



Khalid Ben Alwaleed Independent Preparatory School For Boys

iEARN Learning Circles project

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Human Values

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## Introduction

People everywhere in the globe are away from their human values , bad ruling regimes started terrifying their people by others for no clear reasons, evil deeds prevailed everywhere and the world which supposed to be a small village for exchanging benefits and experiences; starts to be hot spots of wars and enmity. I think the main reason behind that is the peoples' views towards the societies' authentic human values that need to be recovered and reactivated so that enable man regaining his humanitarian morals and his essential role in constructing the globe.

Every story below is authentic and should carry a moral. Some stories are similar to stories from different cultures , a thing that assures the common obsession for all people throughout the long living generations and civilizations. This a call for regaining our values, our humanity otherwise there would be no place for minds that could recognize people from beasts. We should not give up! It is a warm call for all students , educators and concerned people: let's resurrect our own human values everywhere to live peacefully in our big village!

*An Obituary on “ Common Sense”!*

Today we mourn the passing of a beloved old friend, **Common Sense**, who has been with us for many years. No one knows for sure how old he was, since his birth records were long ago lost in bureaucratic red tape. He will be remembered as having cultivated such valuable lessons as:

- Knowing when to come in out of the rain;
- Why the early bird gets the worm;
- Life isn't always fair;
- and Maybe it was my fault..

Common Sense lived by simple, sound financial policies (don't spend more than you can earn) and reliable strategies (adults, not children, are in charge).

condition. Common

It declined even further when schools were required to get parental consent to administer sun lotion or an aspirin to a student; but could not inform parents when a student became pregnant and wanted to have an abortion.

Common Sense lost the will to live as the Religious places & Schools became businesses; and criminals received better treatment than their victims.

Common Sense took a beating when you couldn't defend yourself from a burglar in your own home and the burglar could sue you for assault.

Common Sense finally gave up the will to live, after a woman failed to realize that a steaming cup of coffee was hot. She spilled a little in her lap, and was promptly awarded a huge settlement.

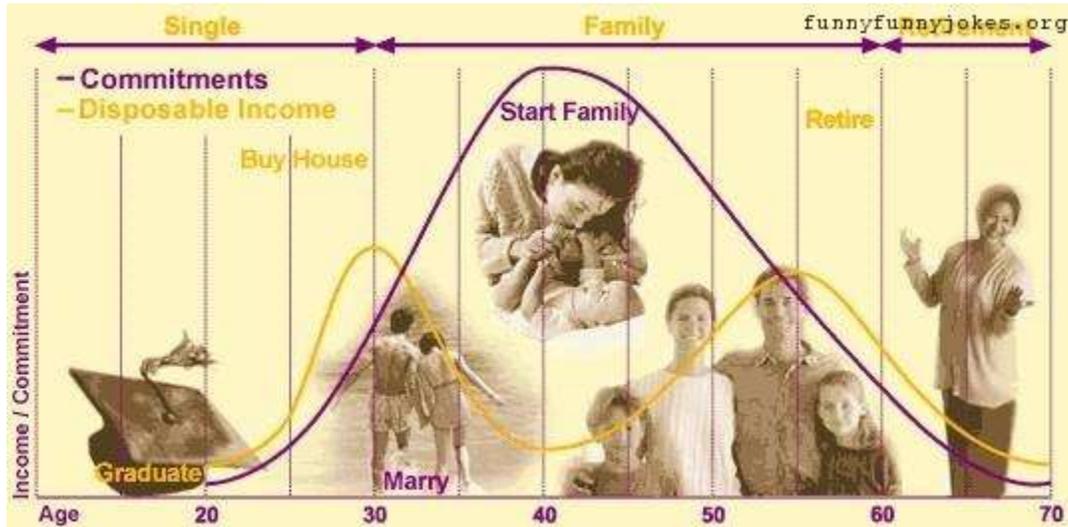
Common Sense was preceded in death, by his parents, Truth and Trust, by his wife, Discretion, by his daughter, Responsibility, and by his son, Reason.

He is survived by his 4 stepbrothers;

- I Know My Rights
- I Want It Now
- Someone Else Is To Blame
- I'm A Victim

Not many attended his funeral because so few realized he was gone. If you still remember him, pass this on. If not, join the majority and do nothing.

Balance Sheet of Life



Our Birth is our Opening Balance!  
 Our Death is our Closing Balance!  
 Our Prejudiced Views are our Liabilities.  
 Our Creative Ideas are our Assets.  
 Heart is our Current Asset.  
 Soul is our Fixed Asset.  
 Brain is our Fixed Deposit.  
 Thinking is our Current Account.  
 Achievements are our Capital.  
 Character & Morals, our Stock-in-Trade.  
 Friends are our General Reserves.  
 Values & Behavior are our Goodwill.  
 Love is our Dividend.  
 Children are our Bonus Issues..

Education is Brands / Patents.  
Knowledge is our Investment.  
Experience is our Premium Account.  
The Aim is to Tally the Balance Sheet Accurately.  
The Goal is to get the Best Presented Accounts Award.

Some very Good and Very bad things

The most destructive habit.....Worry  
The greatest Joy.....Giving  
The greatest loss.....Loss of self-respect  
The most satisfying work.....Helping others  
The ugliest personality trait.....Selfishness  
The most endangered species.....Dedicated leaders  
Our greatest natural resource.....Our youth  
The greatest 'shot in the arm'.....Encouragement  
The greatest problem to overcome.....Fear  
The most effective sleeping pill.....Peace of mind  
The most crippling failure disease.....Excuses  
The most powerful force in life.....Love  
The most dangerous pariah.....A gossip  
The world's most incredible computer.....The brain  
The worst thing to be without.....Hope  
The deadliest weapon.....The tongue  
The two most power-filled words.....'I Can'  
The greatest asset.....Faith

The most worthless emotion.....Self-pity  
The most beautiful attire.....SMILE!  
The most prized possession.....Integrity  
The most powerful channel of communication.....Prayer  
The most contagious spirit.....Enthusiasm

### Anger!

There was once a great Scholar, who taught us how to deal with rude people.

One day the Scholar was walking through a village. A very angry and rude young man came up and began insulting him. "You have no right teaching others," he shouted. "You are as stupid as everyone else. You are nothing but a fake."

The Scholar was not upset by these insults. Instead he asked the young man "Tell me, if you buy a gift for someone, and that person does not take it, to who does the gift belongs?" The man was surprised to be asked such a strange question and answered, "It would belong to me, because I bought the gift."

The Scholar smiled and said, "That is correct. And it is exactly the same with your anger. If you become angry with me and I do not get insulted, then the anger falls back on you. You are then the only one who becomes unhappy, not me. All you have done is hurt yourself."

"If you want to stop hurting yourself, you must get rid of your anger and become loving instead. When you hate others, you yourself become unhappy. But when you love others, everyone is happy."

The young man listened closely to these wise words of the Scholar. "You are right, o Righteous one, "he said."Please teach me the path of love. I wish to become your follower."

The Scholar answered kindly, "Of course. I teach anyone who truly wants to learn. Come with me."

["No One Can Hurt Us" – Abraham Lincoln](#)

On His First Day In office as President, Abraham Lincoln Entered To Give His Inaugural Address, One Man Stood Up

He Was A Rich Aristocrat.

He Said " Mr Lincoln, You Should Not Forget That Your Father Used To make Shoes For My Family "

And The Whole Senate Laughed, They Thought They Had Made A Fool Of Lincoln.

But Certain People Are Made Of A Totally Different Mettle.

Lincoln Looked At The Man Directly In the Eyes And Said

" Sir, I Know That My father Used To Make Shoes For Your Family, And There Will Be Many Others Here, Because He made Shoes The Way Nobody Else Can. He Was A Creator.

His Shoes Were Not Just Shoes, He Poured His Whole Soul Into Them. I Want To Ask You,

Have You Any Complaint??

Because I Know How To Make Shoes Myself.

If You Have Any Complaint I Can Make You Another Pair Of Shoes.

But As Far As I Know, Nobody Has Ever Complained About My Father's Shoes.

He Was A Genius, I am Proud Of My Father.

The Whole Senate Was Struck Dumb.

They Could Not Understand What Kind Of Man Abraham Lincoln Was.

He Was Proud Because His Father Did His Job So Well That Not Even A Single Complaint Had Ever Been Heard

### Remember

*" No One Can Hurt Us Without Consent "*

*" It is Not What Happens To us That Hurts Us*

*It Is Our Response That Hurt Us "*

### The Fisherman & MBA



A boat docked in a tiny Mexican fishing village.

A tourist complimented the local fishermen on the quality of their fish and asked how long it took him to catch them.

“Not very long.” they answered in unison. “Why didn’t you stay out longer and catch more”

The fishermen explained that their small catches were sufficient to meet their needs and those of their families.

“But what do you do with the rest of your time”

“We sleep late, fish a little, play with our children, and take siestas with our wives. In the evenings, we go into the village to see our friends, have fun, play with each other, and sing a few songs.

We have a full life.” The tourist interrupted,

“I have an MBA from Harvard and I can help you! You should start by fishing longer every day. You can then sell the extra fish you catch. With the extra revenue, you can buy a bigger boat.”

“And after that”

“With the extra money the larger boat will bring, you can buy a second one and a third one and so on until you have an entire fleet of trawlers. Instead of selling your fish to a middle man, you can then negotiate directly with the processing plants and maybe



even open your own plant.”

You can then leave this little village and move to Mexico City , Los Angeles , or even New York City !

From there you can direct your huge new enterprise.”

“How long would that take”

“Twenty, perhaps twenty-five years.” replied the tourist.

“And after that”

“Afterwards Well my friend, that’s when it gets really interesting, ” answered the tourist, laughing. “When your business gets really big, you can start buying and selling stocks and make millions!”

“Millions Really And after that” asked the fishermen.

“After that you’ll be able to retire, live in a tiny village near the coast, sleep late, play with your children, catch a few fish, take a siesta with your wife and spend your evenings playing and enjoying your friends.”

“With all due respect sir, but that’s exactly what we are doing now. So what’s the point wasting twenty-five years” asked the Mexicans.

And the **moral** of this story is:

***Know where you’re going in life. You may already be there!!***

### [The king and the painters](#)

*There was a king who was a great admirer of art. One day an artist came and said to the king, Oh King! Give me a blank wall in your palace and let me paint a picture on it. The artist was given the job. Just then, another young man said, Oh King! Please allow*

*me to work on the opposite wall. I too am an artist. The king said, What would you like to make?*

*The man said, my sir, I shall make exactly what that man will make on the opposite wall. Moreover, I shall do so, without looking at his work. I would even request you to have a thick curtain put up between the two walls so that either of us cannot see the other.*

*Everyone in the kings court, including the king was intrigued. He decided to give the young fellow a chance. The following day a thick curtain was put into place and both the artists got to work. The first artist brought in a regular supply of paint, oil, water etc. The second one worked with some cloth and a bucket of water. After a month the first artist told the king that his work was complete. The king sent for the second artist and asked him, Young man, when would your work be ready? I am coming to see the first wall this evening. The man said, my sir, my wall is ready too!*

*The king went to see the first artists wall. He was very, very impressed with the painting and gave a hefty sum as a reward to the artist. He then asked for the curtain to be opened up. Lo and behold! The same painting was to be seen on the opposite wall too! Amazing! But true! Each line, each minor detail was exactly as it was on the first wall. But this man had not been seeing what was going on, on the other side of the curtain. So how had he done it?*

*The king wanted to know the secret. He gave a double reward to the fellow. Then he said, Young man, I am indeed very happy with your work. But you must tell me; how*

*did you do it?*

*The lad said simply, Its very easy! I just polished the wall every day till it shone like a mirror! It was a wall made of white marble! The reflection of the painting across the room, showed up in it!*

**Moral:**

***That is what it means to polish yourself. World is a reflection of you. Whatever you are, the world will seem to be that too. If you are happy, the world will look to be happy. If you are sad; jealous; angry; restless.. That is what the world will seem to be to you!!!***

**Seize the opportunity!**

A young man wished to marry the farmer's beautiful daughter. He went to the farmer to ask his permission. The farmer looked him over and said,

"Son, go stand out in that field. I'm going to release three bulls, one at a time. If you can catch the tail of any one of the three bulls, you can marry my daughter."

The young man stood in the pasture awaiting the first bull.

The barn door opened and out ran the biggest, meanest-looking bull he had ever seen.

He decided that one of the next bulls had to be a better choice than this one, so he ran over to the side and let the bull pass through the pasture out the back gate.

The barn door opened again. Unbelievable. He had never seen anything so big and

fierce in his life. It stood pawing the ground, grunting, slinging slobber as it eyed him. Whatever the next bull was like, it had to be a better choice than this one. He ran to the fence and let the bull pass through the pasture, out the back gate.

The door opened a third time. A smile came across his face. This was the weakest, scrawniest little bull he had ever seen. This one was his bull. As the bull came running by, he positioned himself just right and jumped at just the exact moment. He grabbed... but the bull had no tail!

### **Moral**

**Life is full of opportunities. Some will be easy to take advantage of, some will be difficult. But once we let them pass (often in hopes of something better), those opportunities may never again *be available*. So always grab the first opportunity.**

### **fair or unfair**

Is Life Being Unfair On You! Around two weeks ago I was called to judge a talent contest at one of the city colleges. I noticed all the participants were given slips of paper with topic written on it and told to come up and speak for three minutes. Lots were drawn as to who would be the first speaker and the next and the next. The first contestant I noticed looked a little disgruntled as he got onto the podium to address the others.

“My fellow students and respected judges,” he said loudly, “this is an unfair contest!”

I, along with my fellow judges looked up surprised. "I have been given this paper," he continued, "to speak on a subject with just a few minutes preparation whereas those after me have more time to work on their speech. This is unfair!" He then proceeded to leave the stage and stormed out of the hall. Nobody missed him and the contest went on smoothly.

I met him on the landing as I was being escorted out later.

"Who said life is fair?" I asked him with a smile. He looked at me startled and I asked him to walk with me to my car. "Life," I told him, "is fighting the unfair and still winning! Do you read automobile magazines?"

"Yes," he said eagerly, "I do."

"Have you seen statistics shown when a new car is being introduced into the market? They talk about speed and torque and transmission and horse power."

"Yes," he nodded.

"But there is a line they put after all these figures. They say all this data is when there are ideal road conditions!"

"Yes," he said again.

"Show me ideal road conditions?" I asked him and he smiled. "The car that sells well," I continued is the car that will deliver power and speed and durability in the worst of roads, in potholes and mud and slush. That car is a winner!"

We had reached my car and he stood by my side as I heaved myself in. "Don't look for ideal playing conditions," I said. "Fight the unfair and come out a winner!" I looked back

in my rear view mirror as I drove away and saw him smile and wave and knew he would fight the unfair from now on.

**Moral:**

**The fight never stops. Ask all the successful people in any field. They fight regardless whether the battle is fair or unfair. Stop telling the world about the unfair deal you've got out of life; start battling the unfair, come out victorious!**

**Believe in your own abilities**

A business executive was deep in debt and could see no way out. Creditors were closing in on him. Suppliers were demanding payment. He sat on the park thinking if anything could save his Company from bankruptcy. Suddenly an old man appeared before him. "I can see that something is troubling you", he said. After listening to the executive's woes, the old man said, "I believe I can help you". He asked the man his name, wrote out a cheque, and pushed it into his hand saying, "Take this money.

Meet me here exactly one year from today, and you can pay me back at that time". Then he turned and disappeared as quickly as he had come. The business executive saw in his hand a cheque for \$500,000, signed by John D.Rockefeller, one of the richest men in the world. "I can erase my money worries in an instant", he thought.

Nevertheless, the executive decided to put the cheque in his safe first. He thought, just knowing it was there, would give him the strength to work out a way to save his business. With renewed optimism, he negotiated better deals and got extended terms

of payment from c lose some big sales. Within a few months, he was out of debt and making money once again.

Exactly a year later, he returned to the park with that uncashed cheque. The old man did not appear for some time yet the business executive decided to wait for a while more. A while later the old man came along but seemed unmindful of the business executive. He stopped the old man and was about to hand over the cheque with a few words of thanks as well as share his success story. At the same time, he saw a nurse come running up and grabbing the old man. "I'm so glad I caught him", she cried. "I hope he hasn't been bothering you. He's always escaping from the rest home and telling he is Rockefeller." And she led the old man away by the arm.

The astonished executive just stood there, stunned. All year long he'd been wheeling and dealing, buying and selling, convinced he had half a million dollars behind him. Suddenly, he realized that it wasn't the money, real or imagined, that had turned his life around. ***It was his new found self-confidence that gave him the power to achieve anything he went after. He understood that confidence is nothing but the distant vision held positively no matter what comes in between.*** It comes from one's own commitment and dedication and is entirely internal.

### [Save natural resources](#)

Germany is a highly industrialized country. It produces top brands like Benz, BMW, Siemens etc. The nuclear reactor pump is made in a small town in this country. In such a country, many will think its people lead a luxurious life. At least that was my impression before my study trip.

When I arrived at Hamburg , my colleagues who work in Hamburg arranged a welcome party for me in a restaurant. As we walked into the restaurant, we noticed that a lot of tables were empty. There was a table where a young couple was having their meal. There were only two dishes and two cans of drinks on the table. I wondered if such simple meal could be romantic.

There were a few old ladies on another table. When a dish is served, the waiter would distribute the food for them, and they would finish every bit of the food on their plates. We did not pay much attention to them, as we were looking forward to the dishes we ordered. As we were hungry, our local colleague ordered more food for us. As the restaurant was quiet, the food came quite fast. Since there were other activities arranged for us, we did not spend much time dining. When we left, there was still about one third of unconsumed food on the table.

When we were leaving the restaurant, we heard someone calling us. We noticed the old ladies in the restaurant were talking about us to the restaurant owner. When they spoke to us in English, we understood that they were unhappy about us wasting so much food. We immediately felt that they were really being too busybody.

“We paid for our food, it is none of your business how much food we left behind,” my colleague Gui told the old ladies. The old ladies were furious. One of them immediately took her hand phone out and made a call to someone. After a while, a man in uniform claimed to be an officer from the Social Security organization arrived. Upon knowing what the dispute was, he issued us a 50 Euro fine. We all kept quiet. The local

colleague took out a 50 Euro note and repeatedly apologized to the officer.

The officer told us in a stern voice,

**“ORDER WHAT YOU CAN CONSUME, MONEY IS YOURS BUT RESOURCES BELONG TO THE SOCIETY. THERE ARE MANY OTHERS IN THE WORLD WHO ARE FACING SHORTAGE OF RESOURCES. YOU HAVE NO REASON TO WASTE RESOURCES.”**

*Keep a key to happiness*

When I was a kid, my mom would prepare special breakfast every now and then. And I remember one night in particular, after a long, hard day at work. On that evening so long ago, my mom placed a plate of eggs, sausage and extremely burned biscuits in front of my dad.

I remember waiting to see if anyone noticed! Yet all my dad did was reach for his biscuit, smile at my mom and ask me how my day was at school. I don't remember what I told him that night, but I do remember watching him smear butter and jelly on that biscuit and eat every bite!

When I got up from the table that evening, I remember hearing my mom apologize to my dad for burning the biscuits. And I'll never forget what he said: Honey, I love burned biscuits.

Later that night, I went to kiss Daddy good night and I asked him if he really liked his biscuits burned.

He wrapped me in his arms and said, Your Momma put in a hard day at work today

and she's real tired. And besides – a little burnt biscuit never hurt anyone! You know, life is full of imperfect things and imperfect people. I'm not the best at hardly anything, and I make so many mistakes forget to congratulate people on their special occasions.

What I've learned over the years is that learning to accept each other's faults – and choosing to celebrate each other's differences – is one of the most important keys to creating a healthy, growing, and lasting relationship.

**Moral:**

*And that's my prayer for you today. That you will learn to take the good, the bad, and the ugly parts of your life and lay them at the feet of God. Because in the end, He's the only One who will be able to give you a relationship where a burnt biscuit isn't a deal-breaker!*

*We could extend this to any relationship. In fact, understanding is the base of any relationship, be it a husband-wife or parent-child or friendship!*

*Don't put the key to your happiness in someone else's pocket – keep it in your own.*

*So Please pass me a biscuit, and yes, the burnt one will do just fine.!!.!!*

### DOING FAVOR NEVER LOSES

This true story took place in Scotland, where a poor farmer named Fleming had lived and had been suffering from shortness of a hand and extreme poverty, he did not complain or grumble, but he was afraid for his son's future, he had been able to bear hardship, but what about his son?

He is still young and life is not an easy game, it's risky, how do you live in a world strongly believes in money?

One day, while wandering around in a pasture, Fleming heard a dog barking barks constantly, Fleming went quickly on where the dog was, he found a child immersed in a pool of mud with signs of terror and panic on his face, with a screaming voice hardly heard by the effect of horror.

Fleming did not think, but jumped into the lake of mud, without taking off his clothes, grabbed the child and saved his life.

The next day, a man came showing signs of grace and affluence in a cart pulled by horses surrounded by his two guards, Fleming was surprised for the Lord's visit in his despicable house, Fleming soon realized that he was the saved boy's father.

"if I kept all my life, thank you, you would not get your right, I owe you my son's life, ask what you want of money or jewelry, or anything might make you satisfied" said the rich Lord .

"Sir Lord, I only did what my conscience dictates on me, and any farmer like me would do as I did, your son is the same as my son and the position in which he was could have been exposed to my son as well" Answered Fleming.

"well, as long as my son is like your son, I'll take your son and I assume the expenses of his education until he becomes an educated man useful to his country and his people" the rich Lord answered.

Fleming did not believe what he heard, he was about to fly from happiness, finally his son learned in the schools of the great, and little Fleming graduated from the School of St. Mary of Medical Sciences, and the little boy became not only an educated man, but a great scholar, yes, the same boy is the same as Sir Alexander Fleming (1881- 1955) penicillin Finder, penicillin in 1929, the first antibiotic known to mankind at all, and He is credited with the elimination of most microbial diseases, as Alexander Fleming won the Nobel Prize in 1945.

That story is not over, but so beautiful when the wealthy Lord's son was affected by a

disease "pneumonia", and he was only saved by penicillin.

Yes, a set of coincidences alien, but wait for the biggest surprise, the same boy of the rich man (whose life was saved by Fleming, the father . and saved again by Alexander Fleming, the son by penicillin) was a very popular, the rich Lord's named Lord Randolph Churchill, and his son, named Winston Churchill, the greatest British prime minister over the centuries, a great man who led the war against Hitler's Nazi World War II (1939 1945) and He is credited with the victory of the Allies (England, France and the United States and the Soviet Union) on the Axis powers (Germany and Japan) This story began with a simple Scottish farmer who saved the poor kid, really good work never ends, love never fails.

Moral

**briefly, if you have did a favor , Do not wait Thank you from the one you did that favor to, Allah documented that it would not completely lose.**

### [A small Pan and a big fish](#)

How big is your pan?

The story is about a fisherman who used to catch lots of fish by his fishing rod. For that he was envied by his fellow fishermen. One day, infuriated , they noticed that the Lucky Fisherman was keeping small fish and throwing the big fish back to the sea.

where then they cried, "What do you do?

Are you crazy?

Why are you throwing the big fish?

Then the fisherman answered them,

"Because I own a small frying pan"



### **Moral**

**We May not believe this story but unfortunately we do every day what this hunter did , we throw big ideas and wonderful dreams and possibilities of our success behind claiming that they are larger than our minds and our potential as the pan of that hunter . This applies not only to material success, but I think it applies to more important areas in our life, we can love more than we expect, to be happier than we are to live our lives in the most beautiful and more effective than we imagine. A writer once said:" you are what you believe"**

**So think more, dream more, to expect greater results, and pray to God to give you more.**

### **The hedgehogs**

Once, there was a group of hedgehogs suffer extreme cold;  
Gathered together and fused in a bit of hope, warmth; but their pointed spines was hurting them. So they separated from each other, but the cold attacked them again

and they were hesitant between the pain of thorns and adhesion to each other, and the agony of cold, at the end they found that the best solution is to converge deliberately So as to achieve warmth and security with the least amount of pain and tingling of the thorns ..so they came near; but not so close to approaching the painful .. And moved away, but did not stray away, which breaks the security and comfort.

Thus, we must do in the world of people;

People are the same as hedgehogs, surrounded by a kind of perspective thistles, that affect anyone who engages with them without their consent, and interact with them without discipline.

Consider how dealing informally with people and mixing with them deeply will give more harm than good, and increases the rate of wrangling and problems.

The wise learns from the wisdom of the wise urchins;

He will approach others closer to take and gives warmth,

And at the same time be mindful not to approach even deep lest their thorns will not be instilled into his body.

No doubt that everyone of us needs to have close friends to exchange joy and sorrow, aspirations and dreams altogether.

There is nothing wrong in this ..

That you have the elite group of close friends;

But in general, you must - in order to live happily – beware approaching severe

And engaging with the unplanned others; this may bring us pain and concerns we are indispensable.

Beware, my friend, be a gateway to your heart without a key.

### American values

America is a very diverse place; not just in ethnicity. We have people from all sorts of backgrounds, beliefs and customs. We have people who are religious extremists to atheist. Since America is a melting pot we don't have any one religion or basic custom, most Americans try to be good, honest and trustworthy

people. Many places around the world, you don't meet people from other countries but in America you see people from every place in the world.

What sets America apart from many other countries is the fact that no matter what religion you are or where you're from, we all have a document that sets values and rights for people across the board. That document is the constitution. It sets standards and perimeters around everything we do. It tells us our values and what we must obey. The constitution states "all men are created equal" and that sets the bar really high, it means we have to treat everyone with the same kindness you would want to be treated with. Also we have rights that protect us from other people or even the government. In the constitution we have 27 amendments. Some of the most important ones are freedom of speech and freedom of religion. These are values that allow us to co-inhabit and tolerate other people in our community. All in all even though Americans have different backgrounds we all have similar values and rights.

Whatever happened to the 56 men who signed the Declaration of Independence?

### [THE TRUE PRICE OF AMERICAN FREEDOM](#)

Have you ever wondered what happened to the 56 men who signed the Declaration of Independence? \_\_\_\_\_

Five signers were captured by the British as traitors, and tortured before they died. Twelve had their homes ransacked and burned. Two lost their sons in the revolutionary army, another had two sons captured. Nine of the 56 fought and died from wounds or hardships of the revolutionary war.

They signed and they pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their

sacred honor.

What kind of men were they? Twenty-four were lawyers and jurists. Eleven were merchants, nine were farmers and large plantation owners, men of means, well educated. But they signed the Declaration of Independence knowing full well that the penalty would be death if they were captured.

Carter Braxton of Virginia, a wealthy planter and trader, saw his ships swept from the seas by the British Navy. He sold his home and properties to pay his debts, and died in rags. Thomas McKean was so hounded by the British that he was forced to move his family almost constantly. He served in the Congress without pay, and his family was kept in hiding. His possessions were taken from him, and poverty was his reward.

Vandals or soldiers or both, looted the properties of Ellery, Clymer, Hall, Walton, Gwinnett, Heyward, Rutledge, and Middleton. At the battle of Yorktown, Thomas Nelson Jr., noted that the British General Cornwallis had taken over the Nelson home for his headquarters. The owner quietly urged General George Washington to open fire. The home was destroyed, and Nelson died bankrupt.

Francis Lewis had his home and properties destroyed. The enemy jailed his wife, and she died within a few months.

John Hart was driven from his wife's bedside as she was dying. Their 13 children fled for their lives. His fields and his gristmill were laid to waste. For more than a year he lived in forests and caves, returning home to find his wife dead and his children vanished. A few weeks later he died from exhaustion and a broken heart. Norris and Livingston suffered similar fates.

Such were the stories and sacrifices of the American Revolution. These were not wild eyed, rabble-rousing ruffians. They were soft-spoken men of means and education. They had security, but they valued liberty more. Standing tall, straight, and unwavering, they pledged: "For the

support of this declaration, with firm reliance on the protection of the divine providence, we mutually pledge to each other, our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor.”

They gave you and I a free and independent America. The history books never told us a lot of what happened in the revolutionary war. We didn't just fight the British. We were British subjects at that time, which placed us in the situation of being in revolt of and fighting our own government! Perhaps you can now see why our founding fathers had a hatred for standing armies, and allowed through the second amendment for everyone to be armed.

These were men who didn't take freedom for granted. They knew the possible cost before signing that important document, and decided to take the responsibility for the freedom of a nation and sign anyway. Today we enjoy that freedom, but too many of us don't take proper responsibility for the freedom we have.

Frankly, no American should be able to read this without crying, and I say again, some of us take these liberties so much for granted.

We shouldn't.

(We found this at <http://www.nicestories.com/unreg/y/story.php?id=3015> )

# Things We Value

Leroy 7<sup>th</sup> grade Literacy, USA

- Family
- Pets
- Health and food
- Religion
- Sports
- Technology

We are still talking about what we value in our town and in our school. We think some of what we value is important and that we also make some things too important that are not good for us.

## *Family*

This dinner table is set for a big family dinner. Some families sit down to eat together. Our class did a survey to find out how often each family sits down to eat together... One person said never, seven people said rarely, two people said sometimes, three people said often, and four people said always.



We also asked how many times a year our classmates went on vacation. Five students said their families go on vacation between 0 and 1 time per year. Eleven people said their families go on vacation somewhere between 2 and 4 times per year. Going family camping or fishing is a good way to have fun in the spring or fall.



Families spend time together on a daily basis. Whether it's on vacation, camping or a regular day.



# Pets



**We really value our pets!  
Some people even consider  
them family.**



**Americans buy and make  
special food for our pets to  
eat. Here are some examples  
of those foods for our cats,  
dogs, birds, and fish.**







**Americans spend up to 45.5 billion dollars a year on their pets. This includes food, toys, health, and grooming.**

**This is one of the different kinds of stands and contraptions we have built and bought for our birds.**

These are some examples of the wide variety of dog toys we have for our dogs to play with.

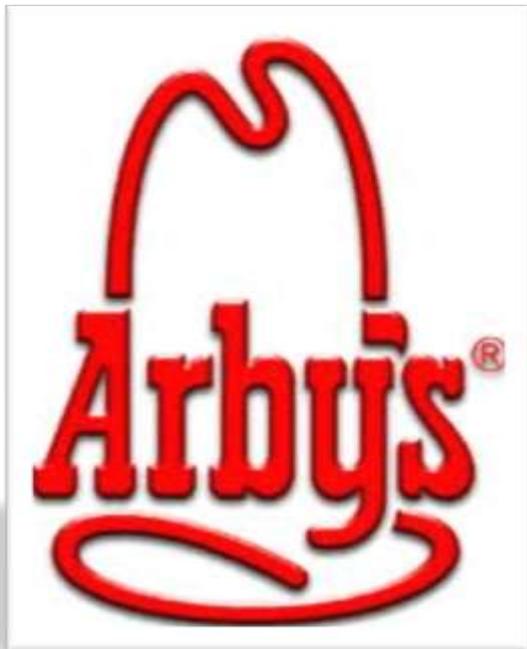


**We have special people (veterinarians) working day in and day out making sure our animals stay healthy. Not everyone takes their pets to the Vet, but we are supposed to get them yearly shots so they stay healthy.**

In our class, all eighteen people have at least one pet.

## Food

- In Illinois we are open to a variety of foods. We have many restaurants and foods from many places are open to us.
- Fast food is very popular in America. In LeRoy, we have the fast food restaurants Mc Donald's, Subway, and Arby's. We are learning more about how fast food is not that good for us.
- In our town, we also have restaurants where you sit down and order food. They have a variety food like salads, sandwiches, pastas, steak and seafood.



# Health

- We have a clinic where we can get medical care in LeRoy. Many people go to doctors in the surrounding towns that are larger. There are hospitals in those larger towns too.
- If we need medicine, we go to a pharmacy to get it if a doctor writes a prescription so we can get it.
  - Some people in our country can't afford healthcare. Our government is arguing about that now.



## Religion

The first amendment of our constitution gives us the right to worship where and when we want to. We have freedom of religion and every religion is accepted. We are mostly Christian but there are many religions represented in Illinois. Here are some statistics we found about Illinoisans and their religions:

### Religious affiliation

Catholic: 29%  
 No Religion: 15%  
 Baptist: 11%  
 Christian: 7%  
 Lutheran: 7%  
 Methodist: 6%  
 Not specified: 4%  
 Other: 3%  
 Presbyterian: 3%  
 Episcopalian/Anglican : 2%  
 evangelic: 2%  
 Non-denominational: 2%  
 Pentecostal: 2%  
 protestant: 2%  
 Buddhist: 1%  
 Church of Christ: 1%  
 Congressionalist/United Church of Christ: 1%  
 Jewish: 1%  
 Muslim/Islamic: 1%

## Survey

We asked our class how many times in one month they attend a religious service or church group/meeting. Five people said never, four people said one to four times, six people said five to ten times, and two people said they attend more than eleven times in a month.

# Sports

Here in our school we have a lot of sports, a lot of them consider running, throwing, and catching. One of the sports we have here is baseball and softball as people like to call it “America’s past time”. The object of the game is to hit the ball the farthest you can, to be able to go around four bases to score one point, and the one team that has the most points at the end wins the game.

Baseball



Basketball



Football

We even have a huge trophy case at the front of our school for all of our sports trophies. Kids who are good at sports are sometimes more popular in school. That makes it hard for kids who do not like to play.\

## Home Technology

**iPad:** used for gaming and sometimes books. They are expensive so not many people have one.

**Cellphones:** used for communication by talking or texting. Most students have a cell phone by the time they are in jr. high. We talk to each other by texting more than we do face to face. Some adults think this might be a bad thing.



**Television:** Most of the people in our town have at least one television in their home. We use it for entertainment and news updates. We watch a lot of television. Some of it is good and some of it is not.

## Music Technology

Kids also value music. We listen to music almost every day of our lives.

We have band and chorus classes. We also have musicals and band concerts about three times a school year.



iPod Touch



iPod Nano



Radio/stereo

## School technology

A smart board is an interactive, electronic white board. The smart board enhances instruction and learning. The projector works with the smartboard and allows the smartboard to show what is on our computer screens. We can also write on the smartboard with special pens. We also have a lot of lap top computers in the school. Continuing to get better technology in our schools is important to our administrators.



### Our values ( Russia)

Our community is multinational and multicultural. There are more than 5,000 residents in Gor'kovskoe. The most part of people are Russians, but there are other nationalities such as Kazakhs, Ukrainians, Germans, Tatars, Belarusians, Armenians, and Chechens. Every nation has its own traditions. We think it is very important to follow traditions, they unite people. In Gor'kovskoe there is Russian Cultural Center and German Cultural Center. They take part in regional competitions and festivals.



German Cultural Center



Russian Cultural Center

Our local history museum was founded in 1985. A lot of exhibits tell you about our culture and the history of community. It is a good tradition to meet interesting people here and to listen to their stories.



### Our museum

We are different, but everybody is friendly and easy to get along with.

Gor'kovskoe is one of the most beautiful places in the world and we are proud of it.

When you make a new friend, ask him “what do you read?”

I love to read books! It's my cup of tea. I like romance. Love and hate. The characters go through a lot of difficulties to come together. Scarlett O'Hara's life is easy and comfortable. Her family has a big house and servants until the Civil War starts in America. Everything changes. Scarlett's mother dies and her father is very ill. Scarlett becomes the head of the family. She learns to work on the land and looks after all her family and friends. But she is not alone: every time Scarlett gets into trouble, handsome Rhett Butler turns up and helps her. He wants to marry her, but Scarlett has a secret: she is madly in love with her best friend's husband.

I recommend this book to everybody.

Sasha Komarova

I like history books and detective stories. They give me a lot of interesting information.

London at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Sherlock Holmes, the world's most famous detective, and his reliable friend, Doctor Watson, are faced with the creepy legend of a monster: a dog that kills the members of the Baskerville family. The family legend seems just like a story until Sir Charles Baskerville dies a strange death. The last Baskerville in the family, Sir Henry Baskerville, comes to England. He is American and he doesn't believe in old stories, but his life is in danger.

I like to read because I love the smell of paper books. Books teach me how to live.

Yulya Kukoleva

Aliens, spaceships, trips to the moon and star wars. I am interested in science fiction because I like to read about adventures in the future. It's my cup of tea, but it is not everybody's cup of tea. . I have read a lot of books by Sergey Lukyanenko. He is a modern Russian writer. He writes science fiction. His books are about adventures. Some of them happen in space and some of them in the centre of Moscow, but they are very exciting and well written. One of his books became a cult book for people who are interested in computers. It is called “Labyrinth of Reflections”. The plot of this book is very exciting. Internet technologies produce a virtual world – Deeptown. Different people live in Deeptown, but the most mysterious of them are the Divers. They can do things that the best hackers in our world will be never able to do.

Zhenya Martynov

## The Teacher and CEO debate

The dinner guests were sitting around the table discussing life.

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

To stress his point he said to another guest; "You're a teacher, Bonnie. Be honest. What do you make?"

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

"Well, I make kids work harder than they ever thought they could I make kids sit through 40 minutes of class time when their parents can't make them sit for 5 without an I Pod, Game Cube or movie rental.

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

I make kids wonder.

I make them question.

I make them apologize and mean it.

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

I teach them to write and then I make them write.. Keyboarding isn't everything.

I make them read, read, read.

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

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

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

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

(Bonnie paused one last time and then continued.)

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

You want to know what I make?

I MAKE A DIFFERENCE. What do you make Mr. CEO?

His jaw dropped, he went silent.

Moral

**Teaching is...the profession that makes all other professions possible!**

With my Best wishes

EMAD ALKHATIB

Doha, Qatar