



Wesley's Blog

Love Island

Once upon a time there was an island where all the feelings lived; happiness, sadness, knowledge, and all the others, including love. One day it was announced to all of the feelings that the island was going to sink to the bottom of the ocean. So all the feelings prepared their boats to leave. Love was the only one that stayed. She wanted to preserve the island paradise until the last possible moment. When the island was almost totally under, Love decided it was time to leave. She began looking for someone to ask for help. Just then Richness was passing by in a grand boat. Love asked, "Richness, Can I come with you on your boat?" Richness answered, "I'm sorry, but there is a lot of silver and gold on my boat and there would be no room for you anywhere." Then Love decided to ask Vanity for help who was passing in a beautiful vessel. Love cried out, "Vanity, help me please." "I can't help you", Vanity said, "You are all wet and will damage my beautiful boat." Next, Love saw Sadness passing by. Love said, "Sadness, please let me go with you." Sadness answered, "Love, I'm sorry, but, I just need to be alone now." Then, Love saw Happiness. Love cried out, "Happiness, please take me with you." But Happiness was so overjoyed that he didn't hear Love calling to him. Love began to cry. Then, she heard a voice say, "Come Love, I will take you with me." It was an elder. Love felt so blessed and overjoyed that she forgot to ask the elder his name. When they arrived on land the elder went on his way. Love realized how much she owed the elder. Love then found Knowledge and asked, "Who was it that helped me?" "It was Time", Knowledge answered. "But why did Time help me when no one else would?" Love asked. Knowledge smiled and with deep wisdom and sincerity, answered, "Because only Time is capable of understanding how great Love is."

These words, I believe, can help all of us, whatever challenges we are facing: 'Do not fear the winds of adversity. Remember the kite rises against the wind rather than with it.'

At the age of 76, the composer Haydn attended a gala performance of his oratorio 'The Creation'. At the end of one of the most rousing passages, the audience broke into cheers and applause. At first Haydn thought they were showing their appreciation of the music but suddenly he realised they were applauding him. At once he rose to his feet and calmed them with his hand. 'No - not me, but from there, comes all', he said, pointing heavenwards. In other words 'To God be the glory'.

We can always do better than what we have done,
And not be a jot the worse;
It never was loving that emptied the heart
Nor giving that emptied the purse.

The trouble with doing something right the first time is that nobody appreciates how difficult it was.

It was Henry Wadsworth Longfellow who wrote the well known verse

Lives of great men all remind us
We can make our lives sublime
And, departing, leave behind us
Footprints on the sands of time.

But how many people remember the following lines which make the previous verse even more full of meaning:

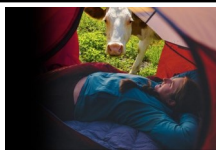
Footprints, that perhaps another
Sailing o'er life's solemn main
A forlorn and ship wrecked brother,
Seeing, shall take heart again.

These words remind us that if we can see that someone else has trodden the way before us, it gives us encouragement to follow.

Don't look for the flaws as you go through life
And even when you find them
It is wise and kind to be somewhat blind
And look for the virtue behind them.
For the cloudiest night has a hint of light
Somewhere in its shadow hiding;
It is better by far to look for a star
Than the spots on the sun abiding.

A young boy had not had a bicycle very long, and returning from a short trip he was greeted rather anxiously by his mother. 'I hope you were very careful Billy.' 'Oh yes, I was Mum', was the reply. 'I slowed at the 'slow' sign, halted at the 'halt' sign and bended at the 'bend' sign'!

News from Action for Children.
Thank you for boycotting your bed
We'd like to say a massive thank you to all who
took part in Boycott your Bed on 9 July.
You've helped us raise over **£180,000**.
We'd also like to thank the churches that have held an Action
for Children Sunday service or are planning to hold one. We
appreciate your thoughtful prayers and donation



One day my granddaughter aged 4 came for tea. 'What would you like?' I asked her. 'Rubbish' she replied. 'Rubbish?' I queried. 'Yes', she said. 'Crisps and chocolate and food my mummy won't let me have!'

Craftivism

Are you passionate about social justice and would like to do something to ensure children can fulfil their potential?



Can you make a craft to make a point? **If so, we'd love to get you involved in our September craftivism campaign.** You would be

helping us to urge your MPs to commit to making children a personal priority by sending them a handcrafted star.

We believe there's a star in every child.

When a child has the safe and happy childhood they deserve, their star shines brightly. But too many children in the UK right now don't have the chance to shine.

Their childhoods are overshadowed by poverty, abuse, neglect and poor mental health. And the pandemic has only made things worse. Our elected politicians can change this. Sign up and we'll send you information on how you can make a difference.

More details about these on their website

A young boy came home from Sunday School and proudly showed the family a Bible he had won for regular attendance. A friend of his Mother's, who was by no means old said, 'Do you know, I remember I won a Bible for just the same thing when I was your age.' The youngster looked at her critically for a moment and then said, 'I suppose that must have been the Old testament.'

Don't say you don't have enough time. You have exactly the same number of hours per day that were given to Helen Keller, Pasteur, Michaelangelo, Mother Teresa, Leonardo da Vinci, Thomas Jefferson and Albert Einstein.

At the Harvest supper Ted, a farmer, said that his summer had been a bit unusual. He had been asked by the appropriate government department to leave one of his larger fields fallow, for which he had been financially compensated. What a surprise he had though, when the warm weather arrived - his field turned into a superb scarlet spectacle, poppy seeds having sprouted and bloomed, despite continuous cultivation of the field over 30 years. 'Those poppies then brought us another form of compensation', said Ted. 'Artists came to paint them, photographers to take pictures, children to learn, and the older villages to reminisce. It was so nice meeting and chatting to them all.' Don't you think that some words sewn in our hearts and minds when we were young, like the poppy seeds, after lying dormant, will suddenly come to us and help us along life's way just when we need them.

The young grandson of a friend came home from school one day and asked his mum for a pound, as his teacher was collecting for sixty-five roses. When his mother picked him up from school the following afternoon, the teacher thanked her for her donation. 'No problem', said the mother, 'but what do you want with sixty-five roses?' 'Er, nothing,' the teacher replied. 'The money is for cystic fibrosis.'

First mother 'How's your son getting on at medical school?'

Second mother 'I don't know, I can't read his letters.'

When, in 1958, Bishop Roger Wilson asked for his personal mail to be forwarded, he said his new address would be The Palace, Chichester. The girl asked him, 'Would that be a dance hall or a cinema?'

The lady of the house and I were invited to the Harvest Service at our local school one year to hear the songs, music and drama performed so beautifully by the infants. 'Bread' was the apt theme and during the morning the village baker had been into school and had made bread rolls and bread mice with curly tails, helped by the pupils in the older classes, and they were displayed with all the other harvest produce. As the children demonstrated using large cardboard letter, the word 'harvest' also contains the letters making up sea and earth, and we reflected on all the fruits of sea and earth. But 'harvest' also contains the letters that make up share, and at the end of the service the pupils distributed the bread they had made to parents and friends symbolising the sharing of the harvest. It brought to mind something said by Mahatma Gandhi: 'Earth has enough for every man's need but not for every man's greed.'