern-day cowboy Jack Burns, who gets himself arrested to help a friend break out of a local jail. When the friend refuses his offer of assistance, Burns escapes and spends the rest of the movie with his horse, Whiskey, on the run from the law.

Burns represents not only one of the last of the Western cowboys, but also an individual fighting the machine of modern society. The lawmen use cars, a helicopter, and radios to track this renegade cowboy, while Burns combats them with his knowledge of the terrain and his fierce desire to evade capture and return to his solitary life.

While we might not want to entertain a Dirty Harry or a Rambo at our backyard barbecue—Burns might make the grade—we admire characters such as these for their grit and their courage in tackling tough tasks on their own.

## Fathers

Opposite the loners are the men who love their wives and children, and who engage with their relatives and friends. Jimmy Stewart as a husband and father in the movies "It's a Wonderful Life" and "Shenandoah," Liam Neeson in "Taken," and James Earl Jones as the voice of Mufasa in "The Lion King" are only a few examples of fathers loving and protecting their families.

In "Cinderella Man" Russell Crowe plays James J. Braddock, a Depression-era heavy-weight boxer who battles his way to the title of champion. This film shows Braddock not only training and defeating various opponents in the ring, but also as a father who loves his wife and children so much that he is literally fighting for them and to better their impoverished circumstances.

"Cinderella Man" teaches several lessons in fatherhood. When asked by a reporter why he is fighting, Braddock replies, "Milk," meaning sustenance for his kids. When one of his adolescent sons steals a salami from a butcher out of fear the family won't have enough to eat, Braddock makes him return the stolen meat; tells him, "We don't steal," and then comforts him when he understands the boy's terror at being farmed out to relatives. At one point, circumstances force Braddock to beg for money from sports reporters and officials to have the electricity turned on in his apartment in order to have his children return home again.

**When we think of heroes in the movies—men who rise above dire circumstances or face terrible odds—we may find ourselves remembering films about war.**

Braddock puts his family above his own pride, makes sacrifices on their behalf, and serves his children as an example of what it means to be a man.

## Zeroes

Those of us who enjoy movies can all think of male characters we hope to avoid imitating. Gollum in "The Lord of the Rings" or Fredo Corleone in "The Godfather" films immediately come to my mind as examples here. Gollum murders a relative for the ring and finds himself a slave to its magical powers. Fredo, a womanizer and

a weak man, joins a plot to have his brother Michael assassinated—none of us wants to go that route.

In "Saving Private Ryan," we meet Corporal Upham, a clerk and a translator ordered to join a combat patrol to go behind the Nazi German lines and retrieve a certain Private Ryan, whose three brothers have either just died during the Normandy invasion or while fighting the Japanese in the Pacific. Upham goes on the patrol because he is fluent in German, and though an idealist as a soldier, his lack of experience in combat and his cowardice result in the death of two American soldiers. Near the end of the movie, he kills a German soldier in cold blood—a soldier whose release from execution Upham had earlier sought. Weirdly, he then lets some other Germans go free.

Upham is the antithesis of manhood, a soldier who mouths slogans about heroism but is unwilling or unable to make the necessary sacrifices required by combat.

## Heroes

When we think of heroes in the movies—men who rise above dire circumstances or face terrible odds—we may find ourselves remembering films about war. Certainly, many of those movies bring clear examples of heroism to the screen. In "Braveheart," for example, Mel Gibson plays William Wallace, who leads the Scots into battle against the English and defends the cause of his native land on and off the battlefield. Gibson also starred in "The Patriot," playing Benjamin Martin, a South Carolinian who wreaks havoc on British forces in South Carolina during the American Revolution.

We may also admire men who stand alone on the side of right. Emblematic of these brave souls is Marshall Will Kane, played by Gary Cooper, in the Western film "High Noon." The newly married Kane, who is on the verge of retirement from his office as sheriff, must first face an outlaw gang who intend to kill him. The townspeople refuse to help him, leaving Kane to fight alone. With the help of his wife, he kills the outlaws, contemptuously throws his badge into the street, boards a train, and leaves town.



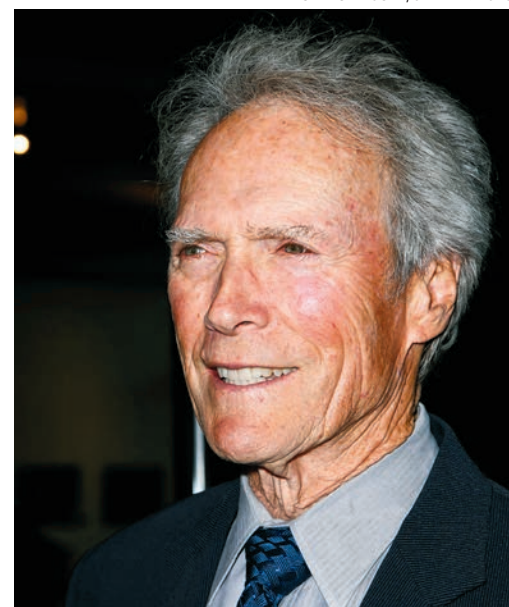
Actor-directors Clint Eastwood (L) and Don Siegel talking on the set of "Dirty Harry," circa 1971.



Gary Cooper and Grace Kelly in "High Noon."



Jimmy Stewart, Donna Reed, and Karolyn Grimes in "It's a Wonderful Life."



Clint Eastwood at the Warner Home Video's 2008 release of the "Dirty Harry" series at the Directors Guild of America Theatre Complex in Los Angeles.



Actor Russell Crowe at a discussion panel for a screening of "Cinderella Man" in New York City on May 31, 2005.

One such movie that touches on our age of cancel culture is "A Man for All Seasons," England's King Henry VIII, played by Robert Shaw, has broken with Rome over his marriage to Anne Boleyn and will soon launch his own version of cancel culture—declaring himself the head of the Church of England, destroying religious art, disbarring monasteries and selling off their lands, and changing the liturgy.

Opposing this break with the pope is Henry's former Lord Chancellor, the writer and intellectual Sir Thomas More, portrayed by Paul Scofield. Though many of his friends go along with the king—seeking either advancement at court or fearing for their lives—More refuses to accept the legitimacy of Henry's marriage to Anne. Eventually, More is imprisoned in the Tower of London, tried for treason, and executed. Later, the Catholic Church would declare him a martyr and a saint.

"A Man for All Seasons" reminds us of the importance of standing for principle and truth when faced by corruption and deceit.

## Big Screen Lessons

If we pay attention, then, movies can teach us how to grow in manly virtue. What is "Groundhog Day" if not an exhortation to do the best we can in the life given us? What is the romantic comedy "Kate and Leopold" if not a primer on how a gentleman should treat a lady?

And actors playing certain parts serve as role models for the young. My 4-year-old grandson, for example, is at present a big fan of John Wayne. His family watches a good number of old movies, and the little guy has seen "The Duke" in several westerns, such as "The Alamo" and "The Longest Day." Just as he did when he was alive, Wayne brings a presence to the screen that captures his audience, even the youngest among us.

Will the characters portrayed by Wayne always be heroes to my grandson? Perhaps not. But here's a kid exposed at an early age to some of the virtues Wayne embodied—defending the weak, fighting for justice, and pursuing the right path in spite of the cost.

Because of our modern technology, we have a treasure trove of such films available to us. When we watch these movies—the good ones—we are not only teaching virtue to our young people, but we are also reinforcing our own sense of rectitude and integrity.

The films are there. All we have to do is watch them and learn.

*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. He is the author of two novels, "Amanda Bell" and "Dust On Their Wings," as well as two works of non-fiction, "Learning As I Go" and "Movies Make The Man." Today, he lives and writes in Front Royal, Virginia. See [JeffMinick.com](http://JeffMinick.com) to follow his blog.*

# Jeremy Nunes: Into the World of Comedy and Small-Town Politics

## ANDREW THOMAS

This past year has been a tumultuous one, and it's been particularly hard on the performing arts. Audiences too have suffered from the dearth of live music, theater, and stand-up comedy. Jeremy Nunes, 37, a comic from the small town of Dawson, Illinois, and father of two, has been hustling during the pandemic to make ends meet and provide a little bit of comic relief for the rest of us.

Nunes had always wanted to be a stand-up comedian. Jeff Foxworthy was one of his primary influences, and he enjoyed watching "The Tonight Show With Jay Leno" as a kid. The mornings after the shows he would recite Leno's monologues. As he got a little bit older, he became intrigued by Jimmy Fallon's work on Saturday Night Live.

His family owned a trailer park in his hometown, and it was expected for him to take over the business.

"Instead, I took the comedy route to make an equal amount of money. Tens of dollars," Nunes joked.

## Small-Town Comedy

When Nunes first started out, he drove all over the country, performing small gigs and taking every opportunity he could to get his name out into the world of comedy. There were times when he was successful and times when he wasn't. Growing up in a small town and going to church heavily influenced Nunes's comedy; and



Stand-up comedian Jeremy Nunes. His special "Who's With Me?!" is available on Amazon.

as his act developed over time, it became cleaner and cleaner. As he got better and more comfortable, other comedians became wary of following his act.

Throughout his travels, he had the opportunity to perform in a lot of small towns. After a while, he began to wonder why his own hometown wasn't measuring up to the places he visited. That's when he decided to get into politics. He first served as an alderman, then ran for mayor. He had no expectation of winning, but his friends and family believed that he would make an intelligent, thoughtful elected official. His campaign slogan became "Put a real joker in office," and to his surprise, he received 80 percent of the vote.

Inevitably, his experience as a comedian would influence his style of governing. He found himself trying to appease small-town complainers, em-



Jeremy Nunes performing on Dry Bar Comedy.

ployees, and government officials. In addition, he had to balance his comedy career, family life, and local politics.

As a result of his efforts, he won an award for being one of Illinois' most ethical mayors. The incident that brought about the recognition was that he had issued a fine to his parents for not cutting their grass. Then small-town comedy came into play in real life. It turns out he was the one who was supposed to mow their lawn. Nunes wrote a book during the pandemic about his mayoral experience entitled "You Can't Write City Hall," to be released on May 4. He also says serving as mayor made him a better comedian and a better businessman.

## Family Man

Nunes's career in comedy continues to grow, and as a clean comedian, he has performed at churches, fundraisers, and corporate events. He's also released the stand-up special "Who's With Me?!" on Amazon and has performed for Dry Bar, a clean comedy outlet. Nunes's wife and two children have also been source material for his jokes. His son has gotten the comedy bug and often gives his dad a hard time.

One day, he watched as Nunes put lotion on his face.

"Why do you do that?" he asked his father.

"Well, I guess it helps my face look nice," Nunes responded.

"I don't think it's working," his son joked.

Nunes is a family man and tries his best to spend as much time with his wife and kids as possible. He often returns from shows in the early morning hours, but wakes up in time to have breakfast with the family and see his son off to school. If he does a late show

on Saturday, he makes sure he's back to go to church on Sunday with them. While he juggles to balance his career and home life, his family understands he needs time to himself to write jokes and work on his act.

Over the past year, Nunes has struggled as live shows were largely canceled across the country. He's frustrated with lockdowns, mainly because his performances are how he provides for his family. The comedian has been performing virtual shows, but his income has plummeted.

He's also considering how much of the pandemic should be part of his future material. Nunes, like many comedians, has also become the target of cancel culture. Even though he performs a clean act, someone is always offended by something. He's also concerned with retroactive cancellation, afraid he'll be punished for jokes he made years ago.

"It just feels like a bunch of people that live in their grandma's basement that don't have a job, so they feel like their job is to be the police of internet," Nunes said. "I might get canceled for that, who knows."

Despite the pandemic and current cancel climate, Nunes stresses that comedy still has tremendous value for all of us. Comedy provides an escape for people. Whether it's financial, health, or personal issues, humor provides a reprieve.

For Nunes, the mission is rewarding. Every now and then, audience members will approach him after a show. They'll mention a personal struggle, such as an illness or the loss of a loved one, and how his act gave them a period of levity during their difficult time.

"It's hard not to feel good after hearing something like that," Nunes said.

# 6 Ways to Brighten Your Family's Day

## BARBARA DANZA

If you're stuck in a rut, if the kids have been moody (or the parents have been moody), or you simply want to add more joy to your family's day, here are six simple gestures that are sure to put a smile on your family's faces.

## Amp Up a Meal

Another bowl of cereal, another sandwich, another chicken dinner—if your meals have become predictable or monotonous, tweak them just a little to the delight of your family. Add colorful fruit slices as a topping for cereal, have lunch outside for an instant picnic, or serve dinner in the dining room on your fancy china.

By changing the presentation, the setting, or by adding a new ingredient to your regular standbys, you can easily make mealtime a surprising delight.

If your meals have become monotonous, tweak them just a little by changing the ingredients, the presentation, or the setting.



MONKEY BUSINESS IMAGES/SHUTTERSTOCK

## Laugh It Up

Schedules, chores, to-do lists, deadlines, responsibilities—lighten up, would ya? Sprinkle giggles and silliness throughout your day with the help of the corniest jokes and puns you can find. Here are some examples:

"When is a door not a door? When it's ajar."

"Why did the golfer wear two pairs of pants? In case he got a hole in one."

"Why did the bicycle fall over? Because it was two tired."

Write them down on note cards or your family's kitchen whiteboard, tell them at random times throughout the day, or keep a kid-friendly joke book lying around so that everyone can join in the fun.

Whether they elicit eye rolls or belly laughs, you'll be sure to put a smile on the faces of your family members.

## Drop the Routine

Routines can be truly beneficial for families. When things have been humming along consistently for a while, though, it can be really fun to toss the routine out the window and do something spontaneous.

Go out to dinner on a weeknight, play hooky from work and head to the beach, go for a walk after dinner instead of turning on the television, camp out in the living room, or have ice cream for dinner. Shake things up, move things

around, and insert new energy into the day-to-day.

## Play With Their Toys

Watch your children rejoice when they discover that you've rearranged their toys in an unexpected way.

"What's the pink bunny doing on the ceiling fan? Did your teddy bear build that block castle while you were sleeping? Is that Mr. Potato Head in the fridge?!"

Prepare for giggles when your kids find their favorite toys doing unexpected things around the house.

## Sing Silly Songs

Mommy's cooking dinner now, E-I-O," instead of "Old MacDonald had a farm." You see where this is going. "My kids are playing so nicely, doo dah, doo dah, It makes Mommy so happy, all the doo dah day." My daughter's personal favorite: "Everyday I'm smuggling," followed by the running man.

Sing and dance your way throughout the day. Sure, they may think you've lost it, but that's part of the charm.

## Surprise Someone Else

Activities that encourage compassion and thinking of others are winners on all fronts. Have your children mail some of their artwork to Grandma, help make a special dinner for Dad, or bring homemade food to a neighbor. Helping them brighten someone else's day may be the best way to brighten your family's day.



# How Stalin Canceled 'Hamlet' in the Soviet Union

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These works of art aren't being banned by state censors; they are being pulled or restricted by content providers, online stores, and publishers on the grounds that they are culturally or racially insensitive.

"These books portray people in ways that are hurtful and wrong," Dr. Seuss Enterprises told The Associated Press upon announcing it would no longer publish six Dr. Seuss books, including "And to Think That I Saw It on Mulberry Street" and "If I Ran the Zoo."

Whether these works of art are culturally insensitive is a subjective matter, as is the question of whether "Hamlet" is a morally subversive play. Now, there are those who deny that Dr. Seuss is actually being canceled at all.

"We can debate whether doing this was the right thing, but it's important to point out a few things," the film critic Stephen Silver wrote in the Philadelphia Inquirer. "The decision was made by the company that owns and controls the books, not by the government, or by a mob" that pressured it."

Silver is correct to note there's a difference between government censorship and self-censorship. But his claim there was no pressure behind the decision warrants scrutiny. (More on that in a moment.)

APFVIA GETTY IMAGES



An undated picture shows Vladimir Ilyich Ulanov (1870-1924), better known as Lenin (L) posing in Gorki, Soviet Union, with Iosif Vissarionovich Dzhugashvili (1879-1953) better known as Joseph Stalin, who became secretary-general of the Soviet communist party in 1922.

In any event, while there are differences in government censorship and self-censorship, both are dangerous, George Orwell observed.

"Obviously it is not desirable that a government department should have any power of censorship... but the chief danger to freedom of thought and speech at this moment is not the direct interference of the [government] or any official body. If publishers and editors exert themselves to keep certain topics out of print, it is not because they are frightened of

prosecution but because they are frightened of public opinion. In this country intellectual cowardice is the worst enemy a writer or journalist has to face, and that fact does not seem to me to have had the discussion it deserves."

What Orwell was saying is that fear of public opinion can also result in censorship.

Now, to be clear, we don't know for certain the motivations of publishers who decide to stop publishing certain Dr. Seuss books. Just like we can't know for sure why Spotify suddenly dropped 42 Joe Rogan episodes down the Memory Hole. But it's not unreasonable to suspect the impetus driving the canceling of today's works is not unlike that which drove "Hamlet" out of the Soviet Union: fear.

## Fear: A More Effective Censor Than Bans?

Stalin's canceling of "Hamlet" showed government bans aren't the only ways to suppress free expression, or even the most effective. As Shostakovich observed, Stalin's ability to cancel "Hamlet" with a mere word was a far better demonstration of power than an official state ban. It required no law or formal announcement. All it took was a quiet word and fear, an emotion that Americans today are familiar with.

A recent Cato study shows self-censorship is surging in the United States, with two-thirds of Americans saying they are afraid to share ideas in public because of the political climate, which is increasingly dominated by "wokeism."

These fears aren't irrational. The examples of Americans fired, shamed, and canceled for being on the wrong side of "woke" culture are legion. The phenomenon last year prompted a letter in Harper's Magazine signed by dozens of leading academics that condemned the intolerant climate of ideas.

"Editors are fired for running controversial pieces; books are withdrawn for alleged inauthenticity; journalists are barred from writing on certain topics; professors are investigated for quoting works of literature in class; a researcher is fired for circulating a peer-reviewed academic study; and the heads of organizations are ousted for what are sometimes just clumsy mistakes," the letter read.

"We are already paying the price in greater risk aversion among writers, artists, and journalists who fear for their livelihoods if they depart from the consensus, or even lack sufficient zeal in agreement."

This climate doesn't end with writers and academics afraid to offer certain opinions, however. It extends to corporate boardrooms and executive committees, where individuals are being pressured to decide which art is acceptable and which opinions are fit to be shared on platforms.

To be on the wrong side of the debate invites personal destruction. It's simply easier to agree to remove "harmful" art or fire that employee who raised the ire of the Twitter mob.

TRICIA FOWLER

My child arrived just the other day He came to the world in the usual way But there were planes to catch and bills to pay He learned to walk while I was away And he was talking 'fore I knew it, and as he grew He'd say, "I'm gonna be like you, Dad You know I'm gonna be like you" —From "Cat's in the Cradle" by Harry Chapin

At the turn of the 20th century, these song lyrics would have been alien to American culture. With daycare not invented, limited public-school access, and many kids working with parents and/or siblings, families were the centerpiece of life and the community's building blocks.

What a difference a century makes. For postmodern families in the public school system, much of life must be arranged around not only school hours, but increasingly progressive values. While many moms

and dads are accustomed to pursuing their own interests separate from the family at large, postmodernists are making up new narratives about everything from gender to climate and impressing them on children in school.

## How Did We Get Here?

The predicament has been decades in the making. American families have been becoming increasingly fragmented, finding little time together with fewer group activities to stay connected. As a result of postmodern ideas, family values have been demonized as oppressive to women, stifling to children, and supportive of toxic masculinity.

However, the real social experiment is to increasingly let the state, through public school education, become the new influence and authority over children in place of the family. Do conservative families believe that the essential values of life can be transferred to the next generation through government programs? Many have already



Illustration of Hamlet facing a ghost on a castle terrace in a scene (Act I, Scene V) from William Shakespeare's play "Hamlet."

**“If publishers and editors exert themselves to keep certain topics out of print, it is not because they are frightened of prosecution but because they are frightened of public opinion.”**

George Orwell

"People are afraid to challenge them," Robby Soave of Reason told John Stossel last year in an interview on cancel culture.

Like in Orwell's "1984," in today's culture you don't even have to utter Wrongthink to be condemned for it.

Just ask Dr. Howard Bauchner, who in March was removed as editor-in-chief of the prominent medical journal JAMA. Bauchner's crime was that, during a podcast the previous month, his deputy editor questioned the existence of structural racism.

"Structural racism is an unfortunate term," said Dr. Edward H. Livingston, who is white. "Personally, I think taking racism out of the conversation will help."

## 'Everyone Was Afraid'

To be sure, in America today, one doesn't risk liquidation for refusing to bow to pressure to self-censor works of art. That cannot be said of the Soviet Union under Stalin.

Yet there is a common thread that runs through both cases of censorship: fear.

"Everyone was afraid," Shostakovich said. These same words can be applied to those bowing to cancel culture today.

This isn't to say that Dr. Seuss's works are or are not culturally insensitive, or that "Hamlet" does or does not contain themes harmful or subversive.

It's simply to say that fear lurks behind the disappearance of art and the suppression of free expression. For that reason alone, such efforts should be resisted.

Jonathan Miltimore is the managing editor of FEE.org. His writing/reporting has been the subject of articles in TIME magazine, The Wall Street Journal, CNN, Forbes, Fox News, and the Star Tribune. Bylines: Newsweek, The Washington Times, MSN.com, The Washington Examiner, The Daily Caller, The Federalist, The Epoch Times.

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Involving children in joint projects like gardening helps to bond the family.

homeschooling.

This summer is a perfect time to regroup before the upcoming school year. Do you long for your kids to come to you with their thoughts? Are you beginning to see your children embrace ideas that aren't healthy for the family? Have you, as a parent, become less influential in your child's life than you anticipated? Answer these questions to

HISTORY

# How Germany's 'Deal With the Devil' Backfired and Changed History

LAWRENCE W. REED

On April 16 in the fateful year of 1917, the Russian communist Vladimir Lenin arrived in Petrograd (now St. Petersburg) from exile in Switzerland.

The Germans, with whom Russia had been at war since the summer of 1914, secretly arranged his return, granted him safe passage through Germany, and even gave him millions in gold. They hoped he would stir up enough trouble that Russia would withdraw from World War I.

A vaccine is supposed to inoculate a person against a virus. Injecting Russia with Lenin was tantamount to administering the virus itself. British historian Edward Crankshaw noted that Germany saw "in this obscure fanatic one more bacillus to let loose in tottering and exhausted Russia to spread infection."

Within six months, Lenin engineered the October Revolution. His new regime made peace with Germany in March 1918.

So, the Germans got their wish for the near term, but it availed them worse than nothing. They lost the war anyway in November. The monster Lenin created would swallow half of Germany in 1945 and build the infamous Berlin Wall in 1961. The first communist state enslaved millions and bedeviled the world until its collapse in 1991.

Lenin is the same cold-blooded thug who famously wrote: "We must be ready to employ trickery, deceit, law-breaking, withholding and concealing truth... We can and must write in a language which sows among the masses hate, revulsion, and scorn toward those who disagree with us."

Elsewhere, Lenin declared that "the proletariat needs state power, the centralized

PUBLIC DOMAIN



## The monster Lenin created would swallow half of Germany in 1945 and build the infamous Berlin Wall in 1961.

organization of force, the organization of violence, for the purpose of crushing the resistance... and for the purpose of leading the great mass of the population... in the work of organizing a socialist economy."

In August 1918, Lenin sent his now-famous "Hanging Order" telegram. It instructed local Bolsheviks in the Penza region to deal harshly with the farmers (kulaks) who owned land there and were standing in the way of its nationalization. The British histo-

rian Robert Service discovered it in Soviet archives in the 1990s. It read as follows:

"Comrades! The insurrection of five kulak districts should be pitilessly suppressed. The interests of the whole revolution require this because 'the last decisive battle' with the kulaks is now underway everywhere. An example must be made.

1. Hang (absolutely hang, in full view of the people) no fewer than one hundred known kulaks, fatcats, bloodsuckers.
2. Publish their names.
3. Seize all grain from them.
4. Designate hostages, in accordance with yesterday's telegram.

Do it in such a fashion, that for hundreds of miles around the people see, tremble, know, shout: "The bloodsucking kulaks are being

strangled and will be strangled.' Telegraph receipt and implementation. Yours, Lenin.

P.S. Use your toughest people for this." That chilling telegram ushered in the "Red Terror" that murdered Russians by the tens of thousands over the next two years.

In a speech in 1987, President Ronald Reagan mused: "How do you tell a Communist? Well, it's someone who reads Marx and Lenin. And how do you tell an anti-Communist? It's someone who understands Marx and Lenin."

One can only wonder how different events might have been if the Germans in 1917 had understood what Lenin and his revolution were all about.

The lesson? Make a deal with the devil and the odds are you will get burned.



Lenin in a police photograph from December 1895.

## For Additional Information, See:

"A Revolution to Always Remember But Never to Celebrate" by Lawrence W. Reed  
"Lenin's New Economic Policy: When the Soviets Admitted Socialism Doesn't Work" by Lawrence W. Reed  
"The Battle of Warsaw: Celebrating the Centennial

of a Polish Victory" by Lawrence W. Reed  
"The Russian Revolution" by Richard Pipes

Lawrence W. Reed is FEE's president emeritus, Humphreys Family senior fellow, and Ron Manners global ambassador for Liberty, having served for nearly 11 years as FEE's president (2008-2019). He is the 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.

# Inspired by Her Rescue Dog, 14-Year-Old Launches Pet Accessory Business

JENNI JULANDER

An eighth-grader from Gurnee, Illinois, has launched her own handmade pet accessory line after being inspired by her rescue pup. The thoughtful teen has also made it her personal mission to help save the lives of animals in need by donating 20 percent of her sales proceeds each month to different rescue organizations.

At just 14 years old, Caroline Schuler, who attends East Lake Academy, runs her own business—Paws and Claws—on Etsy and Instagram, selling stylish tie-on pet bandanas, over-the-collar pet bowties, and even matching scrunchies for pet owners.

Schuler's pet, Scruffy, has been an inspiration for Paws and Claws in many ways.

"Scruffy was a rescue dog, so helping animals in need holds a special place in my heart," Schuler told The Epoch Times via email.

The circumstances of Scruffy's adoption made a lasting impression on her.

After losing their family pet, Teddy, in 2013, Schuler's family wanted to adopt a dog. They found Scruffy, a Shih Tzu mix, on a local rescue website called Fur Angels Animal Sanctuary, filled out an adoption application, and completed a home visit with the dog.

However, Scruffy—who had been picked up from the streets of Hammond, Indiana, by animal control—was in rough shape when he was adopted.

"[Scruffy's] fur was very overgrown and heavily matted," Schuler said. "By looking

COURTESY OF CAROLINE SCHULER



Caroline Schuler and her rescue dog Scruffy.

at his teeth, the vet believed Scruffy was 1 year old. The vet took several X-rays and found that his pelvis was broken in 3 spots. It had healed on its own, but not correctly."

Additionally, Scruffy had a fear of being around men and teenage boys in particular, which Schuler believes might be due to the possible abuse he dealt with when a

stray. "Scruffy would be very protective of my mom and me around my brother and dad," she said.

Scruffy has made drastic improvements over the past seven years with the family, including meeting new people and dogs, but still bears signs of the trauma endured all those years ago.

"He picks up his hind right leg when going downstairs," Schuler said.

Witnessing Scruffy's ordeal firsthand, Schuler felt the need to do something. The teen, who had learned sewing in 2014 at a week-long camp, decided to put her skill to use after she saw the love for pet products since starting Scruffy's Instagram account.

"I decided to try and make a bandana and bow-tie for Scruffy," she said. "After lots of trial and error, I finally came up with a finished product that was my own unique design."

After a lot of convincing, Schuler's mom decided to allow her to start selling them on Etsy in June 2020.

"My first product launch included bandanas, bow-ties, and scrunchies in 13 prints," Schuler said. In a spirit to do more, she also went on to create an Instagram account and began to receive amazing responses to her products from pet owners.

"The community welcomed me and was so supportive," Schuler said. "This just affirmed that making pet accessories for others was how I wanted to spend my free time."

Schuler's unique designs are inspired by Scruffy's "bubbly and bright" personality.

**“Scruffy was a rescue dog, so helping animals in need holds a special place in my heart.”**

Caroline Schuler

"I try to make my products in the same bubbly patterns, and have a fun, welcoming shop," she said. Each package reflects Schuler's labor of love. Apart from the handmade accessory, she includes personalized handwritten thank-you notes and a few Milk-Bone biscuits for the pup.

Clients rave about the products, calling the prints "super fun" and referring to Paws and Claws as their "favorite pet brand." They also have many compliments for Schuler's customer experience and service.

Schuler said she is humbled by the response she has received and is grateful to be able to donate 20 percent of every purchase to animal shelters and animals in need. In addition, she has made bandana donations to Fur Angels; and bandana, scrunchie, and bow tie donations to Lodi Animal Services in Lodi, California, for adoption photos.

For other young entrepreneurs with big dreams, Schuler has some advice to offer.

"Do not give up," she said. "There is so, so much that will knock you down, and there are so many challenges and trials to overcome. But if you have a dream, do not stop until you make it your reality."

All the work you put in will pay off, and it will be completely worth it."

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# Making Family the Hub of Life Again

see if your family is the hub of life:

How much time per day are the children with one or both parents?

How much time per day are children and parents engaged in the same activity that doesn't involve a screen?

How much time do you spend in face-to-face contact with your child?

Most children are in school close to eight hours per day, not counting extracurricular activities. Even if only one parent is involved in the day-to-day education of the child, opportunities for interactions will increase exponentially. But the extra time isn't the only tool to bring the family back to focus. It turns out that many of the peer relations and progressive ideologies in public school work directly against our efforts as parents. Ask yourself these questions: Are there current or looming state man-

**How much time do you spend in face-to-face contact with your child?**

dates that promote postmodern thought and demonize conservative values in the local school district?

How much time per day are the children with friends, including via social media? When an issue arises, which perspective is most important in your child's mind—their family's or their friends'?

On average, do your kids have engaging conversations more often with your family or with their friends?

## A Journey Together

Home educating can bring a healthier balance in children's relationships with friends and family. Of course, friendless children aren't the solution or the goal, but bringing these relationships into a responsible balance is a huge step toward bringing the family back to its rightful place as the hub of life. Schooling at home

also gives parents a chance to hand down the conservative values from which they themselves have benefited.

Once a family decides to home educate, it's comparable to an empty slate or sweeping a house clean, but this is only as good as what you arrange back into the void. This is where the fun can really begin. Explore curriculums, book lists, and new hobbies. Finding activities to bring your family together will demonstrate to parents how much they themselves needed homeschooling.

Nothing compares to solving a real-time problem with the goal being not only solving the problem, but also growing together on the journey. This is often more challenging for the parents than it is for the kids. Even teens often want closer ties with parents, but parents are too impatient, distracted, and goal-driven to see their child's needs.

Depending on the ages of the children, make goals to jointly work on reading, pre-

paring a meal, or gardening. Sometimes the project will come up short compared to how you could have completed it alone, but this way, your family will start to become a cohesive unit. As parents recognize the emerging growth in their son or daughter, they won't want anything to keep them from a front-row seat.

Mom and Dad, don't give up as you make family a priority. Rusty hinges don't swing easily or immediately. Likewise, these relationships may be slow to warm up, but as your children see your genuine interest in them, they will share more of their thoughts and dreams, and the family will again become the hub of life.

Tricia Fowler is a homeschooling momma in the Midwest. She currently spends much of her time teaching math, feeding sourdough, and helping with whatever is in season on the hobby farm she shares with her husband and seven children.



CPL. CAITLIN BRINK/RELEASED/U.S. MARINE CORPS

Recruit Drew Ashe attempts to pull himself over a raised log on an obstacle course on Aug. 19, 2013, on Parris Island, S.C. The course is one of many physical training tools used to help Marine recruits improve their strength and stamina.



## DEAR NEXT GENERATION

## 'Don't Ever Underestimate What You Can Accomplish'

### → Advice from our readers to our young people

Dear Next Generation,

There is much that I have learned in my 70 years on earth—most of it in the last 50 years. It's important for the younger generation to learn of the successes, failures, and history from those who preceded them. I'll discuss a few of the more important lessons I've learned that have enabled me to enjoy a peaceful and prosperous life.

Probably one of the most important lessons is the realization that life is not fair—it never will be. You have to accept this and not blame your circumstances on others. There will always be someone who is smarter, has more money, is more athletic, and better-looking than you. This should not discourage you from putting in the effort to be the best person you can be.

Accept the fact that no one owes you anything. Set goals for yourself, and never give up trying to achieve them. I started life with everything going against me—my parents were teenagers and very poor. When I was 7 years old, we lived in a one-bedroom duplex in Atlanta with no air conditioning or TV. My father was in trouble with the law, and as a result, my parents packed up and left Atlanta. Within a year, they were both in prison, and my sister and I ended up in an orphanage and subsequently raised by our grandparents. With no real father figure in my life, I drifted, not doing well in high school, though I did graduate. I never blamed anyone for this. This brings me to the next lesson learned.

Take control of your life. In my case, at the age of 19—in the middle of the Vietnam War—I made the decision to join the U.S. Marine Corps. The result was that, for the first time, I would have a genuine father figure in my life. He was waiting for me when I got off the bus at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, South Carolina. My drill instructors taught me much of what I should have been taught in my early teens: Respect your elders, clean up after yourself, make your bed each day, and take pride in yourself. I learned skills I never knew I had. I learned to get along with others no matter their race and religion. I was surprised to learn I was more athletic than I had ever imagined and that I was good at marksmanship. All of these instilled a degree of confidence in me I had never felt before.

One of the more important lessons I learned early in Marine boot camp—and one that I still adhere to today—occurred on the obstacle course on a hot day at Parris Island. Each day, twice a day, we had physical training. There was a 20-foot rope we were expected to climb. With each attempt, using only my arms, I could only climb halfway up. Then one day, as I was about to drop off the rope, the drill instructor said, "Wrap your leg

**Don't be envious of what others have. God blesses us all in different ways, and the opportunities ahead of you are endless regardless of your race or religion.**



Keeping a personal journal can be a good practice for expressing the right words.

ILVA ILFORD/UNSPLASH

around the rope and stand on it, then use your leg to push your way to the top." To my amazement, I went up to the top of the rope effortlessly. What I learned was that you can accomplish more than you think you can—it's just a matter of figuring out how to do it. This is a lesson that I have taught many young people over the years. Don't ever underestimate what you can accomplish.

Another lesson I learned about being successful in life also occurred early in my Marine Corps career. I was a lance corporal (E3) at the time. Lance corporals are known for doing many stupid things on a regular basis. On one occasion, I was caught doing something that I shouldn't have. I was sent to the sergeant major, and as I stood before him awaiting my punishment, he asked, "What did you do?" I told the truth and admitted what I had done. The sergeant major already knew the truth—he was just waiting to see if I would tell him one of the many lame excuses he had heard over a 20-year career in the Marines. He respected me for telling the truth, and I learned a valuable lesson: Always tell the truth and accept responsibility for your actions. You will respect yourself, and others will respect you.

I learned many skills in the Marines and went on to obtain an electrical engineering degree after I was released from active duty. While I had many skills and technical knowledge, I later learned—the hard way—that I was lacking wisdom. This brings me to my next lesson for success: You should try to gain wisdom at an early age. I didn't, and as a result, I made many bad decisions. What is wisdom, you might ask, and why is that important?

Wisdom is the right use of knowledge, something that is usually not taught in the universities today. There are many knowledgeable people that teach in the university that are not wise—the universities in America are filled with them. Many young people in public schools and in our universities are being indoctrinated with knowledge that is often not true. If one is not wise, you act on this knowledge, which can lead to disappointment and frustration. You only need to look at what is happening at the riots and protests in many cities to realize many of these people are educated but not wise.

Where does one get wisdom? I would hope you start with your parents and other elders. I was not that fortunate. I began to learn about wisdom in the Marines; they make it painful to make unwise decisions. However, the best source of wisdom is in the Bible. There is no more complete book on learning wisdom than the Bible. You can start with the 10 Commandments, God's moral law. Without wisdom founded in God's moral law, no civilization can exist. America was founded on God's moral law. There is no future for America without it. Freedom, the cornerstone of the American way of life, was founded in God's moral law. Dennis Prager said, "Without wisdom, you will do nothing meaningful in life or at

worst something evil." Gain wisdom and make it a key aspect of your daily life.

In summary, life is not fair. Accept that and don't be envious of what others have. God blesses us all in different ways, and the opportunities ahead of you are endless regardless of your race or religion. Take control of your life and start doing something meaningful. You are capable of achieving more than you may ever have imagined. Set goals for yourself and strive to achieve them. Always tell the truth and accept responsibility for your actions. Lastly, gain wisdom. Filter your knowledge through the lens of wisdom in all that you do.

These are but a few of the lessons that have served me well over the years, as I rose from poverty and a difficult childhood to ultimately achieve the American dream. If you do this, you can also succeed and find a level of peace and prosperity in your life few people will ever realize.

—Sincerely,  
Jim Bailey

### Dear Next Generation: Keep a Journal

Effective communication is the key to success, my college journalism professor told our class. It was a challenging statement to me as a freshman public relations major. Since that time, I have tried to be sensitive with the words I express to others. Over the years, I have found that keeping a personal journal is a good practice for helping me to express the right words.

My grandmothers introduced me to journaling when I was young. Both grandmothers kept diaries that I treasure today. Their words are part of my history and give me inspiration. One grandmother wrote joyful words in her diary on the day I was born and on my wedding day. I know by reading these journal entries that the highlights of her life were expressed in her diaries.

My other grandmother kept a journal when she was in her 80s. Her journal entries were often about current events. She read the newspaper daily cover to cover. One entry said only, "If you don't have anything good to say, then don't say anything at all." A good reminder that unkind words can hurt others' feelings.

Journals are the space to get thoughts out of your head and on paper, where you can analyze them. Before you express your thoughts on social media, write them in your journal first. An unclear stream of consciousness written in your journal can help you gain clarity before sharing your thoughts through texts, tweets, or with Facebook friends.

King Solomon—a ruler of ancient Israel—has often been referred to as the wisest man who ever lived. He wrote the Book of Proverbs in the Bible. The dictionary describes a proverb as a short saying that expresses some obvious truth. Proverbs 10:19 says: The more talk, the less truth; the wise measure their words.

You can choose brevity as a way to express yourself. An example of word brevity is a haiku, an Asian art form that completes a thought in three lines. There are five syllables in the first line, seven syllables in the second line, and five syllables in the third line.

Here's an example:

Writing is freedom.  
Journaling helps clear your head  
of thoughts great and small.

Once a year, review your journal entries. Some days, your thoughts will be brilliant and should be saved for your grandchildren. Other times, your journaling will record the restlessness that you were feeling. Both writings are meaningful reflections for maturity and growth.

Journaling has taught me to express my thoughts in words and to be more thoughtful with the words I express to others. My hope for the next generation is that journaling gives them a safe place to process words, so that they can become successful communicators.

—Leslie Stewart, Georgia

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

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 foundation can future generations thrive.

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

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

### LARGER THAN LIFE: ART THAT INSPIRES US THROUGH THE AGES

## A Unique Russian Icon: Moscow's Cathedral of St. Basil the Blessed

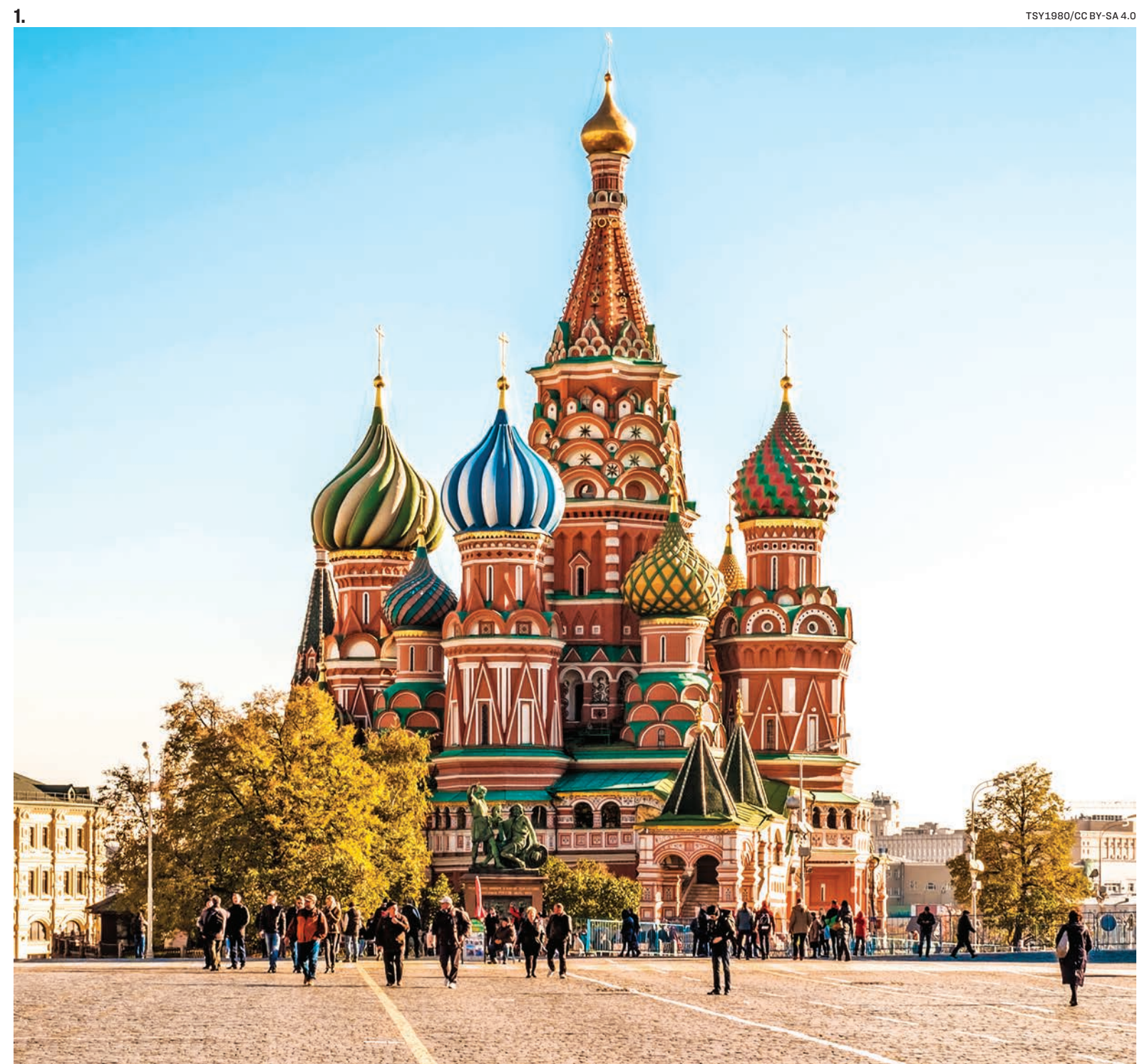
For centuries, people have marveled at the ornate brickwork and distinctive polychrome onion domes of the Church of Intercession of Most Holy Theotokos (Mary Mother of God) on the Moat, commonly known as the Cathedral of Basil the Blessed, in Moscow. Remarkably, the cathedral took just six years to complete, with the building work finished around 1561.

Czar Ivan IV (the Terrible) commissioned the church to commemorate his victory over the khanate (kingdom) of Kazan, a win that culminated on the Day of Intercession, in 1552.

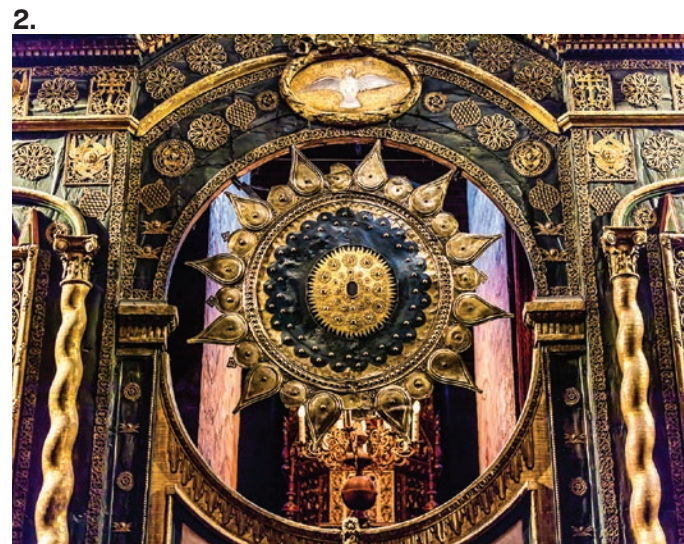
Despite the church's almost whimsical appearance, the design is ordered. The layout accommodates ten chapels, nine of which commemorate an event or battle that led to Ivan's victory. The largest chapel, in the center, is called something very similar to the whole's building's name: the Church of the Intercession of Most Holy Theotokos (Mother of God). It is surrounded by four large chapels, each positioned at one of the four compass points. An additional four chapels are equally interspersed between those four chapels, positioned at the intermediate compass points.

Myriad galleries decorated with religious frescoes and oil paintings as well as colorful murals featuring flowers and ornate flourishes connect the chapels.

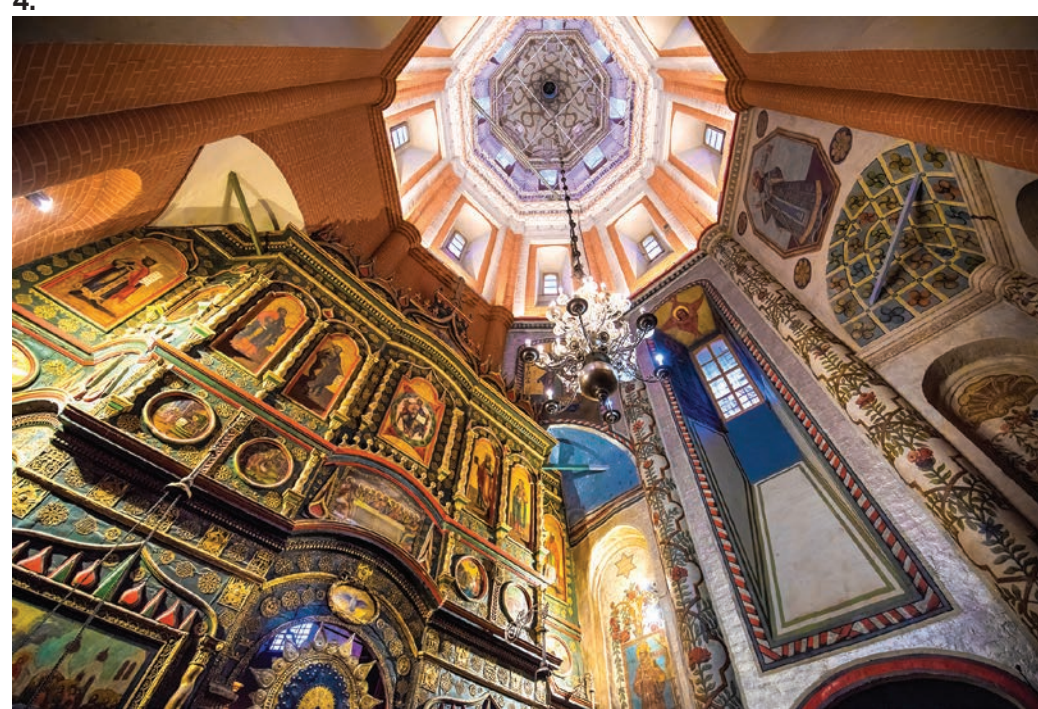
A tenth chapel, the Church of St. Vasily (Basil) the Blessed, was added in 1588 to commemorate St. Basil who lived in Moscow. The Russian Orthodox saint was known as a "holy fool of Christ," a person who relinquished worldly and societal norms to serve God. Basil was believed to be a seer who could perform miracles. Basil often wore no clothes, only chains. He helped people in need and was believed to be a seer who could perform miracles.



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ALESSIO DAMATO/CC BY-SA 3.0



1. The layout of the Cathedral of St. Basil the Blessed, as it is commonly known, can be seen by looking at the building's exterior. Under the tall central tower is the chapel called Church of the Intercession of Most Holy Theotokos (Mother of God) and under each of the eight domes is a chapel.

2. A detail of the central chapel's iconostasis, a portable stand of icons and religious paintings that divides the nave from the sanctuary.

3. One of the many religious paintings that adorn the walls.

4. The tented roof of the central chapel, the Church of the Intercession of Most Holy Theotokos (Mother of God).

5. Icons, murals, and religious paintings adorn just about every surface.

6. Artists depicted flowers with ornate flourishes throughout the gallery murals.

7. One of the elegant vaulted galleries.

8. St. Basil's crypt. The Russian Orthodox saint relinquished worldly and societal norms to serve God.

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# Living Without Regrets

A conversation with Dr. Harley A. Rotbart

BARBARA DANZA

Dr. Harley A. Rotbart sees life from a unique perspective. As a physician, heart surgery patient, and child of a Holocaust survivor, he understands that life is precious and fleeting. He has written two books aiming to help people stamp out regrets: “No Regrets Parenting: Turning Long Days and Short Years Into Cherished Moments With Your Kids,” and his latest, “No Regrets Living: 7 Keys to a Life of Wonder and Contentment.”

After a year that has pressed many of us to review and evaluate our lives—and what is and isn't important—what better time than now to ask Dr. Rotbart for his ideas on how to live without regrets?

**The Epoch Times:** What inspired you to write about living without regret, beginning with “No Regrets Parenting,” and now “No Regrets Living”?

**Dr. Harley A. Rotbart:** Too many people reach the end of their parenting years—and many others, the end of their lives—wishing things had turned out differently. They have regrets for not spending more time with their kids, for not having greater appreciation for the good in their lives.

Both of these “No Regrets” books began as “legacy” books for my own kids: the first one, “No Regrets Parenting,” to give them insights into what my wife and I learned about the preciousness of time with our kids; and the second book, “No Regrets Living,” to give our kids a roadmap for living their adult lives with gratitude and a sense of wonder for all the blessings they have.

When each book was finished, kind reviewers—and our kids—suggested the messages should be shared beyond just the family. Thankfully, the publishers agreed.

**The Epoch Times:** What are some of the common regrets people tend to hang onto throughout their lives?

**Dr. Rotbart:** As a young medical student many years ago, I helped care for a patient who told me he had put off too much for the future—a future he would never have because of the terminal diagnosis he faced in his mid-50s. He had so many regrets.

Part of living a “No Regrets” life is a *carpe diem* approach to life: making the most of each day, appreciating the wonders and blessings all around, and taking advantage of good health to do the things you'll wish you would have done should health fail you.

But my prescription for “no regrets living” is not just about smelling the roses. It's also about the way we treat people, the relationships we form, the legacy we hope to leave. If tomorrow was suddenly and unexpectedly the last day of your life, would you die owing apologies? Would there be people you didn't say I love you to enough? We can't change what happened in the past, although we can seek self-forgiveness for those things we wish we had handled differently and then learn to move on. But we can change what will happen in the future because it's available to us right now, if we only know how to see it.

**The Epoch Times:** How did you zero in on the seven keys detailed in “No Regrets Living”?

**Dr. Rotbart:** The seven keys began with my “avocation” as a “medical miracle collector.” A few years ago, I published a collection of essays written by esteemed physicians around the world describing unforgettable medical cases they had witnessed. That book, “Miracles We Have Seen,” dealt extensively with issues of science versus faith, medicine versus miracles.

With the success of that book, I wanted to explore the apparent contradictions it revealed. And from that exploration, I came to the first key, and the most important one: belief. It is important for people to believe in something greater than themselves. I would never attempt to tell anyone what to believe, but in the “Believe” chapter of the book, I share what I believe is an example of the connection between belief and “no regrets living.” From that first key grew the next,

discovery of the miracles all around us, and then the third key, the need to heal the world of so many remaining ills, the greatest of which is evil.

The fourth key asks that we appreciate all that we have been given in this life, including our family. Then we are led to the fifth key: acceptance of fate and all that we cannot control in our lives. That acceptance helps us get past many of the regrets about what's happened in the past.

The sixth key is seeking purpose and self-forgiveness—the former to protect us from having future regrets about not making the most of our days on earth, and the latter for getting past the guilt and regrets of the past.

The final key, growth, asks that we take careful note of the “mile markers” in our past that prove to us how much we've matured in our lives. That key also describes how to, as the wonderful Tim McGraw song says, “live like you were dying.”

**The Epoch Times:** How can parents provide a life for their families they won't regret?

**Dr. Rotbart:** It's all about the time parents spend with their kids—finding enough of it and making the most of it while they are still tucked into their bedrooms, where parents can peek in on them each night before going to sleep.

When kids are young, parents' focus shouldn't be all about protecting their adult priorities or nurturing their relationship with their spouse or partner. Rather, with young kids, parents must prioritize their kids' needs within their adult schedules. And if parents are able to manage those juggling acts, they'll discover something remarkable: They will be more successful in protecting adult time for themselves, and they'll feel less guilty doing it. And they will improve their relationship with their spouse or partner.

Most importantly, parents will be able to look back and take pride in knowing they squeezed every moment and memory out of their kids' childhoods and that their kids' memories of their parents are vivid and loving. Parents can't do it over again—at least with the same kids—so it's important to do it right the first time, and prevent the regrets that will come when walking past their kids' pictures in the hallway from earlier days and wishing they had made more of those times.

**The Epoch Times:** How can parents teach their children to live a life of no regrets?

**Dr. Rotbart:** It all goes back to nature and nurture. First, parents need to teach their kids to accept and be grateful for the gifts nature has given them. Every child is born with a genetic “bundle” over which he or she has no choice. One of our most poignant moments with our daughter was a teary one, sitting with her on the edge of her bed when she was 6 years old, discussing “bundles”: “Sure, sweetheart, there might be things you would change about yourself if you could. There are the things Mommy and Daddy were born with that they like a lot, and there are the things Mommy and Daddy got in their ‘bundles’ that they don't like as much—or even hate, sometimes. And your best friend who you really wish you could look more like? When you look at her whole ‘bundle,’ are you sure you really want to be her? Look at all the wonderful things you got in your ‘bundle’ that you would never, ever change. Aren't you glad you're you?”

Secondly, parents must provide nurture. Be the type of person they want their children to become, and then spend plenty of time with them so their kids can learn from their parents' role modeling. After kids are born, the world around them takes over, nurturing and determining the kind of people they will be. Parents are the most important nurturers in their kids' worlds, and the most influential in shaping their future selves. Children are sponges, soaking up conscious and unconscious lessons parents teach them. Teach them well by being who you want them to become, and they won't have regrets about what should have, could have, and might have been.

**The Epoch Times:** We're all navigating challenging times. What positive lessons can be taken from the past year?



DEREK OWENS/JUNSPLOSH

Dr. Harley Rotbart advises parents to make the most of their time with their children, and create vivid and loving memories.



“My prescription for ‘no regrets living’ is not just about smelling the roses. It's also about the way we treat people, the relationships we form, the legacy we hope to leave.”

Dr. Harley A. Rotbart

**Correction**  
The article “How to Help Our Kids Thrive,” published on April 14, was missing several paragraphs about the seven character strengths, due to a production error. The complete article can be read online at TheEpochTimes.com or bit.ly/3sRjnYR. The Epoch Times regrets the error.

**Dr. Rotbart:** The most important lesson for society, I believe, is recognizing the disproportionate impact any crisis can have on specific demographic groups—children, the elderly, those with underlying diseases, the underprivileged, and the impoverished and homeless.

Take the impact on kids as an example. With tens of millions of kids forced out of school due to closures, parents had to find new and creative ways to provide at-home care, education, and entertainment. For those parents lucky enough to be able to work from home, juggling work time with play time was their biggest challenge. For many parents who had to leave home for work, identifying safe care for their kids—in all the usual ways, as well as from infection—became an even more difficult challenge. Although kids themselves generally didn't develop severe infection with the coronavirus, the fear that they would become infected and transmit the germ to their parents or grandparents was very real.

Time with young kids is priceless and finite, so despite the hassles and hardships of parenting during the pandemic, I doubt parents will ever regret the bonus time they had with their kids. However, the lasting impact of the pandemic on children remains to be seen, and the resulting challenges for parents have yet to be fully realized.

In the months and years following the pandemic, parents will have to deal with the emotional and psychological repercussions on their toddlers and school-age kids of wearing masks and repeatedly hearing the fearful terms “coronavirus,” “COVID,” and “pandemic” as explanations for the denial of hugs and kisses from friends and loved ones. Parents will be confronted with the long-term effects on school-age kids and tweens of being deprived of socialization in school, camps, and sports activities. And parents will also be tasked with helping their adolescents—already a demographic with good reasons for, and high incidence of, anxiety—recover from the pandemic's threats to their way of living and to their very lives.

**The Epoch Times:** Do you have any final thoughts about “no regrets living”?

**Dr. Rotbart:** There is a universal truth for people of all faiths and for people of no faith: Contentment in life comes from reverence for the “miracles” in the world around us and from the humility to acknowledge that we will never fully understand the source or substance of those miracles.

*This interview has been edited for clarity and brevity.*



## FOR KIDS ONLY

THE EPOCH TIMES

Week 17, 2021

### The Swing

by Robert Louis Stevenson

How do you like to go up in a swing,  
Up in the air so blue?  
Oh, I do think it the pleasantest thing  
Ever a child can do!

Up in the air and over the wall,  
Till I can see so wide,  
Rivers and trees and cattle and all  
Over the countryside—

Till I look down on the garden green,  
Down on the roof so brown—  
Up in the air I go flying again,  
Up in the air and down!

PHOTO SPIRIT/SHUTTERSTOCK

### WHY DID THE GARDENER BURY HIS MONEY?

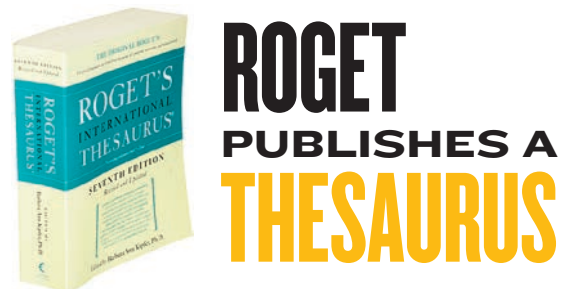
HE'D HAVE RICH SOIL

ZENTRADYSELL/SHUTTERSTOCK

“Garden as though you will live forever.”

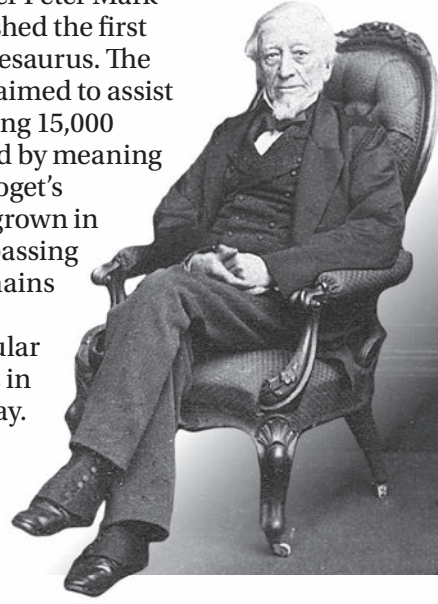
WILLIAM KENT, ENGLISH ARCHITECT (1685-1748)

PRESSMASTER/SHUTTERSTOCK



On April 29, 1852, English physician, theologian, and lexicographer Peter Mark Roget published the first edition of his thesaurus. The reference book aimed to assist writers, compiling 15,000 words organized by meaning and category. Roget's Thesaurus has grown in size with each passing edition and remains one of the most useful and popular reference books in publication today.

Peter Mark Roget (1779–1869), circa 1865.



By Aidan Danza, age 14

## ANCIENT ANIMALS OF AIR AND SEA

### Dinosaurs were very diverse in size and niche,

ranging from the small carnivore Velociraptor to the 35 foot-long Tyrannosaurus, to the enormous sauropods: those extremely large, plant-eating animals with long necks and tails. Meanwhile, other types of reptiles, mosasaurs and plesiosaurs, roamed the seas, while pterosaurs soared through the air.

### PTERODACTYLUS

Pterodactylus is one of the better-known of the pterosaurs, or “flying dinosaurs.” For example, we know that it was awake during the day only, and grew continuously throughout its life. It's theorized that the Pterodactylus hunted marine animals near the surface, somewhat like modern seabirds. Compared to other pterosaurs, it's rather plain, with a small, four-foot wingspan and small crest, or head ornament.

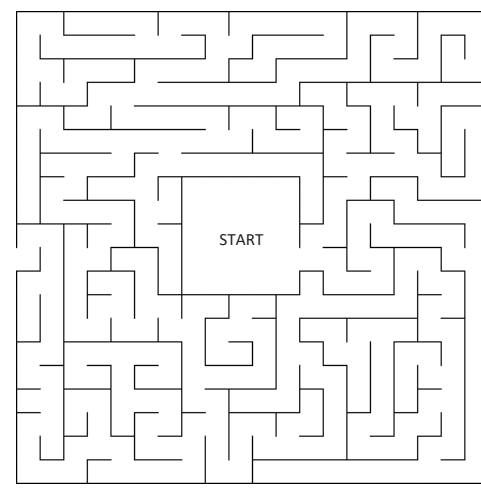
### MOSASAURUS

Mosasaurus was one of the largest marine animals ever to have lived, growing up to 59 feet long. It's believed that Mosasaurs ate large, slow, lumbering prey, including other marine reptiles such as Elasmosaurus, large fish, turtles, seabirds, and anything else it could find. It's likely that the Mosasaurus's hunting strategy was to stay near the surface of the water, waiting for any animals to come up to the surface for air.

### ELASMOSAURUS

Elasmosaurus was a plesiosaur, one of those marine reptiles that had very long necks, and fins in the place of limbs. They swam around the ancient depths to catch schools of fish. Scientists think that it swam up, not particularly quickly, toward a school of fish, slightly hidden by the dark depths. Then, it picked a few fish out of the school at a time with small jaws with sharp teeth, on the end of the extremely long neck, eating its fill. Currently, the Elasmosaurus is regarded to have had one of the longest necks of all time, second only to Albertonectes, another plesiosaur like Elasmosaurus.

## 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

6	9		
4	7		
+	-	x	÷

Solution For Easy 1  
7 - 9 x (4 + 6)

Medium puzzle 1

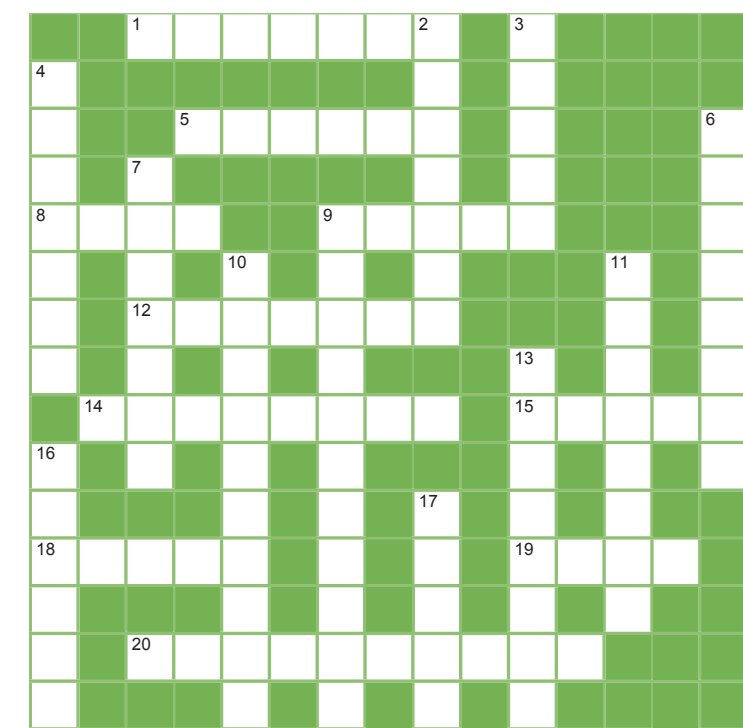
3	19		
3	7		
+	-	x	÷

Solution for Medium 1  
6 x (6 - 4 - 6)

Hard puzzle 1

11	27		
8	15		
+	-	x	÷

Solution for Hard 1  
22 - 91 x (8 - 11)



### Across

- 1 Stew ingredient (7)
- 5 “You can't get blood from a \_\_\_!” (6)
- 8 Stew ingredients (4)
- 9 Salad green (5)
- 12 Baby bean plants (7)
- 14 Root vegetable mistaken for a turnip (8)

### Down

- 2 Jalapenos and chilies (7)
- 3 Often pickled (5)
- 4 It's carved for Halloween (7)
- 6 Southern potful (8)
- 7 Chef's garnish (7)
- 9 Broccoli's close kin (11)
- 10 Colorful side dish (10)
- 11 Future pickle (8)
- 13 Deep purple (8)
- 16 Burger topping (6)
- 17 So-called “royal herb” (5)

- 15 Autumn decoration (5)
- 18 Indian corn (5)
- 19 Close relative of elephant garlic (4)
- 20 Honeybee's breakfast meal? (10)





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