

## ***Thoughts and Smiles – September 25, 2023***

Why do I read?

I just can't help myself.

I read to learn and to grow, to laugh  
and to be motivated.

I read to understand things I've never  
been exposed to.

I read when I'm crabby, when I've just  
said monumentally dumb things to the  
people I love.

I read for strength to help me when I  
feel broken, discouraged, and afraid.

I read when I'm angry at the whole  
world.

I read when everything is going right.

I read to find hope.

I read because I'm made up not just of  
skin and bones, of sights, feelings,  
and a deep need for chocolate, but I'm  
also made up of words.

Words describe my thoughts and what's  
hidden in my heart.

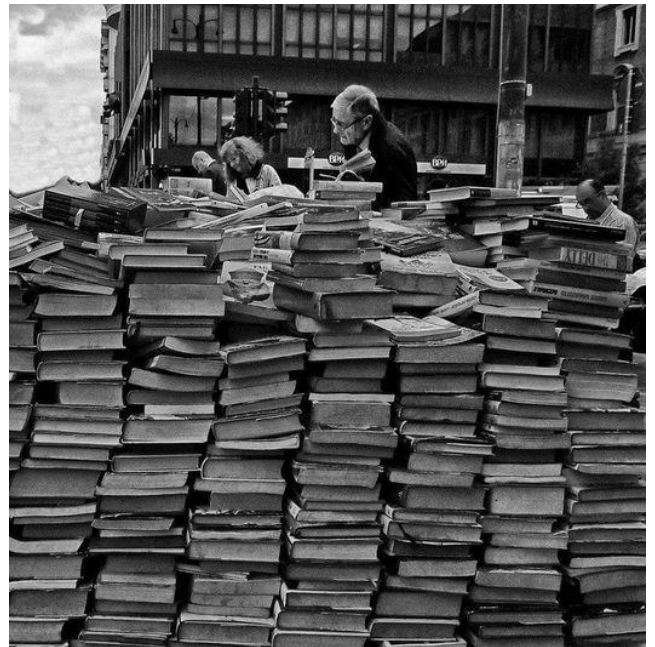
Words are alive--when I've found a  
story that I love, I read it again and  
again, like playing a favorite song  
over and over.

Reading isn't passive--I enter the  
story with the characters, breathe  
their air, feel their frustrations,  
scream at them to stop when they're  
about to do something stupid, cry with  
them, laugh with them.

Reading for me, is spending time with a  
friend.

A book is a friend.

You can never have too many.



~Gary Paulsen (Book: Shelf Life: Stories by the Book <https://amzn.to/3EaPj7r>)

(Art: Photograph by Giuseppe Grimaldi)

## THE JOURNEY OF A GREAT WRITER.

At age 17, she was rejected from college.

At age 25, her mother died from disease.

At age 26, she suffered a miscarriage.



At age 27, she got married.

Her husband abused her. Despite this, her daughter was born.

At age 28, she got divorced and was diagnosed with severe depression.

At age 29, she was a single mother living on welfare.

At age 30, she didn't want to be on this earth.

But, she directed all her passion into doing the one thing she could do better than anyone else.

And that was writing.

At age 31, she finally published her first book.

At age 35, she had released four books and was named Author of the Year.

At age 42, she sold 11 million copies of her new book on the first day of release.

This woman is J.K. Rowling. Remember how she considered suicide at age 30?

Today, Harry Potter is a global brand worth more than \$15 billion dollars.

Never give up.

Believe in yourself.

Be passionate.

Work hard.

It's never too late.



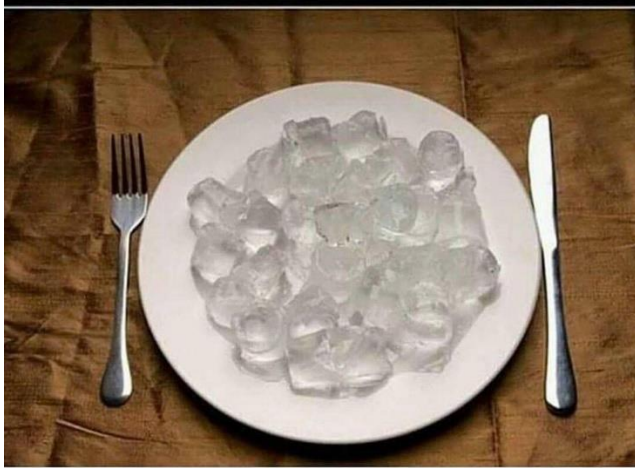


Holy One, Child of Life, Spirit of Creation,  
Our hearts travel across the land,  
Reaching out to meet you in prayer.  
In your presence we find mothers with empty  
Cradleboards (*tikinagan*\*) whose children were  
Taken away to residential schools or to be placed  
In foster care.  
We find people crouched in bombed-out  
Basements in Ukraine.  
We find the stumps of old growth forests and the  
Underground roots of young trees.  
We find your church: generations of people  
Praying, loving, longing for peace and justice,  
Doing our best to serve you. We meet in spirit,  
With survivors, soldiers, and refugees, leaders and people  
Of the land, grandparents and children.  
By your grace, may our prayers be a healing spirit,  
Resting and soothing in ways we will never know  
But in ways we trust to your mercy. Amen.

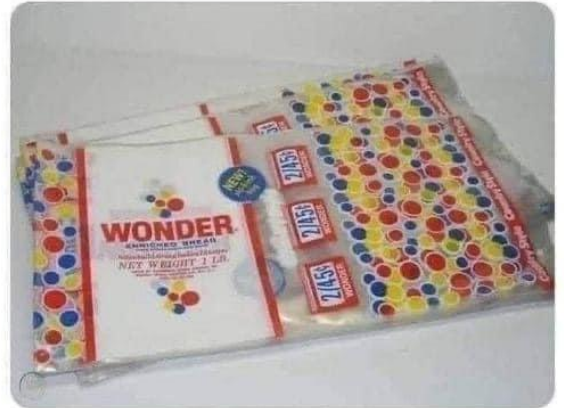
- Wendy MacLean, Brockville, Ont.

*\*Anishinaabemowin*

Finally settling down to my vegan, gluten free, soy free, antibiotics free, raw, non GMO, organic, fat free, low carb meal!

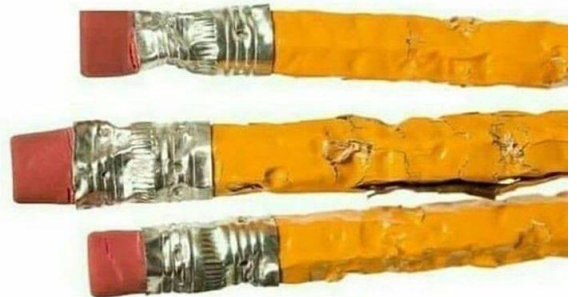


time to break out the snow socks



SO I WAS AT THE BAR LAST NIGHT  
AND THE WAITRESS SCREAMED...  
"ANYONE KNOW CPR?"  
I SAID "HELL, I KNOW THE ENTIRE  
ALPHABET."  
EVERYONE LAUGHED...  
WELL EVERYONE EXCEPT THIS  
ONE GUY.

This is how we used to kill  
our anxiety and stress



*Have a terrific week!  
Blessings to you all!*

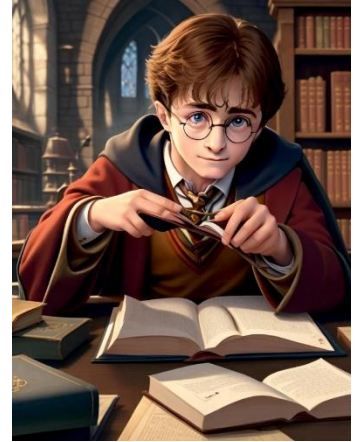


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*Check out "David's Blog" on the Sauble Beach United Church website. <https://saubleunitedchurch.ca/category/davids-blog/>*

SBUC: <https://www.youtube.com/live/atQVdnkhCEA?si=yNeOxpgCdTH38QC3>

St. Andrew's UC: <https://www.youtube.com/live/QLgq7varGzs?si=0X0Bor4M2o-J9ub1>



**So let me get this straight, I  
go to the grocery store and buy:**



**A pound of sliced ham in a plastic bag,  
a loaf of bread in a plastic bag, a  
gallon of milk in a plastic jug, a pack  
of napkins in plastic wrap, a store-  
made salad in a plastic tub, a plastic  
bottle of mustard and ketchup, but  
they won't give me a plastic bag to  
carry it home because the plastic bag  
is bad for the environment?**