

THE EPOCH TIMES

LIFE &

TRADITION

HISTORY

The Education of Winston Churchill

Some lessons in learning

JEFF MINICK

His aristocratic father ignored him except when complaining of his behavior. His mother enjoyed dances and men, but also kept her son at arm's length. His teachers praised him for his intelligence and promise, but nearly all of them faulted him for failing to reach his potential.

His contemporaries often disliked this boy for his self-regard, his refusal to conform to school rules, and his love of argument and debate. Excepting the study of literature and history, he fared poorly in every school he attended, so much so that there was no question of his entering the better universities. Instead, he enrolled in a military college, and even then nearly failed to win admission.

When he was in his teens, most of those who knew him, including his father, believed that little good could come of him.

When he was in his teens, most of those who knew him, including his father, believed that little good could come of Winston Leonard Spencer Churchill (1874–1965).

A Poor Student and a Rebel

At age 7, very much against his wishes, Churchill was sent to St. George's School near Ascot. There, as the headmaster noted in letters to Churchill's mother, Jennie, he was often "very naughty" and "gave a great deal of trouble." This disobedience brought harsh floggings. When Mrs. Everest, Churchill's nanny and chief confidante throughout his youth, discovered the welts and cuts on the boy's back and bottom, she promptly summoned Jennie. Outraged, Jennie straight away withdrew Winston from the school and entered him into a small school operated by two sisters in Brighton.

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PUBLIC DOMAIN

1. A portrait of Winston Churchill, circa 1900.

2. British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, alongside Gen. Charles de Gaulle, reviews the French troops on the Alsace front in November 1944.

3. The Speech Room at Harrow School, an all-boys, boarding school that the young Churchill attended.



AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES



PUBLIC DOMAIN

Teaching Children to Recognize Propaganda

ANNIE HOLMQUIST

Commentary

When the pandemic hit, school went online and learning seemed to be thrown to the wind. As the pandemic stretched on, many teachers were loath to return to the classroom because of apparent COVID fears. Parents began to question whether teachers were really concerned about or eager to foster their chil-

dren's learning, especially as they could see the learning loss that was happening ... or rather, the learning that often wasn't happening at all.

Such fears were groundless, according to Cecily Myart-Cruz, head of the powerful United Teachers Los Angeles union. Myart-Cruz scoffed at the idea of learning loss in a recent interview with Los Angeles Magazine, claiming: "It's OK that our babies may not have learned all their times tables. They

learned resilience. They learned survival. They learned critical-thinking skills. They know the difference between a riot and a protest. They know the words insurrection and coup."

To the discerning reader, it's apparent that Myart-Cruz could have stated the above much more succinctly by saying, "Our babies learned propaganda."

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HALFPOINT/SHUTTERSTOCK

Teach kids about logical fallacies and see how many they can spot—whether on television or in the classroom.

HISTORY

The Education of Winston Churchill

Some lessons in learning

Continued from Page 1

Here physical punishment was infrequent, and though he continued to perform poorly in subjects such as Latin, Greek, Churchill excelled in literature and history.

He next entered Harrow, where he was assigned to the lowest form. Once again, he misspent his education, tackling with high spirits those subjects he found attractive and ignoring the study of Latin, Greek, and mathematics. Here, as biographer William Manchester tells us: "Winston was a baffling boy. He couldn't, or wouldn't, learn the ablativ absolute—a minor feat of memory—but he could recite twelve hundred lines of Macaulay without missing a word."

Manchester then notes that one Harrow teacher "came close to the truth" when he reported of Winston: "He was not an easy boy to deal with. Of course, he had always a brilliant brain, but he would only work when he chose to and for the matters he approved of."

After leaving Harrow, Churchill twice failed the entrance exams for the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, but crammed with a tutor and passed on his third attempt.

So, what lessons regarding education can we take away from such a poor example of a student?

We Learn What We Love

Throughout his school days, Churchill was in fact learning, though often the subjects were absent from any school syllabus. He was a keen student of history, for example, so much so that he scored extraordinarily high marks on that part of the exam for Sandhurst. Because of his father's political involvement, from an early age, he also took a great interest in the affairs of his day, both in Britain and abroad.

Poetry and the English language also moved him. On his own, he memorized reams of verse, much of which stuck with him for the rest of his life, and he loved debate and speechmaking. In his early teens, Churchill was reading the likes of Thackeray and Wordsworth and was developing that large vocabulary and the cadence of language that would one day win him international fame.

While at Harrow, he also threw himself into carpentry class, kept a colony of silkworms, and continued to build his stamp collection. Though he disliked team



This photo of Prime Minister Winston Churchill was taken while he was visiting a Scottish armored unit fighting during World War II, circa 1940s.

sports, he enjoyed swimming, boxing, and fencing.

As Manchester writes: "Churchillian stubbornness, which would become the bane of Britain's enemies, was the despair of his teachers. He refused to learn unless it suited him."

But when it did suit him, Churchill excelled.

Play

The boy who would later command and lead a nation through a horrific war organized his own battles in a playroom equipped with thousands of lead soldiers where, as one friend remarked, "Altogether it was a most impressive show, and played with an interest that was no ordinary child game."

Away from the rigors and structure of formal school, Churchill, his brother Jack, and some cousins would build elaborate forts and engage in combat. On one vacation, Churchill directed the construction of a fort with a moat and a working drawbridge.

ist, a writer of many books, a winner of the Nobel Prize, and a leader whose words were weapons in war.

And suppose Churchill had attended Oxford rather than Sandhurst? Would he have become the prime minister known as the "British Bulldog"? His father had accounted him lacking the intelligence to enter the law, a misjudgment for which freedom lovers everywhere should be grateful. Sandhurst started Churchill on a series of adventures that eventually won him a seat in the House of Commons.

Of Churchill's years at Harrow, Manchester remarks, "Winston was being taught to teach himself."

This should be the end of all education. In Churchill's case, this tutelage came about in spite of school and his parents.

Reinforcing Positives

Like Churchill's masters at Harrow, particularly those who tried in vain to teach him Latin and Greek, as a teacher I found myself frustrated by the lackluster performances of some students. Yet I also reminded myself, and quite often my classes, that while academics are important, in the real world, talent, ambition, character, and even looks count for more than having read the Aeneid.

And I have seen that truism at work. That shy kid who always sat at the back of the room and was mediocre in literature class is today a successful insurance agent who includes me among his clients. That girl who struggled with world history is a physician. That student who performed abysmally in Latin is now the youngest member of the U.S. House of Representatives.

Our young people need at least the rudiments of education—math, science, history, and so on—and sometimes we must push them to learn certain subjects. At the same time, let's look for and nourish those gifts they all possess.

Note: Though I've read several Churchill biographies, my favorite remains William Manchester's "The Last Lion." The direct quotes in this article come from Volume I of that trilogy.

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.

MOTIVATION FOR THE MODERN MAN

Benjamin Franklin and the Virtuous Road to Success

RYAN MOFFATT



A portrait of Benjamin Franklin (1706–1790), circa 1780.

With rates of depression and anxiety steadily increasing in the COVID-19 era, self-help is big business.

Internet gurus promise peace of mind, financial freedom, and happiness if we just click the link, take the course, or watch a video. Most are scams, some have merit, but all come with a catch—mostly financial. A distressed population may be quite willing to fork over hard-earned cash for a quick fix to inner turmoil and existential crises.

But what if there was a simple, free, and highly effective alternative for achieving success? Well, there is: It's the method Benjamin Franklin used to help draft the Declaration of Independence, invent the lightning rod, become the first postmaster general, and earn his place on the \$100 bill. One could add the father of self-improvement to that list of accomplishments. It's worth noting that he came from poverty and dropped out of school at the age of 10. Franklin took self-improvement seriously. He organized his time with rigorous discipline, squeezing all he could out of the hours of the day. Part of this practice was keeping a daily journal, which had one unique and important feature.

Instead of journaling on material goals and ambitions Franklin created a virtue journal to track his adherence to 13 cardinal virtues that he believed primary for living a moral life: temperance, silence, order, resolution, frugality, industry, sincerity, justice, moderation, cleanliness, tranquility, chastity, and humility.

success was primarily a byproduct of his moral fortitude.

A Virtuous Cycle

The idea of a virtue journal goes against the current success dogma that puts primary weight on material achievement rather than virtuous living. Men frequently adopt a grind-it-out mentality with singular focus on material success, often at the sacrifice of integrity and ethics. The mid-life crisis so common among high achievers frequently has its roots in this unbalanced approach to life.

Part of this practice was keeping a daily journal, which had one unique and important feature.

What would happen if we abandoned material pursuits and focused solely on walking our paths with utmost integrity and obedience to our own established virtues? Ironically, this radical departure from materialism may actually be the most reliable path to material success—one void of endless and exhausting pursuit.

In essence, a virtue journal is a daily conversation with one's own conscience. Formulating a list of personal values based on our spiritual or religious inclinations allows us to take stock of our unique circumstances. If we're honest with ourselves

about the virtues that create a life worth living, they will be noble ones.

By setting high standards for ourselves rather than bending the world to our will, a virtuous cycle of opportunity ensues. A man of good character will inevitably attract people of the same moral fiber, and opportunities that require sound ethics will manifest.

Embarking on a noble path is bound to be difficult, as nothing worthwhile comes without some degree of exertion. But struggling in the name of virtue ennobles the spirit, while striving with dishonesty does the opposite. How many times have we been tempted to bend the truth to further our own ends only to have things turn out for the worse and disquiet our conscience? Cunning may further short-term aims, but it prevents us from developing the character needed for sustainable success. That we attract what we are and not what we pursue is a cardinal truth echoed by saints and sages of all traditions.

Attainment of perfection is an impossible goal for even the best of us, but aiming in its direction will lead to fulfillment beyond our imaginings. Franklin certainly recognized this, writing in his autobiography, "Tho' I never arrived at the perfection I had been so ambitious of obtaining, but fell far short of it, yet I was, by the endeavour, a better and a happier man than I otherwise should have been if I had not attempted it."

Ryan Moffatt is a tradesman, father, writer, and musician.

With Love and Prayers: A Woman Honors Those Who Protect Us

JEFF MINICK

On Nov. 18, 2016, 53-year-old U.S. Marshal Deputy Commander Patrick T. Carothers was shot to death while serving a warrant on a fugitive in southeast rural Georgia.

Wanted on charges of attempted murder, domestic violence, and illegally discharging a weapon, Dontrell Montese Carter, 25, opened fire when Carothers and his team entered the mobile home where Carter was hiding out. Carothers and other law officers returned fire, shooting Carter numerous times. Both Carter and Carothers were pronounced dead at local hospitals.

When we read about such shootings of our police officers and other first responders, we may shake our heads with sadness or dismay, but unless we personally know the victims, we move on. It's just another blip in the barrage of news that appears daily on our televisions and computer screens. Rarely do we pause to consider the grief and agony of the family members and friends who loved these fallen heroes. Rarely, too, do we wonder what sort of legacy they left in the wake of their deaths.

Just this once, let's pause a moment to consider one of these people.

His Wife and Children

Deputy Commander Pat Carothers was a beloved husband and father of five children—four sons and a daughter. His three elder sons graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy and are currently on active duty serving their country. His fourth child, a daughter, is enrolled at the Academy while his youngest boy, a seventh-grader, still lives at home.

Credit for those accomplishments also goes, of course, to Pat's wife, Terry. As a mother, she has taken an intense interest in her children's academics and extracurricular activities, finding good schools for them and encouraging them in their quest for excellence.

Paying Homage

Recently, Terry and I spoke by phone, where I learned of an event she'd spearheaded. To celebrate her husband's life and to honor all first responders as well as veterans, Terry put together a luncheon in Page County, Virginia, where she had grown up.

With help from family and friends, and "from the Lord," she said, Terry set to work. She reserved a room on the Page County Fairgrounds. She approached the owners of such organizations as Mission BBQ, Luray Caverns, and the Holtzman Corporation, a Virginia-based oil and propane outfit, companies that supplied money and food for the barbecue luncheon. She invited local law officers, Veterans of Foreign Wars members, firemen, school officials, and others to attend this event, which was designed to salute all those whose public service provides for the protection and defense of American citizens.

This salute to first responders and the military all came together on Aug. 23, Pat's birthday. During this luncheon, Terry sang a hymn, read Psalms 91 and 94, and spoke of Pat's deep commitment



ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF TERRY CAROTHERS

Talking with Terry Carothers reminded me again of the basic ideas that are the foundation stones of our nation: liberty and responsibility, law and order, and faith.

to his job and his family.

The Page County Fair was in progress that week, and that evening's festivities featured a "Night of Honor" with singer Bobby Osborne in concert "to honor our Lord, Law Enforcement, and Military," with the program announcing that this event was made possible by the Carothers Family to honor Pat. School-age children, senior citizens, military personnel including veterans, and first responders were admitted free of charge. Terry sang "Blessed Assurance" and spoke of her spiritual journey. Her eldest son, who is stationed in Norfolk, also addressed the crowd, speaking about how tough it was to walk his path of faith after his father's death and how he has persevered.

Also singled out for honor at this event was Nick Winum of the Stanley, Virginia Police Department, who was killed in the line of duty on Feb. 26. Officer Winum was the husband of Kara and the father of four children. He also left behind a grandchild.

Heroes

At one point in my conversation with Terry, the subject of 9/11 came up when she mentioned that the Tunnel to Towers Foundation had helped her pay off the mortgage on her home. This nonprofit organization was founded to honor Stephen Siller, a firefighter and also a father of five who lost his life trying to save others at the World Trade Center. Siller was going golfing with his brothers when he heard what had happened. He went to his station house to pick up his equipment, tried to drive through Brooklyn Battery Tunnel, found it closed for security purposes, strapped on 60 pounds of gear, and raced through the tunnel to the collapsing towers, where he died.

On Sept. 11, 2021, the 20th anniversary of that attack, many Americans took some time to remember those who, like Stephen Siller, died in the Twin Towers, at the Pentagon, and on United Flight 93. We also thought of those who had sacrificed their lives trying to rescue others, including 71 police officers, and honored their heroism



Terry Carothers and her late husband Patrick T. Carothers.

in public ceremonies and in our hearts.

Today is different. For more than a year now, we've heard the demands to "Defund the Police" and watched as some of our cities were torn apart by riot and fire. As a result, we've also seen law officers in many of these same cities resigning in droves, fed up with the mismanagement of their mayors and city officials, and disgusted with the disdain and hatred heaped on them by some citizens.

Maybe it's time for some people to rethink those radical ideas.

The Power of Faith

Talking with Terry Carothers and reading about her husband and the celebration honoring his life reminded me again of the basic ideas that are the foundation stones of our nation: liberty and responsibility, law and order, and faith.

That last item is of vital importance to Terry. Again and again in our conversation, she talked of God's hand in our lives. Speaking at Pat's funeral service, Terry forgave his killer, but also expressed her concern about the consequences of the lack of religious faith in some of our young people. At an earlier county fair, she had honored her husband by distributing children's Bibles. "The children of our nation need the Lord," she told me.

A vibrant woman of faith whose words and deeds are changing lives, and five wonderful children: This is the legacy of officer Pat Carothers.

Rest in peace, sir.

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.

Teaching Children to Recognize Propaganda

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And in fact, they have been learning that propaganda for many years. Unfortunately, we looked away, convincing ourselves that such propaganda was only in big districts such as Los Angeles, or New York, or Chicago, not in our own local, Middle American neighborhoods. For years we kept our children in those schools, convincing ourselves they were safe, that their teachers and the curriculum were there studying were teaching them good things. That those good things would prepare them for living in the free world, able to embrace truth and recognize error immediately.

Given the accelerated rate of deception in society, it now seems clear that schools indeed didn't prepare children to recognize propaganda; instead, they were the ones that fed propaganda to children hook, line, and sinker.

The late author and historian Richard Weaver observed this phenomenon in a 1955 essay entitled "Propaganda." "It's tempting to say that the only final protection against propaganda is education," Weaver said. "But the remark must be se-

verely qualified because there is a kind of education which makes people more rather than less gullible.

"Most modern education induces people to accept too many assumptions. On these the propagandist can play even more readily than on the supposed prejudices of the uneducated. It is the independent, reflective intelligence which critically rejects and accepts the ideas competing in the market place. Education to think rather than mere literacy should be the prime object of those seeking to combat propaganda."

Regardless of whether our children go to public, private, or homeschool, they will inevitably be exposed to propaganda. So how do we educate our children—and our own selves in the process—to think and wield the sword against this enemy? A few ideas come to mind.

First, train yourself and your children to explore both sides of an argument. For example, if you think the election was stolen, examine the arguments of those who agree with you, but also look at sources claiming to debunk such alleged conspiracy theories. Likewise, if you think the COVID vaccine is perfectly safe and can't understand

why people won't take it, dig into some of the scientific studies and testimonies of those who have a wary view of it. Knowing what the opposition is saying will strengthen your own arguments and make it more difficult for people to accuse you or your children of being narrow-minded.

Second, look for logical fallacies in the information coming out of the television, the classroom, and the internet. "The Falacy Detective" by Nathaniel and Hans Blueborn is a fun way to introduce children to this subject. Once these fallacies are learned and digested, create a game by seeing how many fallacies your family can spot in a news report or a politician's speech.

Finally, expose children to the wisdom of the past. Just as those trained to detect counterfeit never accept fake money, but only the real thing, so we must only give our children good, high-quality reading material. Many of the books written today are filled with fluffy, politically correct drivel, but often books written in past decades are filled with messages promoting traditional values and solid character. Place these latter books in the hands of your children, and they'll soon sniff out

and reject "woke" material.

"Most modern education induces people to accept too many assumptions," Weaver said. Buck the trend and actively ensure your children reject the propagandistic assumptions they are taught at school and in society.

Annie Holmquist is the editor of Intellectual Takeout and the online editor of Chronicles Magazine, both projects of the Charlemagne Institute.



MONKEY BUSINESS IMAGES/SHUTTERSTOCK

Give your children high-quality books that promote traditional values.



Dr. Patti Giebink.

She broke protocol by counseling patients who seemed conflicted.



ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF PATTI GIEBINK



Former Abortion Doctor Describes Pro-Life Journey

MICHAEL WING

Former abortion doctor who worked for Planned Parenthood in the mid-1990s had an unexpected realization that she'd made a huge mistake—and her change of heart set her on a journey of advocating for life.

She believes God was instrumental in guiding her on that journey.

Dr. Patti Giebink from Chamberlain, South Dakota, entered the medical profession in the 1980s as someone devoted to women's health, with a view that abortion was vital to women's health care and that it was saving women's lives.

"All the history, pre-Roe v. Wade, women dying or becoming physically injured by illegal abortion, that's what was so prevalent among these women's groups when I was in medical school," she told Focus on the Family.

As for the unborn baby, she wrote in an article for the Christian Medical & Dental Associations, "I was told, 'It's just tissue,' making it easier to settle my conscience. Initially, when early ultrasound pictures were more like a snowstorm than the detailed images we see today, fetuses seemed less human."

In 1995, Giebink got a job with Planned Parenthood and spent two years working part time before becoming a full-time abortion doctor for a third and final year. Her part-time stint was "mentally schizophrenic," she said—terminating pregnancies once a week at Planned Parenthood while slaving to save the lives of mothers and babies other days of the week.

As a full-time abortion doctor, Giebink was blown away by just how busy they were—Planned Parenthood seemed more like an "industry" than a health service, she said. "They're about money, and abortion is their top moneymaker."

The clinic was supposed to offer counseling to patients who came, but there was almost none. She only had a brief two-minute consultation in the room with her patient before the suction machine was turned on and verbal communication became impossible.

Nor was she supposed to counsel, according to Planned Parent protocol. "It was very clear to me that I was a technician," she said, adding that Planned Parenthood had counselors, but they just read a script and told patients where to sign.

In addition, the condition of the facility "really wasn't all that clean" and had no provisions to handle complications.

"In the three years that I was involved



Dr. Patti Giebink.

She believes God was instrumental in guiding her on that journey.

with Planned Parenthood there, I never saw anybody from the Health Department, never," Giebink said.

She broke protocol by counseling patients who seemed conflicted, and later recalled one of her interactions. "She was really ambivalent, she was clearly undecided, and I said, 'You seem to be struggling.' And she said she really didn't want to do this, but she already paid her money, and she traveled to get there, so she might as well just go through with it."

Giebink told her, "You know, you can reschedule. If you're unsure, reschedule." "She was so afraid that she wasn't going to get her money back, and I said, 'You will get your money back.'"

This wasn't received well by Giebink's superiors. She was terminated from her position in September 1997, which gave her an immediate sense of relief.

Looking back, Giebink described feeling the "hand of God" protecting and leading her toward him.

Among other things, facts dispelling her previous beliefs were revealed.

"I studied Roe v. Wade, read a lot of books on it, and the interesting thing is, I didn't know that the numbers were in-

flated, the number of women dying every year from illegal abortion," she said, crediting Dr. Bernhard Nathanson for setting the record straight.

"They had to really rally support for Roe v. Wade."

"And so they really inflated the numbers, and it really just stopped me in my tracks, and I thought, 'OK, the foundation for doing what I was doing was gone.'"

On a deeper level, Giebink's spiritual journey began with a church invitation, where a new young pastor helped reorient her perspective on abortion and life. Captivated, she plunged into reading the Bible for more than a year. "And at some point... it became so clear to me that God is the God of life," she said.

It dawned on her that God was involved in the lives of her patients as much as he was in hers. She described crossing paths with one "Baby Sam," whose mother came to her, pregnant and suffering complications.

"She was like 24 weeks and she had some chronic bleeding," Giebink told Focus on the Family. "The second time she came in, she was like 25-plus weeks, and still having some bleeding."

"But the baby on the monitor really looked bad."

Giebink advised an immediate C-section for any shot at a good result, but she admittedly painted "a pretty grim picture" of what a pre-term baby at 25 weeks would potentially face: eyesight, bowel, or lung problems, possibly having to be put on a ventilator.

But the mom went forward—and Giebink marveled at the result. "The baby was feisty and breathing, and it's almost like the baby was saying, 'Wow, finally you get me out of here!'" she recalled.

Fifteen years later, that same mom approached her at a pro-life rally and announced that her child was "perfect"—no eyeglasses, no nothing—which was a revelation of science's limited understanding of how life works.

Giebink tells the story of how she bridged the divide, from working at Planned Parenthood to becoming a pro-life advocate, in her stirring new book, "Unexpected Choice: An Abortion Doctor's Journey to Pro-Life."

Giebink's unique perspective attests that tolerance and kindness are vital healing agents.

"We're not going to make progress if we just stand on opposite sides of the street, calling each other names," she said. "Are we reaching out to them? Or are we just in our own little world where we're surrounded by people who look and act like us?"

10 Ideas for Family Fun This Fall

BARBARA DANZA

It's officially fall. You can feel it in the crisp nighttime air. You can see it on the tips of the leaves and the angles of the shadows. You've already picked up a jacket or sweater from time to time. You've switched your morning beverage from iced to hot.

As the school season finds its groove and pumpkin spice wafts from every corner, it's time to get down to the very joyful business of Fall Family Fun.

If you're looking for some activities to soak up all that this magical time of year has to offer, here are 10 ideas to consider.

Visit a Festival

Check local community calendars for the fairs and festivals taking place in your area this season. This is a great opportunity to support local businesses, connect with your community, sample good food and good music, find handmade goods, and have a good old time with your loved ones.

Watch the Birds

Migration time is upon us and the birds are on the move. Now is a great time to study birds and visit your local nature center or preserve. A bird log, a pencil, and a pair of binoculars can turn a hike in the woods into a fun-filled exploration.

Gaze at the Moon

The moon can put on a pretty amazing show this time of year. This is a great opportunity to study the phases of the moon or read about the science behind the moon, astronauts, and the history of the first moon landing, and all that fun stuff.

Bake

It's time to turn on the oven again. Round up your young troops and involve them as much as possible in baking some delicious treats to share with loved ones. Baking inspires creativity, involves measuring and math, and results in happy bellies.

Some of my favorite treats to make in the fall include apple crisp, pumpkin muffins, and snickerdoodles.

Make a Scarecrow

"Hey, Dad, do you still wear this old shirt and pair of jeans?"

Making a scarecrow is a creative and fun project and results in a festive decoration for the front porch or yard.

Pick Your Own

The apples, the pumpkins, and all that's in season and ready to harvest this time of year make for joy-filled family time.

Slow down and embrace the simplicity of nature's rewards. Allow your children to skip through the orchards and find just the ones they want. Marvel in the colors, the smells, and the blessings.

Camp Out

Whether in your backyard or at a faraway destination, this is a great time of year to camp out. Before it's too cold, enjoy the fall scenery nature provides, the roar of the campfire, and the together time this activity provides.

Jump in the Leaves

If you've got some raking to do, celebrate success with an old-fashioned jump in the leaves. You may find your kids more eager to help rake with the promise of a fun reward at the end.

It doesn't get any simpler than this, and opportunities to connect your kids with nature are priceless. Go jump!

Collect Natural Elements for Crafts

Leaves, seeds, acorns, branches, pine cones, and more make for wonderful additions to your craft supplies. There's plenty of fun to be had with both the collecting and the creating.

Family Holiday Photos

Get ahead of the game and take advantage of the still-great weather by finding a scenic spot for your holiday family photo shoot.

That one year that I took two toddlers to the beach after Thanksgiving with the wind whipping and the temps barely above freezing made it very clear October photo shoots are where it's at.

Wishing you a fun-filled fall!



JIM WATSON/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

High Schoolers, Nonprofit Team Up to Build Wheelchair Ramp for Veteran

LOUISE BEVAN

An Ohio nonprofit has teamed up with local high schoolers to make life a little easier for a terminally ill veteran by building a wheelchair ramp for his home, connecting him to the outside world.

On Sept. 27, Operation Ramp It Up and seniors from Badin High School in Hamilton made veteran Robert "Bob" Netherland's day with the big reveal.

It all began when Hospice of Cincinnati called the nonprofit's founders, Greg and Lisa Schneider; they knew they had to help Bob. The Army veteran, 89, who served during the Cold War between 1952 and 1954, was given six months to live 18 months ago.

“He was so grateful to finally be provided with the ability to move freely in and out of his home, without depending on anyone else to assist him.”

Greg Schneider, Operation Ramp It Up

"He is beating all odds," Greg told The Epoch Times. "All of his glands and organs in his body are deteriorating, and his time is very limited."

Meanwhile, the Badin High School seniors had been volunteering with Greg and his nonprofit for the past two years. They then had an idea of having a senior project to give back to the com-

munity and decided to work together to build a ramp for Bob.

The nonprofit filmed Bob wheeling himself down his new ramp outside his Fairfield home for the very first time. The veteran, Greg said, was moved to tears.

"He could not believe that there was an organization out there that volunteered their time and donated their money to provide him with a free ramp," Greg said. "The word he used to describe his pure joy was 'freedom.' He was so grateful to finally be provided with the ability to move freely in and out of his home, without depending on anyone else to assist him."

Senior Landyn Vidouruck told WLWT that they had to fix everything from scratch, but most of his comrades play baseball or football, so they're used to working with each other. "[Veterans] give their life for us, so it's just something small we can do to help them." The project marked the culmination of four years of community service hours for the industrious high schoolers, and the seniors drove the project, raising \$2,500 via a GoFundMe page and a sponsored out-of-uniform day at school to raise funds for the material of the ramp. However, it was more than they needed, enabling them to present Bob with a surprise \$500 check.

Wishing to pay it forward, Bob promptly donated the money to United Service Organization to help other veterans in the community.

"I was so proud of them," Greg told The Epoch Times of his hardworking seniors, adding that he and the ramp contractor allowed them to build the entire ramp under their supervision. "They had to use their leadership and teamwork skills. It was just so rewarding seeing these young men work together and accomplish such an amazing goal."



Students from Badin High School at work on the wheelchair ramp.



Veteran Robert "Bob" Netherland makes use of his new ramp.

After completing Bob's ramp, the seniors visited local junior high schools to share about their project and encourage future graduating classes to consider working with Greg's nonprofit.

The Schneiders founded Operation Ramp It Up in their hometown of Cincinnati in 2014. While working hard at the nonprofit with his four adult children—all graduates of Badin High—Greg also has a job at UPS, where he has been employed for the past 42 years.

After being moved by the impact of his first ramp build in 2014, Greg formed his mission statement: to "provide freedom, independence, and

accessibility to veterans and all others with mobility issues."

Operation Ramp It Up is funded by sponsors, donors, and grants, and a crucial element of the team's ongoing work is to remove and recycle ramps when no longer needed. "Veterans love the idea of paying it forward by passing ramps on to someone else in need," Greg said.

Share your stories with us at emg.inspired@epochtimes.com, and get your daily dose of inspiration by signing up for the Epoch Inspired newsletter at TheEpochTimes.com/newsletter

Dad of 7 Survives Brain Aneurysm, Credits Faith, Family, Doctors

LOUISE BEVAN

A father of seven who suffered a massive brain aneurysm at the age of 37 has defied his prognosis and gone home after four months in intensive care. He credits faith, family, and his doctors for saving his life.

Doting dad Angel Apreciado, from San Antonio, Texas, now doesn't want to miss a beat.

"He should have been brain dead and 'just a vegetable,' is what I was told," Angel's wife of two decades, 38-year-old Maria Apreciado, told The Epoch Times via email. "There is a God, and he is not deaf. Always keep your faith."

Angel discovered he had high blood pressure when he visited the dentist in October 2020 for a root canal. He had a painful, swollen jaw that went down to his neck. He was sent home with antibiotics and blood pressure medicine. The swelling went down, so he didn't return.

In early April, the problem resurfaced, and Angel had a repeat experience at the dentist's office. Yet on April 20, the night of his son Jonah's baseball game, he complained of a massive headache and wasn't able to sleep.

"At about 4 a.m. I told him, 'Go take a shower,'" said Maria. "It didn't help, so at 8 a.m. I took him to the ER."

"I only remember the day of the baseball game and having blackouts while I was driving," Angel said. "Maria tells me that I walked into the ER, was able to talk to the nurse, and was aware of the brain aneurysm and said, 'OK, I got this,' but I don't remember."

With his blood pressure reading 230 systolic and him showing signs of a stroke, Angel was rushed into a series of tests. Maria called her father-in-law, a pastor, and asked him to come to the hospital to pray.

She echoed her husband's words: "We got this." However, after going home that night, little did she know how different the next day would be.

Angel "was able to sit up, with assistance, and all his words that came out of his mouth were just slurs," she said. "Doctors gave me three days to decide what I wanted to do with him."

Asked to choose between hospice care, a ventilator, and a tracheotomy, Maria talked to her kids. "We went with option three, knowing that he could pass away at any time," she said.

Angel had suffered a series of strokes. He remained in the surgical intensive care unit at San Antonio's Metropolitan Methodist Hospital until June 4, transferring to two different facilities over the course of the next 10 weeks. Words and prayers from daily visitors, Maria said, helped her and their kids cope as they discussed the battle ahead.

"We would sit outside his window and talk about who was going to change his diapers, brush his teeth, comb his hair, and basically take care of his personal hygiene," she said. "I would tell my kids that I needed to be left alone and would take long drives just to cry."

"Doctors would come in and tell me that no progress was being made. I would see him open his eyes very little, and close them, but to doctors, that was just reflexes, it wasn't his brain."

Then one day, as Maria was on the verge of giving up, she confided in her husband that she missed holding his hand. As the words left her mouth, Angel squeezed her hand. Trying again, she felt him squeeze once more.

"From that moment, I held on, too, and knew that a miracle was going to happen," she said.

Angel remembers this moment. "I didn't



Angel Apreciado with his son Angel Jr. (R) on graduation day.



Angel Apreciado with one of his daughters.

“I didn't want her to give up on me, because I was still alive, just not able to move or speak. But I could hear everything.”

—Angel Apreciado

want her to give up on me, because I was still alive, just not able to move or speak," he said. "But I could hear everything."

Angel was discharged on Aug. 20. As Angel's condition slowly improved, a helping hand reached out. Laura Ruiz and Joe Sanchez of Jr. Voks, a football and cheerleading alliance, in which all seven of the Apreciado kids have participated, called Maria and told her they wanted to hold a raffle to help with mounting medical bills.

She protested, but the pair wouldn't take no for an answer. They raised close to \$10,000.

Despite wanting nothing in return, Laura and Joe were recognized by Fox 29's "Cash for Kindness" initiative and promptly gifted their \$500 cash prize back to the little league for helmets and uniforms.

Angel, who is now able to walk and talk, feels his life is coming back together and is filled with gratitude, marveling: "God sent an army to back me up and fight for me. Miracles do happen, and I'm a living testimony."

Reflecting back on the hard journey, Maria said: "I wouldn't wish this on anyone, because not everyone is strong enough to receive what was coming to my family. I'm blessed and just forever grateful to God, and I believe that someone reading this will get touched by God and start believing in him."



(Left) Plowing Boston Common for the Victory Garden program during World War II. (Right) Gen. Douglas MacArthur rides in an open car and waves to well-wishers on April 20, 1951.



DEAR NEXT GENERATION

Air Raid Drills and Table Manners

→ Advice from our readers to our young people

Dear Next Generation,

Air raid drills and table manners! What a blend of “stuff” we had to learn in those unsettled years, 1934 to 1945!

My brother and I lived with a lot of rules. Our Daddy was like other Daddies: He put on a suit and white shirt and tie every morning like all the other Daddies in our wonderful town and went to his job—except he also strapped a snub-nosed .38 revolver to his belt, which would be well concealed under his suit coat. Daddy was a detective for our city’s police department. That probably explains why our rules were especially strict and we had a lot to memorize! Table manners: “Elbows both off the table, sit as straight as we are able to.” Or, “mouths are always free from food when we drink our milk so good.” If we transgressed during supper, we would be asked to stand and recite the appropriate “rule” that we had breached!

We also, as soon as we were able, were tasked with reading our local newspaper sufficiently to choose an article upon which to make a “report” during dinner conversation. When we grew up, my brother and I were avid readers. What a wonderful gift! I joyously take my Epoch Times from the mailbox each week!

Parents were strict disciplinarians during those upside-down years. They felt they had to be! The world, itself, was “upside-down” and they all felt they needed to prepare us for the then-unknown outcome.

We were all united as a family, part of a “neighborhood” of cooperating and helpful friends—sharing what little we had, lending a hand wherever necessary and whenever possible, sharing our “harvest” from backyard “victory gardens,” bounty from neighbors’ fruit trees, yard chores like raking leaves and shoveling snow, and clean-up and fix-up chores. If a neighbor

Daddy had gone off to the service, that yard needed care in his absence.

While these lessons seemed somewhat tedious at the time, and my brother and I would grumble quietly, as I look back now I see that those times and circumstances are the foundations of how I live my life now as an 86-year-old widow, alone with my two dogs, still in my “hometown,” and still, somehow, observing the discipline that Mother and Daddy felt obligated to supply. I am grateful for those years, and those lessons I carried into adulthood, which now are comforting to me as I age along the path of my life. I felt confident in my decisions, in my management of my small but orderly life. I still observe the “rules,” even while dining alone at my table!

I also believe that the times in which we lived sort of dictated how it should be—the outcome of the war was unknown, we were not quite certain America would prevail, so we would have to be firm and solid in our beliefs, values, and deep faith in God. I cannot say we had an abundance of love as far as “hugs and kisses” go, but we were very secure in our belief in our Lord, in our family, our schools, our friends and neighbors—we felt a huge bit of pride as we purchased our 10-cent Savings Stamp each Monday at school, working to fill our little book’s pages until we had enough to purchase a Bond for \$18.75! That was an enormous amount of money!

And we, of course, learned the words to all of our Service Songs: “Over hill, over dale, we have hit the dusty trail,” and “Anchors aweigh, my boys, anchors aweigh,” and “From the Halls of Montezuma, to the shores of Tripoli.” And we sang strong at school assemblies. I still know all those words, but tears always overtake me when I have an opportunity to sing them, like at Armistice Day remembrances (I think it is called Veterans’ Day now!) at my local VFW post.

Growing up during those stress-filled times would not have been my choice for my own two children, years later, but it was the straw I drew and I lived it out. I feel proud of those times and feel a part of a really strong generation of Americans living yet today in a tumultuous world I, at times, surely do not understand!

I believe the times in which we grew up, the way our parents guided us into young adulthood, the values and faith they taught us during tumultuous years—those lessons are still vivid in my memory, and I would not change or replace one moment. We both grew up knowing, very well, the meaning of God Bless America!

With love and faith in those young Americans who carry the torch onward!

—Sunny McComber, Nebraska

Hello Next Generation,

The advice I would give you is simple. Before you leave your house for school or work in the morning, do one simple thing: Make your bed!

Seriously, make your bed before you go. No matter what type of day you have, you will always come home to a bed that is made, and it will brighten your day.

Because how bad could it be? The bed is made!

—Bill Graham, New York

FOTORESEARCH/GETTY IMAGES



Gen. Douglas MacArthur on Aug. 24, 1945.

Dear Next Generation,

“A short saying oft contains much wisdom.” This precious little saying comes from a fortune cookie, and is a perfect example of the impactful sayings that have guided and shaped my life. My kids have grown up hearing these sayings and others. I urge you to apply these truths and see what happens.

1. “Start. The rest is easy.” Wisdom from Mr. George Jenkins, founder of Publix Super Markets. You will accomplish nothing unless you start.
2. There are three types of people:
 - a. Those who make things happen.
 - b. Those who watch what happens.
 - c. Those who wonder what happened.
3. “If you can build a fire in a person, you will never have to build a fire under that person.” Wisdom from a builder of a few fires under and many, many fires in his men, Gen. Douglas MacArthur.
4. From another fortune cookie: “A man may fail many times, but he is not a failure until he gives up.” Examples of those who had multiple failures prior to success include Thomas A. Edison, Henry Ford, Dr. Jonas Salk, Albert Einstein, and millions of other little-known success stories.

My advice to the younger generation is: In your personal, social, career, and spiritual life, constantly evaluate your goals and their relative importance and then start. Start making things happen. Read and listen to motivational writers and speakers. Choose your mentors who will build that fire within you. Be that mentor to those who need you. Treat your so-called failures as learning experiences on your way to your goal.

Do not get hung up on “changing the whole world”; you won’t, but you can certainly change the world a little for everyone you come in contact with. We change the world for the better, one person at a time. Character and integrity, along with compassion, patience, respect, courtesy, and love, will influence and uplift even the most ornery.

Remember, windshields are approximately 12 to 14 square feet, while rearview mirrors are approximately 30 square inches. Although it is important to glance at your rearview mirror at critical times, your dangers, your goals, and your future are in front of you.

So long and keep singing “Happy Trails.”

—Keith A. Marr, Florida

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 Next Generation@epochtimes.com or mail it to:

Next Generation, The Epoch Times, 5 Penn Plaza, 8th Fl. New York, NY, 10001

GOLDEN AGE FILMS

Camille: A Noble Woman in Any Art Form

TIFFANY BRANNAN

Some stories are so dramatic, powerful, or resonant that they transcend time as well as art forms. Such stories can gracefully transition from page to stage to screen. One such story is “Camille,” which comes from a novel by Alexandre Dumas fils.

Published in 1848 as “La Dame aux Camélias” (“The Lady with the Camélias”), this novel was adapted into a play of the same name in 1852 by the author himself. In English, the popular story is often called “Camille.” Elements of the story were based on the 23-year-old author’s affair with Parisian courtesan Marie Duplessis, who inspired the character of Marguerite.

Unsurprisingly, the classic story has been adapted to the stage and the screen countless times. Among the 20 film versions, “Camille” from 1936 stands out as the first full-length talking picture of the story. Starring Greta Garbo and Robert Taylor and directed by George Cukor, it was one of MGM producer Irving Thalberg’s last films before his untimely death. Many acclaimed it as his greatest work and Greta Garbo’s best performance.

A Classic Story Comes to the Screen

Marguerite Gautier (Garbo) is a charming woman of pleasure; her salon is a center of gaiety. She lavishly spends money on clothes and her signature fresh camélias, but she suffers from tuberculosis. Her main rival is the opportunistic Olympe (Lenore Ulric), who vies for the attention of the wealthy Baron de Varville (Henry Daniell). Marguerite mistakes the earnest, handsome young Armand Duval (Taylor) for the chilly nobleman.

Armand, who has admired her from afar for a year, is disappointed when he realizes that she was only interested in him because she thought he was the baron. She quickly transfers her attentions to the real baron, who becomes her “protector,” but she secretly is attracted to Armand.

After Marguerite recovers from another bout of illness, she meets Armand again and invites him to her birthday party. Conveniently, the baron has gone to Russia. Amid the mad frivolity, Armand is the only guest who notices Marguerite retreating into her bedroom with a coughing spell. He professes his love for her, and she asks him to get rid of the guests and return later that night for a private supper. However, before Armand comes back, the baron arrives. Marguerite instructs her maid, Nanine (Jessie Ralph), to bolt the door, since she needs the financial support of the jealous baron.

Armand is furious, but when he confronts Marguerite the next day, they quickly reconcile. He convinces her to go to his family’s country home so he can nurse her back to health. In the little cottage with Nanine, she grows strong on fresh air and Armand’s sincere love. He asks her to marry him, but she is reluctant because of her past and her illness. Everything seems perfect until Armand’s father (Barrymore) arrives and privately warns Marguerite that her reputation will ruin his son’s future. Marguerite must decide whether she can sacrifice their happiness together for his future.

Raising Hollywood’s Standards

In 1934, an internal change happened within the film industry that revolutionized moviemaking forever. Although one of the biggest events in Hollywood history, few people heard about it at the time, and many modern viewers are unaware of this important incident. I’m referring to the formation of the Production Code Administration (PCA) in July of 1934, which gave the Motion Picture Production Code power to regulate film content throughout production.

The formation of the PCA under moral family man Joseph I. Breen caused more than the disappearance of risqué costumes and the banning of profanity. It



A painting of a party scene from “La Traviata,” 1866, attributed to German artist Carl d’Ucker.

‘Camille’ has remained popular because, in whatever medium it’s presented, it’s moving.

sparked a major shift in story material.

Many filmmakers met the new trend of high morals for films by adapting stories from higher art forms. Classic novels and plays became fare for dramatic inspiration. Many of these stories had been popularly adapted to the screen as silent films, but they found new life in the early Code era. “Camille” was one such film.

Interestingly, classic literature, even when a century or more old, often didn’t meet the Code’s conservative moral standards. Thus, these timeless stories were often “breeded” to present a good moral and maintain the standard that “evil is wrong and good is right.” “Camille” was a tricky story, since it focuses on a courtesan. The Code forbade plainly depicting prostitution, but the PCA allowed subtle allusion to a woman’s reputation. For example, Marguerite and Olympe have no legitimate profession, yet they live very extravagantly. They are clearly supported by wealthy patrons, such as the Baron de Varville. The film doesn’t show what the ladies give in exchange, except for companionship. They could merely be paid escorts.

As a Code film, the 1936 movie doesn’t depict Marguerite’s having an illicit affair with Armand. Their relationship seems very wholesome, as illustrated by Armand’s desire for them to marry. The original story’s moral is that Marguerite and Armand’s love is doomed because of society’s prejudices. By contrast, the film’s moral is that their love is doomed because of her former sins, as her ruined health reflects her damaged reputation.

A Classic Story

“La Dame aux Camélias” is a classic story famous in many art forms. The iconic tale of a fallen woman who finds true love too late is told in countless operas, including the numerous takes on “Manon Lescaut.” The tragic tale presents a subtle parallel of Manon, as it’s referenced in “Camille” when Marguerite and Armand discuss the book.

“The Lady of the Camélias” inspired one of the most famous operas, “La Traviata.” A year after the stage play’s success, Giuseppe Verdi adapted the story into his famous Italian opera, renaming the heroine Violetta Valéry. Although the opera, originally titled “Violetta,” received a chilly response at its premiere, it was successful when performed in Venice the next year with a younger and slimmer soprano in the consumptive titular role. Its story is very close to the 1936 film’s

ALL IMAGES IN PUBLIC DOMAIN UNLESS NOTED OTHERWISE

METRO-GOLDWYN-MAYER



The all-star cast of “Camille” featured Greta Garbo and Robert Taylor.

plot, similarly highlighting her repentance and nobility in sacrificing her personal happiness for Armand.

The story has also danced its way onto the ballet stage a few times, most notably as “Marguerite and Armand,” which British choreographer Sir Frederick Ashton created in 1963 for famous dancers Margot Fonteyn and Rudolph Nureyev. This ballet secured their partnership and gained great acclaim, becoming their signature piece. No other couple performed this ballet until the 21st century.

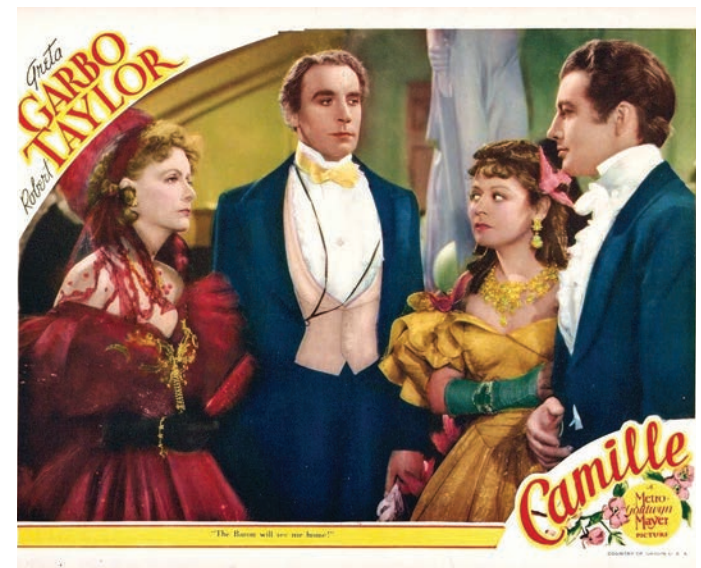
A Noble Woman

It’s often easy to guess why a story has endured the test of time. “Camille” has remained popular because, in whatever medium it’s presented, it’s moving. The story is moving because it’s about the highest expression of love, sacrifice. Men may sacrifice their lives for comrades on the battlefield, which is noble and heroic. Marguerite displays a similar selflessness by giving up her extravagant lifestyle, her happiness, and, ultimately, her life for the man she loves.

Before she meets Armand, Marguerite has never known true love. His earnest feelings soften her indifferent heart, moving her to give up the comfort and admiration of her Parisian salon. When they’re in the country together, she experiences greater happiness than she has ever known. For once in her life, she loves and is loved. It is because she loves Armand that she sacrifices this bliss for his ultimate happiness, since she knows their relationship would destroy his life. Instead, she lets their parting destroy hers, since her broken heart and renewed Parisian lifestyle shatter her fragile health.

In its purest form, this story isn’t about a fallen woman; it’s about a noble woman whose soul is transformed by the one thing that can change people: love. Whether sung, danced, or spoken, it’s a beautiful story of nobility, generosity, and sacrifice.

Tiffany Brannan is a 20-year-old opera singer, Hollywood history/vintage beauty copywriter, film reviewer, fashion historian, travel writer, and ballet writer. In 2016, she and her sister founded the Pure Entertainment Preservation Society, an organization dedicated to reforming the arts by reinstating the Motion Picture Production Code.



A World War II-era poster promotes victory gardens.





FIZKES/SHUTTERSTOCK

HOMESCHOOLING

The Practical Side of Homeschooling

KAREN DOLL

As dedicated homeschooling parents, your goal is to ensure your kids receive a well-balanced education. As loving parents, you look beyond academics. You strive to equip your kids with the essential life skills they'll need to grow and mature into thriving, independent adults. Thankfully, homeschooling gives you the freedom to incorporate practical life skills lessons into your homeschool program.

Basic Life Skills
Start with the basics like cooking and cleaning when your kids are young. Young children have a natural curiosity and practically leap at the chance to help Mom and Dad with day-to-day jobs around the house such as folding laundry, washing windows, and cleaning pretty much anything. Keep that momentum going by showing your kids how to do more complex tasks such as separating laundry and removing stains, loading the dishwasher, sorting recyclables, how to measure liquid and dry ingredients, and prepping and cooking their favorite simple meals and desserts.

Emergency Preparedness
Knowing what to do in the event of an emergency is one of the most important life skills your kids should

master. There are age-appropriate videos on YouTube you can watch with your kids that help explain what constitutes an emergency and tutorials that walk your child through the process of calling 911.

What about fire safety? Gather your family together and create an emergency escape plan, draw it on a sheet of graph paper, and hang it up in a central location. Then practice, practice, practice, and stage random fire drills. Talk about fire safety around the campfire. Demonstrate how to put out cooking fires.

Assembling a first aid kit is a great family activity. I suggest downloading a checklist to be sure you include everything you need and let your kids check off each item. Fellow homeschool mom and certified RN Ashley Greenhalgh believes the best way to teach first aid is through hands-on experiences. Read her helpful teaching guide on her website, Run Wild My Child.

Money Management and Investing
Show your kids how to be money savvy. Demonstrate how to set up a budget and how to stay within the parameters. Open up bank accounts for your children and show them how to keep track of their saving and spending on a spreadsheet. Debit card use should be supervised until they're ready.

Introduce saving money by modeling it. Show them how your savings builds up, how to comparison shop, and explain why

impulse buying should always be avoided. If you need a little help, "Money Matters for Kids" by Larry Burkett is a great resource to read with your kids. There's also a teen version.

Discuss the pros and cons of investing money, and encourage your teens to read "TeenVestor" by Emmanuel Modu and Andrea Walker.

Home Repair
There's always something in need of repair, right? Well, enlisting the help of your kids just makes good sense. They're learning, you're spending quality time together, and you get to check off another item on your to-do list.

Always stress safety first. Consider purchasing child-sized tools and a tool belt for your special apprentice. Then show your kids how to properly use tools and invite them to help with simple repairs and work up to the more complex ones. Check out Heidi Cirvola's website, Starts At Eight, for a handy resource list of easy, mid-level, and experienced home repair and woodworking projects.

Tips for Incorporating Practical Life Skills Into Your Homeschool
Let your child's interests lead the way. My kids were fascinated with thunderstorms and hurricanes, so I ordered a free weather kit chock full of weather pattern booklets, hurricane tracking graphs, and activity and coloring pages. Thus began an entire unit study on severe weather.

Learn together. I took typing in high school, but we didn't learn the number keys. So when my kids were learning keyboarding skills, I joined in. Oh, the laughter when my fingers got tangled up. Plan well. Make a list of the life skills you'd

Resources

Emergency Preparedness

Teaching Children How to Call 911: Verizon.com/support/teach-kids-how-to-dial-911

Learn About 9-1-1 with Emergency Ernie: bit.ly/3mYS0Jq

First Aid Kit Checklist: Household-Management-101.com/support-files/first-aid-kit-checklist.pdf

How to Teach Basic First Aid to Kids: RunWildMyChild.com/teaching-first-aid

Teaching Your Kids Emergency Preparedness: StateFarm.com/simple-insights/family/teaching-your-kids-emergency-preparedness

Money Management and Investing

15 Ways to Teach Kids About Money: RamSeysolutions.com/relationships/how-to-teach-kids-about-money

Money Education for Kids: A2ZHomeschooling.com/explore/math/money_education_kids

Online Games and Apps That Teach Kids About Money: dfi.wa.gov/financial-education/educators/online-games-and-apps

TeenVestor: Teenvestor.com

like to work on during the school year, then add each skill to your planner in the desired time slots.

Take advantage of mentors. A nearby retiree with free time might love to teach a cooking, auto maintenance, or entrepreneurship class.

Practical Life Skills Count as School Work

Each life skill can equal a class or elective, and all ages can definitely benefit. High schoolers will need to log at least 60 hours for a half-credit course and 120 hours for a one-credit course. Kids can read books, explore interactive websites, and work on projects. Then talk with them about what they've learned.

To document classes, write up a short class description, list of resources used, photos and descriptions of projects, hours logged, and assign a grade if applicable.

Teaching your kids essential life skills is the practical side of homeschooling, but the heart of these lessons is empowerment. Kids who feel empowered are motivated to be the best they can be and have a big head start when they get out into the real world.

Karen Doll is a freelance writer and homeschooling consultant based in the small village of Wassergass, Pennsylvania. She enjoys writing about homeschooling, gardening, food and culture, family life, and the joys of chicken keeping. Visit her at AtHomeWithKarenDoll.wordpress.com



FOR KIDS ONLY

THE EPOCH TIMES

Fall, Leaves, Fall

by Emily Brontë

Fall, leaves, fall; die, flowers, away;
Lengthen night and shorten day;
Every leaf speaks bliss to me,
Fluttering from the autumn tree.

I shall smile when wreaths of snow
Blossom where the rose should grow;
I shall sing when night's decay
Ushers in a drearier day.

WHY DID THE TREE TAKE A NAP?



“Adopt the pace of nature. Her secret is patience.”

RALPH WALDO EMERSON,
AMERICAN WRITER (1803-1882)

This Week in History

A SYDNEY ICON OPENS

On Oct. 20, 1973, the iconic Sydney Opera House opened in Sydney, Australia. England's Queen Elizabeth II officially opened the Opera House in a grand ceremony remarking on the unique, modern architectural design of Jørn Utzon. "The human spirit must sometimes take wings or sails, and create something that is not just utilitarian or commonplace," Her Majesty said.



Ever since, Sydney Opera House has come to symbolize the city and Australia as a whole. Today, it's Australia's No. 1 tourist destination.



By Aidan Danza, age 15

DID YOU KNOW?

Galileo may not have been the first person to think of the telescope.

The Cabrera Museum in Ica, Peru houses about 10,000 prehistoric stones engraved with images of humans wearing headdresses, clothes, and shoes.

One stone believed to have been engraved as long as 65 million years ago, shows a human figure holding a telescope and observing the stars.

That's a great many years before Galileo's time in the 1600's.



6 Reasons to Feel More Hopeful

BARBARA DANZA

The rollercoaster of the past few years has left even the most optimistic among us struggling to feel hopeful from time to time. Though it seems that crises come one after another these days and the future appears uncertain, if you look carefully, you'll find a number of reasons, big and small, to have hope.

People Are Still Smiling

One of my favorite pastimes is taking a walk on one of the many local boardwalks near my coastal town. There's nothing like ocean air to lift your spirits and give you perspective.

What also gives me perspective along those walks is the parade of friendly and smiling people I pass as I stroll up and down. "Good morning," they say over and over or, "There was a pod of dolphins just a ways back. Take a look," or "Beautiful day, isn't it?" Almost all of them greet you with a smile. You can feel a collective

sense of gratitude and appreciation for the surrounding beauty and the day ahead.

In addition, I've found that when you look for smiling faces, you find them everywhere. They're at the gas station, at the store, at the park, on the street—everywhere. It helps if you're one of them, I suppose.

Smiling faces are contagious, compassionate, calm, and hopeful. It's not all doom and gloom; look around.

Families Are Strong

Though they may not have anticipated setting up an office in their dining room or a school in their kitchen, many families have ridden this storm together. It hasn't been easy, of course, but for many, it has been both a bonding experience and an eye-opening one.

Though stressed about world events and whatever specific difficulties this time has challenged them with, many families were able to make their home a refuge. They enjoyed quality family time in quantities they

wouldn't have thought possible before.

Further, many have reevaluated the places they live, the ways they spend their time, the careers they're in, the education their children are receiving, the values they hold dear, and more. They've learned that they have more options than they realized and their priorities have become clearer.

The family is the very backbone of society, and I believe many families are stronger today than they've been in a long time.

History Is Being Studied

Perhaps it's the rise in homeschooling or the historic nature of current events, but more and more people seem to be interested in learning the history that they perhaps never truly learned in school. The study of the U.S. Constitution and the founding of America is popular, as is the history of communism and the major world events that shaped the 20th century.

A more informed populace is a hopeful prospect for sure.

Freedom Is Valued

In normal times, perhaps some of us took our basic personal freedoms for granted. With many of those freedoms under threat in different parts of the world to differing degrees, the value of freedom has made its way to center stage, and the implications of restricting freedoms are becoming clear to more and more folks.



ANASTASIA SHURAEVA/PEXELS

Family matters as much as ever.

Spirituality Is on the Rise

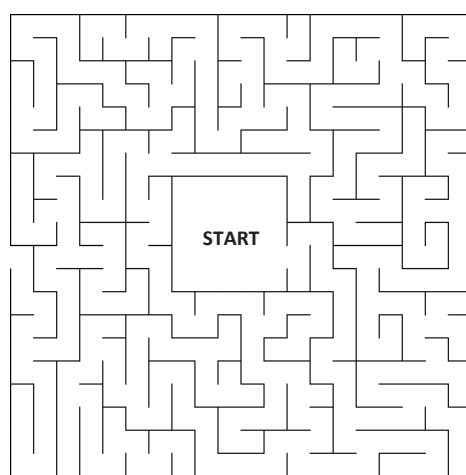
When times get tough, when life is difficult to understand, and when circumstances feel out of one's control, it's natural to take a step back and seek higher wisdom. Many people have embarked on a spiritual journey during this time. In this, there's hope.

The Sun Still Rises

I'm an early riser. One of my favorite parts of waking before the sun is bearing witness to the slow beauty of each morning's sunrise. The dark of night gives way to a gradual light, a scheme of colors unique to each day, accompanied by the celebratory sounds of the birds' morning chorus.

It's a reminder that life presses on and the Earth continues to revolve around the sun uninterrupted and exactly on time. It makes worry seem futile in the grand scheme of things. Each day is a gift and an opportunity—a fresh start, full of hope.

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	9		
3	8		
+	-	x	/

Solution For Easy 1
8 x 7 + 8 + 6
8 x (7 + 6)

Medium puzzle 1

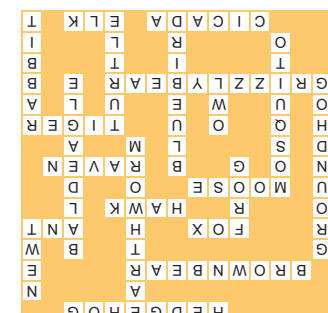
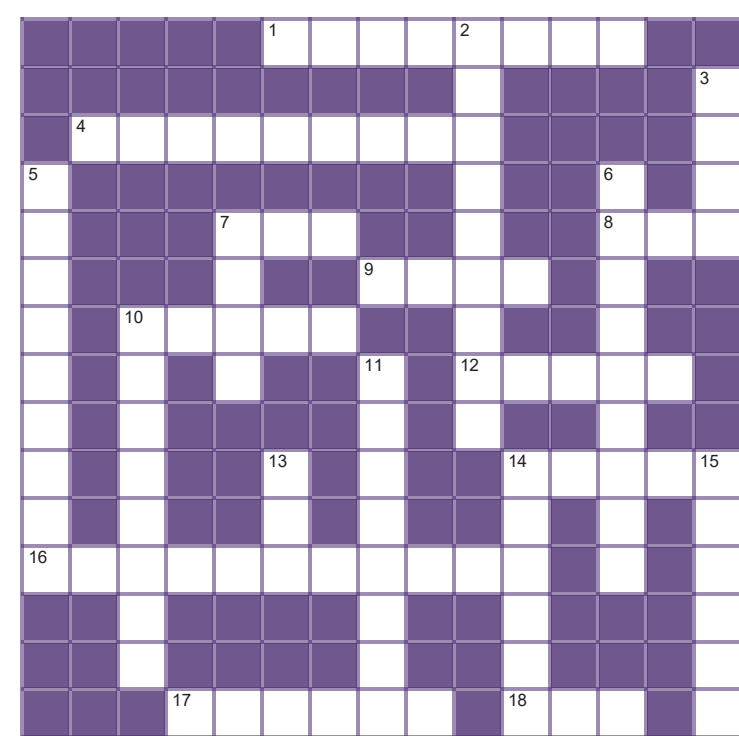
7	14		
3	9		
+	-	x	/

Solution for Medium 1
91 + 8 = (2 + 6)
2 - 8 x (6 + 91)

Hard puzzle 1

19	28		
7	24		
+	-	x	/

Solution for Hard 1
92 - 2 x (61 - 82)



Across

- There are none of these in American Forests (8)
- Grizzly, e.g. (5,4)
- "The quick brown _____" (3)
- Forest cleaners (3)
- Airborne predator (4)

Down

- Night crawler (9)
- Colorful salamander (4)
- Punxsutawney Phil, for one (9)
- Jumper (4)
- Our national bird (4,5)
- Little sucker (8)
- Colorful songster (8)
- Mouse catcher (3)
- Snapper (6)
- Cottontail (6)
- Alaskan creature (5)
- Big black bird (5)
- Animal found in the jungle or Woods? (5)
- Yellowstone sight (7,4)
- Noisy insect (6)
- A female one doesn't have antlers (3)

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—Paul Skousen, professor and author

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—Andrea Preisler, actress and therapist

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—Samantha Imlay, dance studio director

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