

THE EPOCH TIMES

LIFE &

TRADITION

WUNDERVISUALS/GETTY IMAGES

Making Your Life an Adventure

Events small and great can be considered adventures; it all depends on how we view them

JEFF MINICK

Adventure. The word can bring to mind many scenarios. We may think of Lewis and Clark crossing uncharted territory that later became the United States. We may imagine Amelia Earhart flying solo over the Atlantic, Neil Armstrong taking that first step for mankind when he set foot on the moon, or Jacques Cousteau exploring the bottom of the ocean. Closer to home, our 20-year-old daughter packs her bags and sets off to spend a year studying in Spain. Our neighbor and his friend head into the Smoky Mountains for a day hike, lose their way, and after spending a night shivering by a fire, find their way back to their car. The shy librarian who lives next door to us decides to take up skydiving. Our nephew and his young wife become the parents of twins and buy their first house.

All these events, great and small, qualify as adventures, which my online dictionary defines as “an unusual and exciting, typically hazardous, experience or activity.”

Continued on **Page 3**

Some consider living itself a grand and exciting activity.



The Power of Good Books

‘Do you know what’s in the books your kids are reading?’ asks homeschool curriculum founder Jenny Phillips. Once she found out herself, 10 years ago, she took action

PETA EVANS

When a mother discovered that her daughter’s rude attitude was coming from the popular, modern books she was bringing home from her school library, it set her on a life-changing journey. She not only succeeded at completely reversing her daughter’s attitude but also launched a successful homeschool curriculum company, which now helps hundreds of thousands of families choose wholesome literature that inspires children and builds moral character.

Mom of five Jenny Phillips, founder and owner of The Good and the Beautiful, said the books her daughter—“an avid reader”—was reading in elementary school looked fine on the surface. “The covers were cute, and the books were popular and featured at her school library,” Phillips said. “We had realized many years earlier the impact that inappropriate movies, TV, and music had on our children’s hearts and minds, and only allowed appropriate media. But we had never thought of books and how much power they had.”

Continued on **Page 4**



“What we have found is that many, many parents are in the position I once was—they have no idea how books are affecting their children.”

Jenny Phillips

THE EPOCH TIMES

The Good and the Beautiful publishes classic books that were previously out of print or hard to find, as well as a few original ones.

THE EPOCH TIMES

DEAR JUNE *On Family and Relationships*

Father Seeks to Mend Rift With Estranged Adult Daughters

→ **Advice for salvaging father-daughter relationships**

Dear June,

I suspect a lot of people share my problem. My two adult daughters, both in their 20s, want almost nothing to do with me as a Republican and Trump supporter. They are two different people with different situations, so they express their contempt differently, but it's there just the same. This problem is compounded by the fact that their mother and I divorced when they were teenagers, so even in the best circumstances, communication would be difficult. I believe their mother's contempt for me preceded the politics and helped poison my relationship with the girls—though, of course she denies that.

So it's too late for family counseling. But I have a new wonderful wife, and after some serious health problems, I have a new life. I want to share all this with my daughters. Both my girls live hundreds of miles away. I wish they would call, but they never do—in fact, they seldom even pick up the phone. What can I do to salvage the situation?

David P.

→ **Dear David,**

You are certainly not alone in being ostracized from family due to your political beliefs. I've had a number of other readers describe this phenomenon.

As regards the particulars of your situation, first of all, I'm truly glad to hear you have found a new life. I think your story really shows the silver lining of serious health issues. Enduring pain and difficulty can really help us remember what's truly important in life.

There's a special place in every woman's heart for her father, and if your daughters feel they have lost you, there is a wound in them that only you can heal.

So how to salvage your relationship: Since your situation has been a while in the making, it may take a while to undo, so I would start by mentally preparing to have great patience and perseverance. There's a special place in every woman's heart for her father, and if your daughters feel they have lost you, there is a wound in them that only you can heal.

Secondly, I would focus on the personal and avoid politics. There is a cultural revolution going on in America right now and as it's playing out, Republicans and Trump supporters are seen by many as threats to public health and safety. Of course all this is very complex and adds an extra layer of difficulty to your quest, so unless there is really something your daughters want to hear your thoughts on, I would advise not bringing politics up at all. If they do charge at you with some accusation, I would ask to defer the conversation until they are not in an emotional state.

Before you reach out to them, I would reflect on what the divorce and the situation that preceded it might have felt like to your daughters. They surely experienced some pain, possibly even fear, and maybe hatred for themselves



Falling

or you. Young girls rely on their fathers for protection and stability, and no matter what the reasons for the divorce, it would still have left them more vulnerable.

I'm assuming here that since you have now come into a new you, that you probably have the strength to look at yourself in the past and see where you fell short and perhaps unintentionally hurt your loved ones.

Since they don't seem altogether comfortable with phone calls, I would reach out to them in a format that allows them to take in your words in their own time. So a letter or email. Consider what you think each daughter would respond to best. You could consider asking them to simply read your message, without any pressure to respond, and that you will write again in a couple of months.

Something to consider would be to keep your first letter brief, tell them you love them, that you're sorry for the pain you caused them, and that you hope to heal your relationship. If you feel up to it, you could also invite them to share their feelings with you.

And if your first attempts are met with no response, or even if they are met with anger, I would try again, and again and again. Hearing something multiple times makes it believable (as propagandists and advertisers well know!).

By persevering, you will break down the walls of resistance, and words of truth and love are inherently more powerful than propaganda.

And my final thought, since you have a wonderful new wife, lean on her for support and advice. I understand that it can be really hard for men to fathom what goes on in the minds and emotions of women, and she may be able to help read the situation as it evolves.

Sincerely,
June

Dear June,

I have a sticky situation and I would like to know what to do. My problem is this, our granddaughter, beautiful and smart, at the age of 13, is sleeping with her mom and dad. Is this situation her fault or her parent's fault? So my question is this: Should we as grandparents just act like we don't

By the time children reach puberty, most families naturally start sleeping apart, but this isn't always the case.

know about it or is it wrong for the husband and wife at the age of 46 to allow this to occur?

Concerned Grandparents

→ **Dear Concerned Grandparents,**

Speaking as a parent myself, I would say that many issues children have can be attributed to their parents, but I would not assign any blame; rather, try to fully understand what is happening and why.

Given the age of your granddaughter, it is certainly out of the ordinary that she is still sharing a bed with her parents, but the most important question here is whether the situation is immoral. If you have any inkling that something untoward is taking place, then please consult a professional for advice. My answer is going to assume the situation pertains only to co-sleeping past the time that kids naturally grow out of it.

In many cultures throughout history, parents and sometimes even grandparents have shared beds with young children. I don't see any moral issues with this, although there are safety considerations. Since your granddaughter is past the age when safety is a concern, I won't address this issue.

By the time children reach puberty, most families naturally start sleeping apart, but this isn't always the case. A friend of mine recently told me she slept with her mother until she was 15, due to the circumstances of the house perhaps more than true preference.

Do you know if your granddaughter and both parents are happy with the arrangement? In many families, the fathers end up sleeping by themselves because it's not comfortable for them to sleep with children.

And do you know why they started sleeping together? Was it

from infancy? Or was there some sort of trauma or illness that made them feel a need for more physical closeness? Also, are they continuing to sleep together out of habit or because it makes them feel close or because they find it has some benefit, for example the parents know exactly what time their daughter is going to bed and that she's not up online at night?

Knowing some of these answers will help you judge what course of action you should take. If anyone is not happy, it's probably time for a new arrangement.

To find out these answers, perhaps you or your husband can tactfully approach whichever of the parents is your child. If you wish to express that the arrangement seems strange to you, do this in the spirit of inquiry and concern for their well-being, not judgment. Really try to better understand their perspective.

If you get the sense that all are happy with the arrangement, then I would let it be, as it will probably end naturally. If you find there is an unhealthy emotional dynamic, perhaps your conversation will help to start to untangle the situation.

If they're all happy with the sleeping arrangement, I wouldn't worry that it will interfere with your granddaughter's development. At this time when families in America are being torn apart, perhaps they're instinctively holding each other close. A good reminder to us all to cherish our dear ones and hold them close—even and especially if we don't agree with or approve of their viewpoints or choices.

Sincerely,
June



Do you have a family or relationship question for our advice columnist, Dear June? Send it to DearJune@EpochTimes.com or Attn: Dear June, The Epoch Times, 5 Penn Plaza, 8th Fl. New York, NY, 10001

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

From Heroin Addict to World-Class Athlete

Noel Mulkey of Oklahoma says exercise saved his life. He now hopes to inspire others.

EPOCH INSPIRED STAFF

A former high-school drug addict has proved that nothing is impossible if one is ready to face the challenges head-on.

Noel Mulkey, 26, from Oklahoma, who became sober six years ago, finished Tulsa's first Ironman Triathlon on May 23 to qualify for the Ironman World Championship in Hawaii later this year.

Rewriting his life story all the while combating severe heroin addiction and then breaking free from the trap of overeating and finally making it to an international athletics platform, the young man hopes to inspire others not to give up on their dreams easily.

Mulkey got into drugs at a very early age. He began using marijuana and drinking alcohol in eighth grade, reported In The Know.

"It started going from kind of a weekend thing to literally every day I needed to find something," he told Today.

At the age of 16, Mulkey was completely addicted to drugs and was using intravenous substances. Moving to college, his addiction was beyond control. He was frequently stealing his mother's jewelry to pay for his daily quota of drugs.

At one point, he was spending \$500 a day on his heroin addiction; at the peak of his addiction, he couldn't go beyond a couple of hours without doing drugs, according to the report.

Mulkey—who after becoming sober learned he had bipolar disorder—said he was drawn to drugs in high school in his attempt to snap out of the bullying and setbacks he experienced in his school days.

During middle school, he used to play sports to work off such emotions, but the high school had no sports teams.

"I was never able to be properly diagnosed and had gone to years of therapy, seeing different therapists," he told the outlet. "I tried all these different psych meds, and nothing was working except me doing what I was doing."

"Without properly being medicated, this was me self-medicating."

At the age of 20, his family got him into a rehabilitation center in Florida, but his situation didn't change. "I ended up spending like a year in Florida, and none of it worked," he said.

At some point in his life, seeing how drugs affected his life and his family, Mulkey decided to change for the better. With the help of a psychiatrist, he seriously began his journey to sobering up.

"When I finally chose to get sober, I chose to get my life together. That is when I finally detoxed," he told Today. "It was the most pain I've ever been in, detoxing."

Withdrawing from substance abuse wasn't easy; he then found himself hooked on another addiction: food. He replaced the urge to take drugs with overeating. At his heaviest, he weighed 198 pounds.

"I just had nothing. I was not in college anymore. I was finally off drugs but I had no aspirations, no nothing," he told Today. "I was just very depressed. I ate a lot and hated the way I looked."

Born to athlete parents and having played soccer at his middle school, Mulkey knew he wanted to get back into shape. To keep his weight under check, he turned to exercise and running, making up to 60-70 miles a week. In the first four months, he managed to shed 59 pounds (26 kg) of weight.

"I kind of switched addictions. I 100 percent fell in love with running," he told Today.

Over the next several years, Mulkey trained and participated in several races, including multiple Olympic distance overall wins, and held the All-American Triathlete title from 2016 to 2021.

In May, he finished the 2021 Ironman Tulsa Triathlon in 9 hours, 25 minutes, and 1 second, landing a spot in the world championship in Kona, Hawaii.

Currently, the brave Oklahoman continues to train and coach others like him who are seeking help during their darkest days of life.

He shares his training sessions on TikTok, where he has more than 750,000 followers, hoping that he can make a difference by helping someone turn their life around.

"I look forward to waking up every day and training," Mulkey told In The Know. "It's obviously a lot more healthy addiction."

Chesterton helped me transform misfortune into adventure.

From the Ordinary ...

Perhaps you begin your morning by groaning and kicking off the bedsheets. You then slog downstairs to the kitchen, grunt at your spouse and the kids, and gulp down a couple cups of coffee. You shower and dress, drive to work, put in the morning sorting through your company's invoices, and grab a sandwich at the café where you mumble a thank you to the girl behind the counter. You've encountered this young woman several hundred times, but you've never really looked at her. You never learned her name. You put in more hours in the office, and then you head home, where you mow the lawn, pour a vodka tonic, eat supper, watch television, and eventually go to bed.

In the poem "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock," T.S. Eliot's narrator says, "I have measured out my life with coffee spoons." Many of us can easily fall into such a rut, so caught up in our own affairs and routines that we are oblivious to the wonders and marvels around us.

It doesn't have to be that way.

When Things Go Wrong

The English writer G.K. Chesterton also knew how to make an adventure of the mundane. He dressed flamboyantly in a cape and a rumpled hat, he often carried a swordstick, he bought a revolver on his wedding day to protect his bride from bandits and pirates, and he looked at the world with the eyes of a romantic and a wonder-struck child.

And it was Chesterton who said, "An inconvenience is only an adventure wrongly considered; an adventure is an inconvenience rightly considered."

That point of view can turn minor disasters into triumphs. Recently, for instance, a series of necessary car repairs with delays in the shipment of various parts led me to spend 12 hours over three days in town. The repair shop happens to be located just a few blocks from Main Street, and so I spent that time writing in my favorite coffee shop, enjoying lunch at a café, and simply strolling around Front Royal.

Was it an inconvenience? Of course. I didn't enjoy being stuck for hours at a time without a means of transportation. Earlier, however, while working on an article about Chesterton, I had come across the above quote and used it to my advantage. Instead of becoming angry or discouraged by the delays and trips into town, I used this to get some work finished, to explore the town, to try a delicious chicken salad croissant, and to swing by our local used bookstore and browse the shelves.

... To the Extraordinary

Here's what happened to me years ago. Shortly before my 40th birthday, "Today is going to be an adventure" popped unbidden into my head as soon as I opened my eyes one morning. Weird, I know, and I have no idea if that promise—or perhaps a threat—was a bit of a dream left over from sleep, but there it was. It happened again a second morning, and a third, and then it became my mantra.

For a time, "Today is going to be an adventure" changed my world. It gave me a new pair of glasses, and I saw both my problems and the people around me with different eyes. My business and financial difficulties became obstacles to be battled and conquered rather than chains dragging me

down. People, from my wife and children to the cashier at the Easy Stop, became more vivid, more real to me somehow. Life seemed sweeter and more precious, a quest rather than a climbing wall.

And then I stopped. For no comprehensible reason at all, I furled that banner that had so inspired me. Foolishly, I forgot the power of those words and tucked away what was fast becoming an excellent habit.

Restoration

The chaos and mess of the past many months—the pandemic, the ugly bickering and name-calling, the cancel culture movement, and more—have left many of us, regardless of our politics, disheartened and gloomy. Family members, friends, and several readers, including some from overseas, have spoken or written to me of their mental and spiritual struggles, a condition with which I, too, can readily identify.

Reading the Chesterton quote reminded me that a remedy, or at least a palliative medication, might be found in my old motto: "Today is going to be an adventure." For a week now, I have started the day saying those words along with my prayers, and have found my drooping spirit coming to life again. Full recovery may take a good while, but in the meantime, at least some of the pleasure and excitement of life have returned to me.

If you're one of those who also feel that the world has lost its savor, why not give "Today is going to be an adventure" a shot?

After all, what have you got to lose?

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," and two works of non-fiction, "Learning As I Go" and "Movies Make The Man." Today, he lives and writes in Front Royal, Va. See JeffMinick.com to follow his blog.



ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF NOEL MULKEY



The medal Noel Mulkey received at the 2021 Tulsa Ironman Triathlon.

Noel Mulkey finished the 2021 Tulsa Ironman Triathlon on May 23 to qualify for the Ironman World Championship in Hawaii.

The books that kids read do make a fundamental difference in their character.



PHOTO AND CO/GETTY IMAGES

The Power of Good Books

COURTESY OF JENNY PHILLIPS

“Do you know what’s in the books your kids are reading?” asks homeschool curriculum founder Jenny Phillips. Once she found out herself, 10 years ago, she took action.

Continued from Page 1

Phillips ultimately discovered that the books, as well as influence from school friends, had taught her daughter to be “rude and shallow.” She undertook a dramatic overhaul of the books she allowed for her daughter, predominantly swapping out modern bestsellers for their classic predecessors—with moral lessons still intact. “Our efforts to expose her to the clean and uplifting books began to fundamentally change her character,” Phillips said, adding that it was amazing to see how changing the books her daughter read “completely reversed her rude and shallow behaviors over time.”

Impact of Modern Books

In November 2019, Phillips shared her eldest daughter Kate’s story in a YouTube video, describing the moment, 10 years ago, when she became acutely aware that something was amiss with the way her daughter behaved.

Nine years old at the time, Kate had just arrived home from school when her mom was waiting on the porch with a home-baked snack for her.

“I was excited to see her,” Phillips recalled in the video. “She was with her friend, and

she said, ‘Hey, can I go play with my friend?’ and I said, ‘Sure, but why don’t you come on in and we’ll have some family time first.’” Phillips, who now has five children between the ages of 7 and 21, including Kate who’s now 19, was devastated when her daughter made fun of her suggestion.

“Her and her friend looked at each other and rolled their eyes, and my daughter goes, ‘Family time? I don’t need family time,’ and she walked away,” Phillips said. Baffled as to where this attitude was coming from, she considered the possible causes of her daughter’s rudeness.

“I was thinking that day, ‘How does my daughter have this character where she’s so disrespectful?’” Phillips said, “and I was thinking, ‘We’re a good family, we study the Bible, we have prayers; we’re not perfect, but we are a loving family and we’re trying so hard to teach our children good character.’”

That night, while cleaning up some things in Kate’s bedroom, Phillips discovered the source of her daughter’s disrespectful attitude. When she picked up one of her books to put it away, she read a sentence where the main character was making fun of her mother.

“I was surprised, so I started reading the books she was checking out from school,”



Jenny Phillips (R) and her daughter Kate, now 19.

Baffled, she considered the possible causes of her daughter’s rudeness.

Phillips said. “I quickly felt literally sick to my stomach. The books were packed with everything we were trying to teach her to avoid: disrespect to parents, rude behavior, self-centeredness, focus on body image, and obsession with boys at a young age.

“Kids model what they read and see. I could see how these types of books had already deeply affected her character.”

Phillips, who majored in English at college, noticed that the books Kate was reading were all “quick-read, fast-paced books” and “of low literary merit,” and she was sad to see her daughter care so little for good books.

“She had no appreciation or desire for truly good literature,” Phillips said. “Rude behaviors were in literally every book of hers that she had been reading.

“This was not how I wanted my daughter’s heart and mind molded!”

The Good and the Beautiful

Determined to reverse the direction her daughter was heading in, Phillips told her daughter that, from then on, she could only read books that had been pre-read and approved by her. After filtering every single book and finding not one of them to be appropriate, she took the next brave step on their shared journey.

“The problem was, every book she brought home from school was not appropriate—every single one,” Phillips said. “So I had to go on a search of my own to find good books for her.”

It was this search that would eventually lead Phillips to create and publish a “library of wholesome books,” which is known today as The Good and the Beautiful Book List—a free resource for families—and The Good and the Beautiful Library, which consists of hundreds of classic books that were previously out of print or hard to find but now published by Phillips’s company, as well as many new, original books.

“Finding good books was not easy, but I became very passionate about my search for good books,” she said. “Knowing that most parents could not preview all their children’s books like I was, I wanted to share the work I was doing with others.”

In the beginning, Kate was resistant to the changes her mom was making with the books, and it took about two years for her parents to notice real changes in her.

“I wish I could say she just ate up the good books, but that was not the case,” Phillips said. “She refused to read them, saying they were so boring and dumb.

“I decided to do whatever I needed to do to get her to read good books—so I paid her for every book she read. We gave her no allowance, so it was the only way she could earn money. She was only allowed to read books I approved as good, and she read them—just to earn money.”

Kate still didn’t like the books she was being paid to read, “but I persisted,” Phillips said.

Noticing that Kate’s schoolteacher was reading disrespectful books aloud in class and that other students’ rude behaviors were rubbing off on her, Phillips and her husband pulled her out of school and started homeschooling her instead. Eventually their efforts paid off, and they no longer needed to pay her to read good books; Kate even began helping her mom search for more books.

“We enjoyed talking together about the good messages and beautiful writing in the books,” said Phillips, who’s also a Christian singer-songwriter. “She got to the point that for Christmas, she was asking for old, beautiful books from the late 1800s that she was collecting.

“Wholesome books filled her mind and turned her heart to love of nature, learning, family, and well-written, wholesome literature. It was worth the effort! I think about how she might be today if we had not made this change, and I just can’t be more grateful for the path we took.”

Upon seeing how reading only books with moral merit completely changed their daughter for the better, Phillips was inspired “to help others find that path.” It was then that she created the free book list, sharing it on her music website at first.

Then, when she “could not find a homeschool curriculum she loved and dreamed of” for her children because “no curriculum had the depth of meaning and beauty” she was looking for, she ventured even further.



THE EPOCH TIMES

LISEAGONE/GETTY IMAGES



Using funds saved from selling over one million CDs as a successful music producer, she put together a team of specialists and, in 2015, launched The Good and the Beautiful homeschool curriculum, which “emphasizes family, God, high character, nature, and wholesome literature.”

The Good and the Beautiful offers curriculum resources in language arts, math, science and health, and history for grades pre-K-8 and high school, including free downloadable language arts course sets for grades 1-5. The free book list resource that she initially put up on her music website is now available on The Good and the Beautiful website, along with the Library of books published by the company.

“What we have found is that many, many parents are in the position I once was—they have no idea how books are affecting their children,” Philips said. “It’s a beautiful thing to see so many parents taking the same journey I did and finding the same sweet rewards.

“Not everyone loves our message, however. Many parents are just happy if their child will read anything, and they are afraid their children won’t love reading if they give them clean, high-value books. I am bold in my message: Trust good books. If you plant the seeds of good books, even though it takes work and persistence, you will reap a bountiful harvest.”

Be Brave About Books

In another video titled “Be Brave About Books,” Philips poses the question: “Do you really know what is in the books your children are reading and how it is affecting them?”

She goes on to describe how books have been changing in the last century “and in turn, changing the character of children, family dynamics, and our communities.”

“No one is talking about how disrespectful books for kids are massively changing

(Top) The Good and the Beautiful publishes curriculum resources in language arts, math, science and health, and history, as well as hard-to-find and original wholesome books.

(Above) Phillips encourages parents to be patient when making the switch to good, wholesome books. “Persistence is key,” she said.

“What we have found is that many, many parents are in the position I once was—they have no idea how books are affecting their children.”

Jenny Phillips

the character of children—but they should be!” Phillips said. “We teach our children over and over again, ‘Don’t be rude. Love your family. Be kind.’ Then we keep giving them books that teach kids to be rude, dislike your family, and be unkind.”

Phillips says that new books for children are going way beyond potty humor and making fun of family. “We are beyond the days when we can let our children read anything recommended at the library, or on their book-order list. Even if it has a cute cover with puppies on it,” she said in the video, adding that “this is just the beginning of what is coming.”

“Darkness is attacking through literature, and we must be vigilant, and we must choose to see, choose to care, and to act. Draw your line, and be brave. ... We are losing a whole generation of children that care about literature that is good and beautiful. It is parents that can change this.”

Phillips believes that children actually have an amazing ability to discern if they have not been desensitized by loads of rude behavior in books and media.

“My other children, who are younger than Kate, followed in Kate’s footsteps, reading only good books,” Phillips said. “Even at a young age, they could discern books that were not appropriate. One day, my 6-year-old stood up, went to the garbage, threw away a book he had been reading, and said: ‘Well, that’s not a good book. The boy just made fun of his sister.’”

As for Kate, she now helps her mom research and find good books, collecting “rare, wholesome” books of her own along the way. She would like to write “clean and inspiring musicals,” and wants a large family one day, and she “can’t wait to bring good, inspiring books into their lives,” her mom said.

As a personal witness to the profound changes that can be made in a child’s life by the kind of books and education given to them, Phillips acknowledges the hardships and challenges parents might face taking the path she took, but says “it’s worth the effort a million times over.”

“Choosing only good books and educating children in light and truth is definitely pushing against the tide. It may feel really hard—and it is,” Phillips said. “But remember this, not pushing against the tide will be much harder in the end. Not pushing against the tide will bring some very hard days for you and your children, and perhaps some deep sorrows as well.

“I truly believe that if every child in America was only exposed to truly good and clean books, our country would be profoundly different—that is the impact that books make.”

For parents considering taking the plunge into the world of “good and beautiful books,” Phillips offers the following advice:

“The first step is to remove all inappropriate books. Children need to be immersed in only good books for so long that they are no longer desensitized. This can take years for some children. Over time, immersed in powerful, clean books, children will have the ability to discern for themselves because they are no longer desensitized to rude and shallow behavior. You will have to help them along until they get to that point. Persistence is key. Don’t freak out when your child says the good books are boring. It’s to be expected. That is because they are used to books that are fast-paced and all about thrill. Give them time. The power of good books will work its wonders for your child if you persist long enough.”

PARENTING MATTERS

When Does Parenting Teenagers Begin?

KITTY/SHUTTERSTOCK



Once kids can get themselves out of the bed, they can easily acquire other habits, such as brushing their teeth or picking their clothes.

PARNELL DONAHUE

When I decided to extend my pediatric practice to include adolescents, I thought I would be able to help all those troubled teens and their families get back on track. I soon learned that by the teen years, a kid’s life habits are pretty much formed; what happens before the teen years is what’s important.

Develop a positive attitude: If you want your child to be happy, optimistic, honest, spiritual, and respectful, you must be happy, optimistic, honest, spiritual, and respectful! There are many roads to this goal. The most basic ones include being responsible, knowing that actions have consequences, and laws at every level are made to protect us; we must respect the laws and those who enforce them.

First, instill in your children an attitude of responsibility. One of the best tools I know to help your kids learn responsibility, at an

One of the best tools I know to help your kids learn responsibility, at an early age, is an alarm clock.

early age, is an alarm clock. Before kids start first grade, maybe even kindergarten, they should be able to read a digital clock. If not, teach them!

Tell them that they must stay in bed until the alarm rings, and they must get up as soon as it does. Don’t tell them about the snooze button; they’ll learn about that soon enough. Discuss with them what good will happen when they act like adults and get up by themselves.

Grade school kids love school and hate to miss a day. So, if they don’t get up, they will miss that day of school because you will keep them home or take them late, but don’t send them to Grandma’s house to have a fun-filled day with her. Sure, it will mess up your whole day; let the kids know that, too. All kids long to make their parents happy and proud and thrive on pleasing their parents.

When kids are able to get themselves up and out of bed, they immediately accept other responsibilities. Brushing their teeth, picking out what clothes they wear,

and eating breakfast all become easily acquired habits.

Second, in order to teach that actions have consequences, you and your kids must know what is expected of them. Before any transgression happens, they need to know what the consequence will be. When explaining a rule to your child, ask them what good or bad things they think will come from following or not following that rule, and what should happen if they don’t follow it. Don’t be surprised if they suggest a punishment worse than you would. This gives you a chance to be the “good guy” and lessen the rebuke.

Third, start parenting on the strict side: One year, I asked several hundred high school and college kids if they felt their parents were stricter than the average parent or more lenient. Most of them said, “They’re about average.” But, another group said, “They used to be really easy, but now they are so strict, I can’t even move without being yelled at.” Many more replied, “They were really tough when I was little, but when I started high school they laxed up.”

When I asked the kids why they thought their parents changed their approach and became stricter; the uniform answer was, “I

If you want your child to be happy, optimistic, honest, spiritual, and respectful, you must be happy, optimistic, honest, spiritual, and respectful.

got in trouble!” Those whose parents moved in the other direction and became more lenient replied they had never been in trouble so, “I guess Mom and Dad think they don’t have to worry about me anymore, and they don’t.”

It’s much easier to go from strict to lenient than it is to go the other way.

Fourth, expect the best: I often hear parents say, “She is such a good kid now, but I’m so afraid of the teen years,” or “I just don’t know what I’ll do when it’s time to get his driver’s license. I just dread thinking about it!” When I ask why they are afraid the answer is, “You know how teenagers are!” And, worse, they say it in front of the kids.

Why not say something like, “I just can’t wait until Joel gets his license. I know he’ll be a good driver and I could use help with all the driving errands I have to do!” Be sure the kids hear that, too. When you drive, follow the rules of the road and drive the way you want your teen to drive.

Fifth, respect the laws and those who enforce them. It’s easy today for kids to dislike police officers or fear them, as the media talk about how bad cops are. That’s fake news. Most police are good, honest, and respectable individuals. Take your grade school

and your high school kids to meet the police either on the street or at the local police station. Make friends with them.

If you’re driving and the blue lights start to shine in the rearview mirror, remember the kids are with you, and don’t show signs of fear. Treat the officers with the respect they deserve and admit your driving error. Explain to your kids why that violation could be a hazard to you and other drivers, and let them know that, like other laws, they apply to all drivers including yourself and them.

In the end, if we have shown our kids how adults act, they will respect and love us, and if they have trouble making a decision, they will feel free to ask for our advice. If not, we have failed them.

Parenting teens really begins when they are born, if not before. The best parenting plan, and I’ve said it before, is to be the person you want your child to become.

Enjoy your family, and may God continue to bless you.

Dr. Parnell Donahue is a pediatrician, military veteran, author of four books, and the blog ParentingWithDrPar.com, and host of WBOU’s “Parenting Matters” show. He and his wife, Mary, have four adult children; all hold doctorates, two also are MDs. Contact him at Parenting-Matters.com

DEAR NEXT GENERATION

Pawpaw's Life Lessons



If you can count the number of deep friendships you've developed on one hand, you are fortunate, writes S. Thomas Tobias of Ohio.

RICARDAS BROGYS/UNSPLASH

→ Advice from our readers to our young people

Regardless of how you choose to make a living, conducting business is part of life, and how you conduct your life is even a larger part of how successful you are in business. Simply put, if you want to have a successful business—start with a successful life.

I am blessed to have 14-year-old twin grandsons, one named after my father and me, and the other named after my son-in-law's father and grandfather.

As brothers will do, the twins got into a knockdown drag-out fight when they were staying with us over spring break down at the lake. The fight wasn't physical but was a verbal confrontation, and they said hateful and hurtful things to each other. I broke up the fight and then sat each boy down separately for a long talk about how wrong it was to speak in such a manner to others and most especially family.

The next morning, I asked Patrick, my namesake, if he had learned anything and could he remember any of the points I'd tried to make the evening before. Patrick's response was, "I wish you had written them down, Pawpaw!" So, I did! I had my points printed on fine paper, matted and framed, and put on display in their bedroom so that they could refer to the life lessons that I was trying to teach. I also had three more printed and framed for my other three grandsons.

My main goal was to teach my grandsons that you don't become successful in life by mistreating and misleading others—but rather, true success is achieved by living a principle-centered life. You are deceiving yourself if you think otherwise, and personal dishonesty has serious consequences. Unfortunately, the biggest lies are those that we tell ourselves.

Therefore, I am presenting "Life Lessons," which I prepared only a few years ago.

Life Lessons

By Patrick J. Calhoun, Jr. (aka Pawpaw)

- Life is an echo! You get back what you send out! In life, you get what you give. If you are rude and hateful to others, more often than not, other people will be rude and hateful in return.
- Taste your words before you speak! If your words are bitter and hurtful, it is better to swallow them. If you spit them out, they can never be taken back. An apology may soften the blow, but the damage is already done.
- Keep your word! Say what you mean and mean what you say! Honor your word! Your word is the foundation of your reputation and a good reputation is more valuable than money.
- Never yell—ever! Shouting or yelling is rude, offensive, and distasteful behavior. Shouting does not make the point that you are trying to make more valid.

A supermoon sets behind the Statue of Liberty on May 7, 2020.



JOHANNES EISEL/APF VIA GETTY IMAGES

There are some things however that should be defended and are worth the struggle, but choose wisely.

Life is not easy, but if you master these lessons, life will be much easier. When employed correctly, these principles will reduce conflict, promote cooperation, and earn the respect of your peers. Life is too short to be unhappy, and treating others with love and respect leads to happiness!

—Patrick James Calhoun, Jr., Arkansas

Dear Next Generation:

Every once in a while, my father who was a wise and very kind man used to tell us the following story. When he came to this country as a young man in 1922 from Slovakia, he took with him the bad memories of how sometimes in the middle of the night the police would bang on people's doors and haul them off to jail and accuse them of crimes they didn't commit. People had no rights and could not defend themselves.

My father told us that as he was standing at the railing of the ship that brought him across the Atlantic Ocean to America and was now sailing past the Statue of Liberty, he took a deep breath and smelled freedom. All his life he would always say that America is the greatest country in the whole world ... and then he would always add: "But if you want justice done, you have to be willing to fight for it. In this country, you could do that."

I've always remembered his words and tried to live by them. I hope, dear next generation, that you will do likewise. Whenever you encounter situations in life where you feel things are wrong, never be afraid to stand up for what is right. Remember Right is Might. Don't let anyone take away your freedom, especially in these turbulent times when the Marxist socialist movement is strangling the life out of America and taking away your freedoms of speech, of the press, etc. Arlington Cemetery is full of courageous souls who made the ultimate sacrifice for you so you would have the right to fight for justice in any walk of life whenever it was necessary. Don't let them down. Don't let yourself down. Remember that wise old saying that it only takes a few good men to do nothing for evil to flourish. Good luck. You'll need it.

—Catherine J. Knett, Virginia

Dear next generation,

As I now have more time to contemplate and look back at my 30-plus years in medicine, I've reserved some simple but meaningful advice for those growing up.

Make every day count. Do something every day with intent, no matter how small. Think of others often. It's easy to be self-absorbed and think about oneself. But it's very soul-enriching to think of others and do for others, no matter how small the act of kindness may be. Don't panic if things don't work out as planned in life. Life has a way of working out the way it should. Don't resist or rebel too much if things don't go your way. It may be for the best.

And finally—think things through. Even the act of a vote at a local election is so important. Find out about the candidate. Ask questions. Think down the road. What makes the most sense? If you, follow these simple steps, I think life will be very rewarding.

—Laurette M. Ellis, MD, Florida

1. Short-term pain, long-term gain. 2. You never go wrong by bein' right. 3. Your word is your bond. If you break your bond with a person, you'll never regain their trust. 4. If during your life you have developed enough "real friends" to fill the fingers on one hand who will stop what they are doing and come to your side in time of need no matter what, you are a very fortunate person. And if you are a friend to someone else, be that kind of friend.

—S. Thomas Tobias, Ohio

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, 5 Penn Plaza, 8th Fl. New York, NY, 10001



MPJ/GETTY IMAGES

(Above) Japanese Minister of Foreign Affairs Mamoru Shigemitsu, signs the Japanese Instrument of Surrender aboard the USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay at the end of World War II on Sept. 2, 1945.

(Top right) The letter confirming Japan's surrender during World War II, signed by Emperor Hirohito and Foreign Minister Mamoru Shigemitsu, in Japan on Sept. 24, 1945.

(Right) People reading the news of Imperial Japan's surrender in World War II, in effect bringing the war to an end, also know as Victory over Japan Day, in August 1945.

HISTORY

How the End of World War I Informed the End of World War II

Why Japan's conditional surrender was not an option

DUSTIN BASS

Commentary

When World War I came to an end, Germany was humiliated by the Treaty of Versailles, yet boasted that it had not been conquered, or even invaded. Externally, the treaty would require that the blame fall to it for starting the war; internally, it would gloat in the triumph of not suffering the cataclysmic fates of its neighbors—fates for which it was very much responsible.

The Allied Powers were aware of the two options placed before them in November 1918: continue the war against Germany or accept an armistice. Describing it as a mere choice, however, does not do justice for the weighty decision that had to be made.

By war's end, America had suffered 117,000 dead after only six months of fighting (more than half were non-combat deaths). The militaries of the Allied and Central Powers suffered much more. France suffered 1.4 million, Britain nearly 1 million, Italy 650,000, Germany 1.8 million, Austria-Hungary 1.2 million, and Russia 1.7 million, even after its new Bolshevik government had signed the Brest-Litovsk Treaty in March 1918, bringing hostilities between it and Germany to an end.

The decision was not just about ending the war, but about ending the suffering. It was a war that lasted longer than most anyone expected, and was far more devastating than anyone dreamed. When Germany hinted at a ceasefire, it ushered in a deep global sigh of relief. Those two aforementioned options were quickly pared down to one: peace.

The British economist John Maynard Keynes wrote, "We have been moved already beyond endurance, and need rest. Never in the lifetime of men now living has the universal element in the soul of man burnt so dimly." He called the moment immediately after World War I "the dead season of our fortunes."

Many historians and contemporaries, such as Keynes, predicted that this peace would come at a heavy cost. The dead season would continue for decades in the aftermath of what many would describe as "winning the war, but losing the peace."

In the ensuing years, the Allied Powers would disconnect from each other. Italy, one of the four powers administering the peace process, actually walked away from the peace talks of 1919. Britain would become weary of checking Germany's disregard for the treaty agreements. France was too weak to enforce them alone. Italy would undergo a revolution, leading to the rise of Benito Mussolini. America would elect a new president, Warren G. Harding, and



MPJ/GETTY IMAGES

▲
Soldiers and sailors gather on the decks of the USS Missouri to watch the Japanese surrender signed onboard, in Tokyo Bay on Sept. 2, 1945.

return to political isolationism. And most of Europe would focus much of its concern on the spread of communism.

A peace had been signed, but the war had not been finished. The interwar years of 1919 to 1939 would begin, which would result in Germany's rearmament and the weary world ignoring it. British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain's "peace for our time" was merely part of the prelude to World War II.

The Germanic-Japanese Parallels

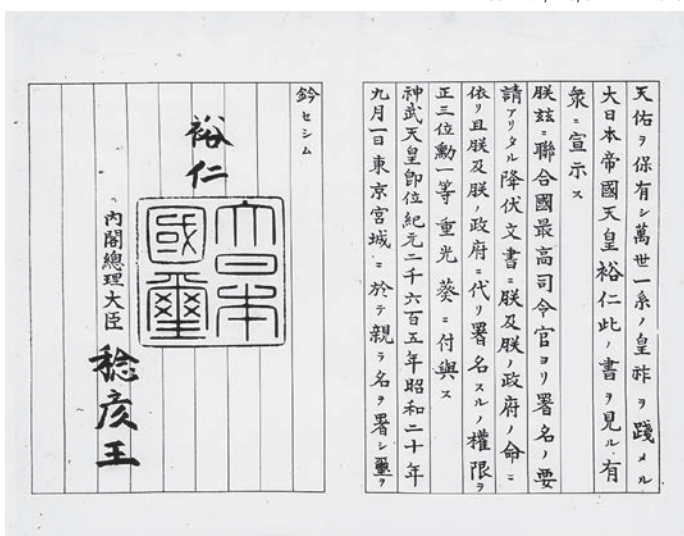
The world again found itself facing the same situation at the end of World War II, not with Germany, but with Japan. The Empire of Japan had struck first against America. Now America was closing in.

The war in Europe had officially come to an end in May 1945. Japan had lost its primary allies, Germany and Italy. On the night of March 9 to 10, Tokyo suffered the most devastating raid in recorded history with some 300 B-29 bombers destroying 14 square miles of Japan's urban core and killing approximately 100,000–150,000 people. More than 60 other cities would be bombed by summer's end. By June, 80 percent of Japan's production had been burned down.

For Japan, the war was over. For America, it was not. American victory was inevitable; Japanese surrender was not.

As American troops continued to dominate the war in the Pacific and move closer to Japan's mainland, the government of Imperial Japan was producing propaganda aimed at its people and preparing them to fight to the death once the Allies arrived.

The debate between using the atom bomb and conducting an all-out invasion is worthwhile. Some believe the use of the bombs was unnecessary and cruel,



US NAVY/FPQ/GETTY IMAGES

GRAPHIC HOUSE/ARCHIVE PHOTOS/GETTY IMAGES



and that it indiscriminately introduced the world into the nuclear age. Some believe that using the bombs was the optimal method to ending the war and that it greatly reduced the loss of life.

But if more than 100,000 lives were taken in one night during the Tokyo raid with only 300 bombers, consider the cost if the strategic bombing campaign of Gen. Curtis LeMay had been utilized to its full capacity. It would have been approximately 15,000 bombers with the capacity to bomb around the clock, all throughout the mainland. Japan was one of the most advanced countries in the world. Had this strategic bombing campaign been conducted, it would have, as historian Victor Davis Hanson once stated, sent Japan back into the Stone Age.

Ultimately, it took scores of cities to be bombed, the devastation of Tokyo, the destruction of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and the threat of American and Soviet invasion (the USSR had just taken Manchuria) for Imperial Japan to surrender, and even then, there were factions within the government that tried to stop the surrender.

Japan had previously hinted at conditional surrender, and had reached out to Moscow for such a purpose. This is proof that the government of Japan saw the writing on the wall. America, however, was unwilling to repeat the same mistake the Allies committed 27 years prior. A conditional surrender was not an option (Japan would finally accept, and America would agree to, the terms of surrender that allowed Hirohito to remain in power as Emperor, even if as just a figurehead).

An Unquestionable Victory and Defeat Germany had been the aggressor in 1914. By the end of 1918, it had exited the war with the country still intact and a people believing it had not tasted defeat. While the rest of Europe rebuilt its infrastructure, Germany prepared for another war in retribution for a loss they felt never happened. Germany dragged the world back into conflict—one that eclipsed the previous one, and eventually left Germany in rubble and its people broken.

Japan had been the aggressor in 1941 (and 1937 in China, earlier in Korea). By August 1945, at least 25 million people had been killed in the Pacific War, nearly four-fifths of them noncombatants, and a vast majority of those were not Japanese. Its military proved just as ruthless as Germany's and its government just as unwilling to surrender and just as willing to put its citizens on the frontlines (the Nazis eventually turned to the country's youth to fight the invading Allies).

The decision on how to end the war apparently coincided with the objective to not just have Japan accept defeat, but to ensure that its defeat was understood in no uncertain terms. There would be no repeat of a quasi-Germanic resurgence in Japan.

The requisite of unconditional surrender was not some attempt to express American superiority; it was a global necessity.

Dustin Bass is the co-host of The Sons of History podcast and the creator of the Thinking It Through YouTube channel. He is also an author.

HOMESCHOOLING TIPS

How to Organize Your Home Life

BARBARA DANZA

About to embark on your first year as a homeschooling parent? Maybe you've been at it for a while or it's just something you're considering. Either way, you may be wondering how to simultaneously get the household chores done and your regular to-do list checked while homeschooling. Homeschooling adds a level of complexity to the day-to-day, but your home and life don't have to be sacrificed.

The key to maintaining progress and harmony among all of your priorities while homeschooling is to have some simple habits and systems in place. Here are a few ideas that will support the important work you're doing.

Wake Early

Push that alarm back a bit earlier so as to afford yourself some alone time in the morning to prepare for the day ahead. Whether that means that you sip coffee while jotting down the most important tasks of the day, giving yourself time to think and wake up, or you get the laundry going before anyone else has risen, buffer time in the morning each day can feel like pure gold to the homeschooling parent and allows time to develop a mindset that will carry you through the day.

Daily Quick Takes

When it comes to household chores, we can choose to make them mountains or molehills. I recommend the latter. Instead of seeing the upkeep of your home as a series of giant projects, think of them as quick takes you sprinkle throughout the day.

For example, instead of needing a weekend afternoon to work your way through piles of laundry, do one load each day. Get it started first thing in the morning, move items to the dryer at some point in the day, and get everything hung, folded, and put away before bed. These tasks will take mere minutes and prevent Mount Laundry from ever forming.

Similar approaches can be taken with the dishes—load the dishwasher at night, unload first thing in the morning, making the bed—it takes two minutes and leaves the room looking tidier; processing the mail daily as soon as it arrives; and running the vacuum or dusting for a quick 5 or 10 minutes a day. Regular attention to the main tasks that keep your home in good shape will go a long way in helping you feel on top of things.

Put the Kids to Work

Part of what you can instill in your children is a sense of responsibility for all sorts of



Kids can help out by caring for and feeding pets, for example.



Kids can learn responsibility through a variety of chores.

things around the house and in your family's life. This is part of their character education and will benefit them for a lifetime.

As part of your daily routine, incorporate chores your children are solely responsible for. Managing household garbage, tidying up the couch, cleaning bathrooms, feeding pets, and more can all be handled by even young children. As they get older, they get to take on more responsibility. Homeschooling is a team effort. Allow everyone in the family the opportunity to contribute.

Toss Perfection

Recognizing that homeschooling is going to demand more of you and your home is a realistic approach to take. There may be times when you go to bed with the makings of a giant diorama on your dining room table or ingredients for a complex chemistry experiment strewn about your kitchen.

Do your best to maintain cleanliness and order while keeping a sense of humor and appreciation for the wonderful creativity and ingenuity messes like this represent. Keep a healthy balance between order and chaos, as they say, and find the beauty in it all.

Start Time/End Time

Homeschooling provides your family with unlimited freedom and possibility. While this is truly wonderful, it can also be overwhelming. For example, when you can learn any time, you may be tempted to learn all the time. Sometimes allowing your school day to spill over into the evening will make sense. If the kids are loving a new project or can't tear themselves away from a new book, by all means allow inspiration to light them up.

However, most days would probably benefit from a general sense of what time school begins and when it should wrap up.

ALL PHOTOS BY SHUTTERSTOCK

When it comes to household chores, we can choose to make them mountains or molehills.

First Week of Homeschool: 10 Ways to Make It Special

BARBARA DANZA

No two homeschool years are the same. As your children grow and their education progresses, each year takes on its own rhythm and character.

Whether you're a new homeschooler or a veteran homeschooler, adding special touches to the beginning of the year kicks things off with full hearts and smiling faces.

Here are 10 ideas to make your first week of homeschool special.

Go School Shopping

Before your school year begins, enjoy an excursion of back-to-school shopping. Just because your children aren't heading into the classroom doesn't mean you can't join in the fun and ensure you've got what you need for field trips, group activities, and extracurricular activities. Wrapping up the day with a lunch out is a great way to make back-to-school season fun.

Start Mid Week

Who says the first day has to be a Monday? Start on a Wednesday or Thursday to make the act of starting short and sweet—easy as pie. You'll begin with fun, ease, and a sense of accomplishment and be able to launch into week two ready to roll.

Decorate the Table

Perhaps you tend to gather together at the kitchen table, in the living room around a coffee table, or at the dining room table. Wherever that central location is for your family, decorate it for a celebration the night before your first day, after the kids have gone to bed.

Much like Christmas morning, they'll awaken to a delightful surprise that may include things like themed plates and decor, fresh school supplies, a new book or



AUGUST DE RICHELIEU/PEXELS

Celebrate the start of homeschool with a fun breakfast that's a bit more elaborate than usual.

two, and even a wrapped present. Include a card or note for each child that lets them know how much you're looking forward to a fun year ahead and how blessed you feel to be able to share these moments together.

Don't forget to take that first day of school pictures for posterity.

Stack the Pancakes

Continue the celebration with a breakfast that's more elaborate than usual. Think pancakes, French toast, fresh fruit, or bacon and eggs. Perhaps you've got a tradi-

tional food for breakfast on the first day each year, like cinnamon rolls or bagels from your favorite local place. Allow the morning to linger and talk about all that you hope to experience and accomplish this year.

Take a Picture

Don't forget to take that first day of school pictures for posterity. Use signs that show either your child's age or grade—if you keep track of grade levels—and share it with friends and family.

Head Out Of the House

Something that may surprise new homeschoolers is how little time you might find yourself actually staying at home. Lace up those sneakers, pack a water and a snack,

and head outside for a hike or to the local museum for the first field trip of the year. Wherever you go, make it easy and fun, and an inspiring example of the blessings of homeschooling.

Start a Read-Aloud

Before wrapping up the first day, crack open a brand new read-aloud you'll be sharing with your kids this year. Concluding the day immersed in a story you share as a family is a joy. The continuation of the story will be one of many things you and your family look forward to the next day.

Set Up for Success

As that first day progresses and the week goes on, aim to establish a rhythm and any organizational processes you deem important to the smooth running of your homeschool. Review what is expected of your children, introduce them to important schedule and calendar details they'll need to know, all while unwrapping new school supplies and setting up tools and spaces for a new year ahead.

Start Gradually

As the week goes on and you begin introducing the subjects, do so gradually. You don't have to jam everything you'll be studying into the first day, or even the first week. Start with core basics like language arts and math, and incrementally add other subjects as time goes on, tweaking your daily rhythm as you go.

Wrap It Up Early

During the first few days of school, make fun the focus, keep the work at hand simple and end each day early. Aim to establish your systems and rhythms, notice anything that may not be working, and encourage a sense of progress and accomplishment as each day comes to a close.



FOR KIDS ONLY

THE EPOCH TIMES

Week 33, 2021

Don't Give Up

by Phoebe Cary

If you've tried and have not won,
Never stop for crying;
All that's good and great is done
Just by patient trying.

Though young birds, in flying, fall,
Still their wings grow stronger,
And the next time they can keep
Up a little longer.

Though the sturdy oak has known
Many a wind that bowed her,
She has risen again and grown
Loflier and prouder.

If by easy work you beat,
Who the more will prize you?
Gaining victory from defeat,—
That's the test that tries you!

IAKOV FILIMONOV/SHUTTERSTOCK

WHY DIDN'T THE SUN GO TO COLLEGE?

BECAUSE IT ALREADY HAD A MILLION DEGREES.

AFRICA STUDIO/SHUTTERSTOCK

I have never let my schooling interfere with my education.

MARK TWAIN (1835-1910), AMERICAN WRITER

HULTON ARCHIVE/GETTY IMAGES

This Week in History

PUBLIC DOMAIN

MONA LISA GAINS FAME

Do you ever wonder why some works of art enjoy world recognition while some don't? Well, in the case of Leonardo DaVinci's famous work "Mona Lisa," theft played a role. On Aug. 21, 1911, three Italian handymen stole the great painting from The Louvre in Paris. Apparently, they had been hiding in a closet and waited for the museum to close before removing the large and heavy work from its home. Newspapers the world over began reporting of the theft of what wasn't, at the time, one of DaVinci's well-known paintings. The painting wasn't recovered until 28 months later when one of the thieves attempted to sell it in Florence, Italy. The prospective customer, an art dealer, became suspicious and alerted the authorities. After that, "Mona Lisa" became a household name.



By Aidan Danza, age 15

ALL PHOTOS BY SHUTTERSTOCK

THE ALPS

The Alps are the mountain range that divides Italy from the rest of Europe. It's one of the largest ranges in Europe, and its mountains can be more than 15,000 feet high, around the height of Pikes Peak here in America.

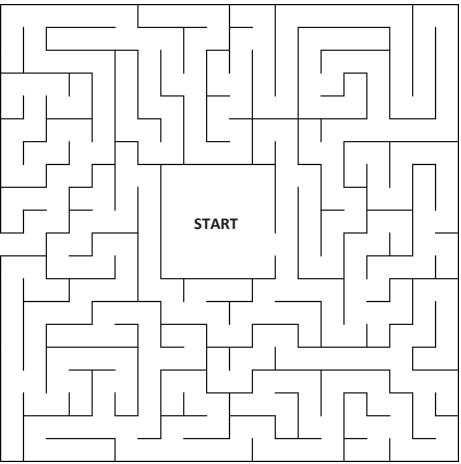
The Alps form a downward curve, reaching from France, through Switzerland, South Germany, North Italy, and eastward to Austria and Slovenia. They hold a wide variety of plant and animal life at a variety of elevations.

In the valleys, there are mainly broad-leaved, or deciduous, trees. Animals such as the wild boar can live here. These are wild, black pigs. Female and young boar travel in maternal herds, much like those of elephants, while the males live solitarily. They are extremely tough and adaptable, and can live just about anywhere. The valleys also contain the roe deer, a deer that actually barks.

Farther up the mountains, the landscape changes. Broad-leaved trees give way to conifers, and the animals change. A well-known animal of this area is the western capercaillie, the largest grouse (a chicken-like bird) in the world, at almost three feet long. During the breeding season, the male booms throughout the forest. If two males come into contact, sometimes they will fight, where the males ruff themselves and begin booming at each other, sometimes pecking and hitting. Usually, these fights are broken up before a clear victor emerges. Sometimes an angry grouse will confront a human.

Even farther up the mountain, it becomes too cold for trees to live, but some animals thrive. Much like mountain goats here in America, the ibex and chamois live at these very high heights, up to 9,800 feet. Marmots live exclusively above the treeline, underground in gravel or even frozen ground. Much like American prairie dogs, marmots live in underground colonies. To survive the winter, marmots hibernate in their underground burrows, sealing off the entrance with hay and grass until the spring.

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		
84			
2	10		
+	-	x	÷

Solution For Easy 1

7 + 01 x (2 - 01)

Medium puzzle 1

4	19		
36			
1	7		
+	-	x	÷

Solution for Medium 1

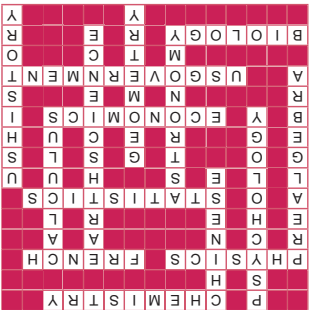
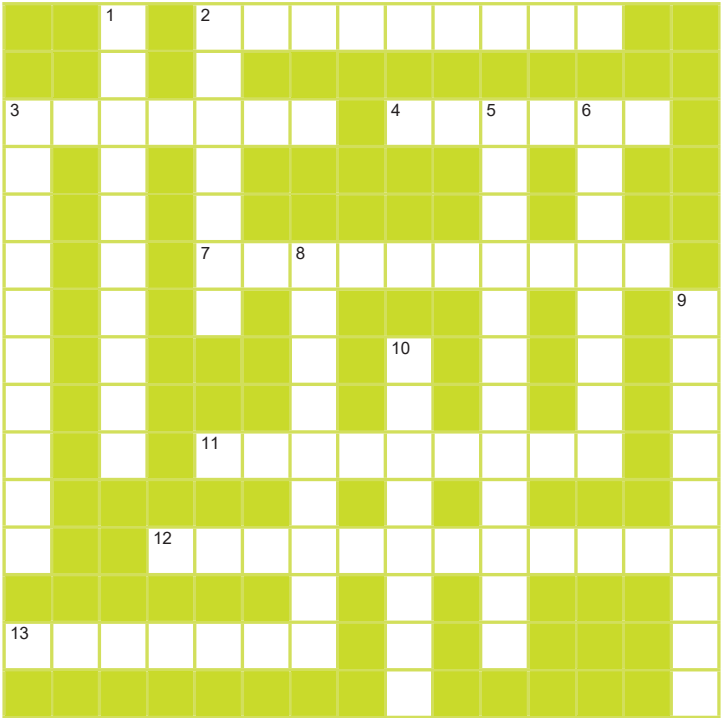
(1 - 7) x (2 - 01)

Hard puzzle 1

9	32		
69			
6	19		
+	-	x	÷

Solution for Hard 1

6 - 9 x (61 - 28)



Across

- 2 Element-ary school subject? (9)
- 3 Subject with force (7)
- 4 "Pardon my ____" (6)
- 7 Data analyst's forte (10)
- 11 Adam Smith Award subject (9)
- 12 Mandatory Class for most (12)
- 13 Body work? (7)



Don't Miss Out on the Rest of Your Subscription

Did you know that your print subscription gives you full access to **EpochTV.com**?



Epoch TV is a streaming platform for our exclusive programs. You'll get news analysis, in-depth interviews, investigative reporting, inspiring stories, and award-winning documentaries.

EPOCH TV


Your subscription also gives you full access to our premium magazines—Mind & Body, Life & Tradition, Arts & Culture, and China Insider—as well as our infographics. Just visit **TheEpochTimes.com/editions**

Thank you for your support!
When the going gets tough, we take encouragement from readers like you who choose to support us through your subscription.



What Readers Like You Are Saying

“The Epoch Times is a **beacon of light** in the ‘news’ darkness that pretty much covers the country.” — **JONNE ROSENAU**

“Epoch is a mixture of true, cold hard facts pertaining to our time ... and hope plus inspiration.” — **CHRISTINA TORKAY**



Take full advantage of your subscription. Please visit today:



EpochTV.com

TheEpochTimes.com/editions



HELP IS JUST A **CLICK AWAY!**

TheEpochTimes.com/help

UPDATED

It's quick and easy!
You will never have to wait again.



FROM THIS PAGE YOU CAN:

<p>FIND ANSWERS FROM A COMPREHENSIVE FAQ SECTION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Troubleshoot common problems• Learn our terms and conditions	<p>SUBMIT REQUESTS ONLINE*</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Report delivery and other subscription issues• Provide editorial and other feedback
<p>USE OUR CUSTOMER SERVICE LIVE CHAT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tell us your subscription inquiries or concerns	<p>ACCESS THE CUSTOMER PORTAL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Manage your subscription account

*Cancellations are processed on the hotline only.

2021 NTD 9TH INTERNATIONAL CLASSICAL CHINESE DANCE COMPETITION

PRELIMINARY	SEMI-FINAL	FINAL	Gold Award
Sept. 2-3	Sept. 4	Sept. 5	\$10,000

SEMI-FINAL & FINAL Tickets on Sale \$30
Hotline 1-888-477-9228

Tribeca Performing Arts Center
199 Chambers Street New York, NY 10007



DANCE.NTDTV.COM