

davidbrucehaiku #13

David Bruce



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By David Bruce

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If you can make money from it, that's fine by me.

Chapter 1: THE FIFTIES



<https://pixabay.com/en/pin-up-girl-fortieth-50s-3916630/>

American spot

Pinup girls can be wholesome

I love the Fifties

Chapter 2: SEXY PIC?



<https://pixabay.com/en/woman-erotic-girl-sensual-skin-3905950/>

**This is a sexy pic?
On whose planet? Nope, not mine.
Glad I'm getting paid.**

Chapter 3: PROVERBS



<https://pixabay.com/en/buddhism-thailand-proverb-sentence-1668143/>

**Proverbs can be wise
Only fools reject wisdom
And the best advice**

Chapter 4: HOW TO KEEP YOUR SOUL



<https://pixabay.com/en/heart-love-sunset-shape-sign-3147976/>

**Be kind, be useful,
Do good work, and do good deeds.
You will keep your soul**

Chapter 5: BE KIND AND USEFUL



<https://pixabay.com/en/fashionable-girl-in-glasses-1382946/>

Be kind and useful

These two things count for so much

Be a good person

Chapter 6: ALL OF US WILL DIE



<https://pixabay.com/en/pedestrians-people-busy-movement-400811/>

**All of us will die
Congregation of the dead
All of us know it**

Chapter 7: PRECIOUS THINGS



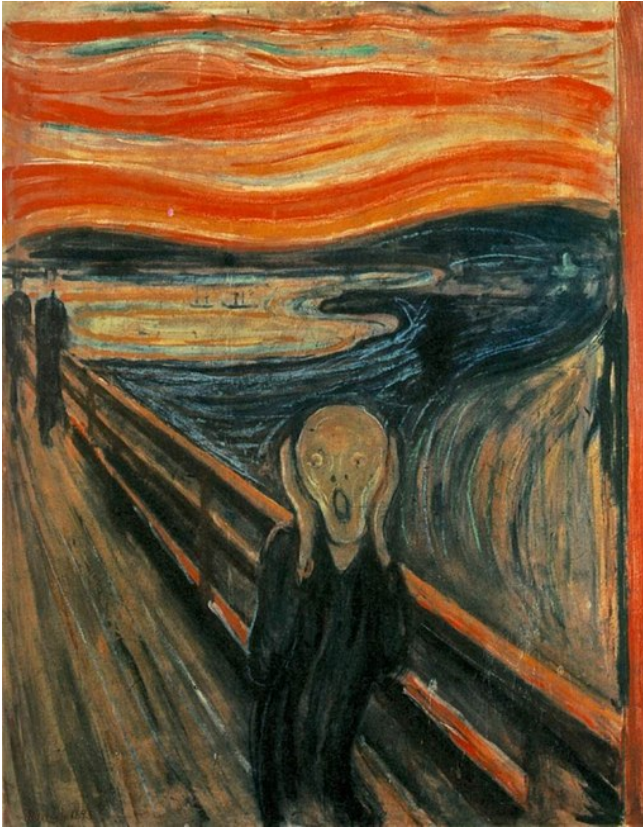
<https://pixabay.com/en/pair-autumn-evening-sun-nature-3798371/>

Someone who loves you.

The right word at the right time.

A friend you can call.

Chapter 8: POLITICS TODAY



Source: Wikicommons (Pubic Domain)

Politics today

I feel this way; so do you

It's really a scream

Chapter 9: LIFE PROJECTS



<https://pixabay.com/en/america-café-pin-up-girl-fortieth-3913902/>

Help other people

Enjoy books, music, and art

Create something good

NOTE: These are good things to do in addition to raising good kids and being competent at your job.

Chapter 10: I DID NOT SEE THAT COMING!



<https://pixabay.com/en/surprise-magic-the-little-girl-book-3913162/>

**It's that moment when
A book astonishes you
Unexpectedness**

Chapter 11: WINTER CHEER



<https://pixabay.com/en/scarf-wool-woolen-scarf-knitwear-3049166/>

**To cheer people up
Wear bright colorful clothing
During grey winters**

Chapter 12: SENSUALITY



<https://pixabay.com/en/woman-women-sexy-young-female-3935370/>

Sensuality

As imagined by someone

Who doesn't date much

Chapter 13: PART OF THE PICTURE



<https://pixabay.com/en/gallery-picture-wall-woman-light-3909660/>

Wherever you are
You are part of the picture
With a part to play

Chapter 14: I LOVE YOU LIKE A ...



<https://pixabay.com/en/american-boss-break-business-3797906/>

I love you like I love a
First cup of morning coffee
And a newspaper

NOTE: On rare occasions, haiku masters wrote haiku with two lines of seven syllables.

Chapter 15: GOOD SOCIETIES



<https://pixabay.com/en/surgery-hospital-doctor-care-1822458/>

Good societies

Are set up in such a way

That our needs are met

NOTE: Good societies need fewer big good deeds. For example, no one needs to set up a GO FUND ME account for health care because their and our taxes pay for health care for all.

Chapter 16: WATCH OUT!



<https://pixabay.com/en/spreewald-water-channel-landscape-3928300/>

**Watch out! The figure
On the left has a gun! Wait.
It's a violin.**

**Chapter 17: I WISH THIS WERE THE REALITY
FOR ALL**



<https://pixabay.com/en/smile-polka-dot-dress-fashion-40s-3949650/>

Fabulous clothing
— A reality for all? —
And beautiful smiles

Chapter 18: A NEWBORN'S JOB



<https://pixabay.com/en/newborn-baby-kid-girl-3948241/>

**It's a newborn's job
To eat, sleep, and grow, with some
Optional crying**

Chapter 19: ART'S FOR EVERYONE



<https://pixabay.com/en/graffiti-wall-graffiti-graffiti-art-1209761/>

Art's for everyone

— We need both beauty and bread —

Not just for the rich

Chapter 20: OPEN STAGE



<https://pixabay.com/en/man-singer-guitar-music-artists-1365569/>

Such a safe venue
Mistakes aren't just accepted
They are applauded

NOTE: Every town needs a venue with an Open Stage night where performers can do their thing without an overly critical audience.

Chapter 21: IT IS LATER THAN YOU THINK



<https://pixabay.com/en/girl-rain-femininity-beauty-paris-3954232/>

Have you lived life yet?

It is later than you think

Better get moving

Chapter 22: THE WORLD



<https://pixabay.com/en/foot-shoe-sneaker-laces-leg-jeans-3961419/>

**The world happens here
— Don't think it happens elsewhere —
Right in front of you**

Chapter 23: SUPERPOWER



<https://pixabay.com/en/burger-sandwich-food-fast-food-1553287/>

The superpower

I want most: Be healthy but

Eat the worst junk food

Chapter 24: MY SUPERPOWERS



<https://pixabay.com/en/guitar-guitarist-musician-2124955/>

I know how to read
I like hearing musicians
I enjoy movies

Chapter 25: WILL SPRING EVER COME?



<https://pixabay.com/en/children-girl-young-countryside-3960474/>

**Will spring ever come?
So far spring has always come
Nothing can stop it**

Chapter 26: WORLD'S MOST IMPORTANT JOB



<https://pixabay.com/en/child-boy-kid-eating-corn-october-978748/>

Farming, growing food
The world's most important job
Makes life possible

Chapter 27: UNRECOGNIZED GREAT BEAUTY



<https://pixabay.com/en/mirror-the-reflection-in-the-mirror-3969456/>

**A beautiful girl
criticizes herself in
the mirror. But why?**

Chapter 28: HOLI



<https://pixabay.com/en/color-marathon-colorful-sport-3975122/>

Get yourself colored

To celebrate a Holi

Color festival

Chapter 29: THE LOCAL GIRLS



<https://pixabay.com/en/concert-crowd-audience-people-768722/>

Some songs go to the
Pleasure center of my brain
Instant happiness

NOTE: Check out The Local Girls:

<https://store.cdbaby.com/cd/localgirls>

<https://store.cdbaby.com/cd/localgirls2>

Chapter 30: READING *WAR AND PEACE*



<https://pixabay.com/en/girl-young-portrait-read-book-3973600/>

Reading *War and Peace*

Supposed to be a classic

I am on page three

Chapter 31: RED, WHITE, AND BLUE



<https://pixabay.com/en/russia-russian-worldcup2018-moscow-3505148/>

See red, white, and blue
Colors of the Russian flag
Thought they were for us

Chapter 32: ARE WE GUILTY, TOO?

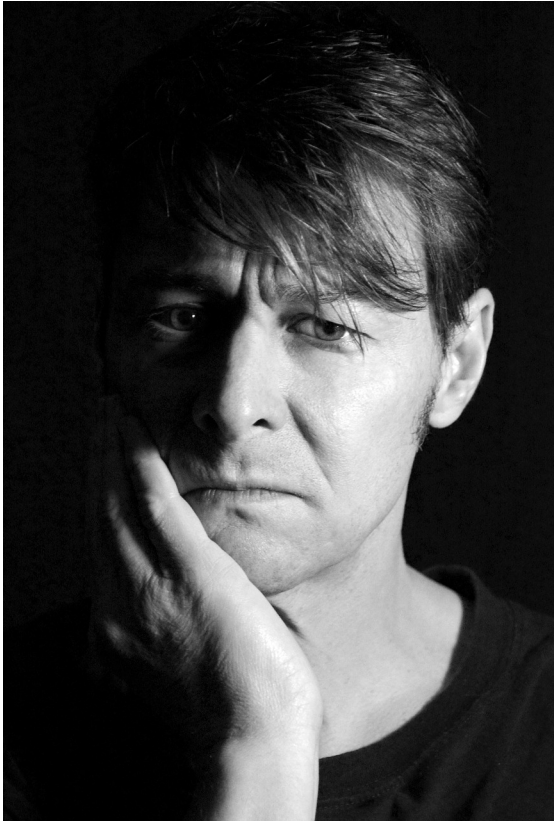


<https://pixabay.com/en/hdr-destroyed-area-old-factory-2710971/>

Way too much warfare
“Make a desert, call it peace”
Are we guilty, too?

NOTE: Roman historian Tacitus wrote, “They make a desert and call it peace.”

Chapter 33: I HARDLY KNEW YOU



<https://pixabay.com/en/thinker-think-man-human-depression-2150827/>

**A beautiful world
So much to see, hear, and love
Hard to say goodbye**

Chapter 34: ARE YOU REAL?



<https://pixabay.com/en/child-girl-eyes-closed-relaxed-3476322/>

**Do you disappear
After you close both your eyes?
No? Then you are real.**

Chapter 35: I EARNED THIS FACE



<https://pixabay.com/en/man-gehlert-assertive-force-fred-852762/>

**Yes, I earned this face
Every wrinkle, scar, and stare
I lived, learned, and loved**

Chapter 36: IT'S JUST A PLUNGER



<https://pixabay.com/de/vectors/kolben-toilette-klempner-147946/>

**It's just a plunger.
If it doesn't give you joy,
Then get rid of it.**

**NOTE: On second thought, put it away out of sight.
You may wish you had it some day.**

Chapter 37: TRUTHS



<https://pixabay.com/en/couple-making-out-young-people-731890/>

This world should be good

Sex is supposed to be fun

This life should be good

Chapter 38: SOMETHING IS MISSING



<https://pixabay.com/en/museum-gallery-exhibition-art-show-3976704/>

**Something is missing
This artist lacked the courage
To make the first mark**

**NOTE: In art it's important to make the first mark.
Same thing with writing: It's important to write the
first word.**

Chapter 39: TOILET TRAINING TIME



<https://pixabay.com/en/restaurant-people-eating-690975/>

After bathroom visit

Child in crowded restaurant:

“Daddy, I pooped!”

Chapter 40: GYMNAST



<https://pixabay.com/en/girl-woman-young-beautiful-gymnast-3845322/>

Highly trained body
Balance, beauty, skill, strength, and
Flexibility

Chapter 41: LOVE / DEBACLE



<https://pixabay.com/en/hands-love-couple-together-fingers-437968/>

Love and debacle?

Here is an alternative:

Love or debacle

Chapter 42: WORRY



<https://pixabay.com/en/sad-depressed-depression-sadness-505857/>

I want back all days

I unnecessarily

Worried constantly

Chapter 43: TIRED OF WINTER



<https://pixabay.com/en/blizzard-snow-woman-winter-clothes-1245929/>

**Waiting for this spring
So tired of this winter's cold
Will it ever come?**

Chapter 44: UGLY CRY



<https://pixabay.com/en/child-sitting-jeans-in-the-door-cry-1816400/>

**Lose complete control:
Heaving sobs, leaking fluids,
And making weird sounds**

LIFE PRO TIP: Call a friend.

Chapter 45: WHAT GOOD DO I DO?



<https://pixabay.com/en/hand-gift-bouquet-congratulation-1549399/>

“I’m a good person!”

Now ask yourself this question:

“What good do I do?”

NOTE: I think most people are trying to do the right thing, but it is good to have a few concrete good deeds of your own to point to.

Chapter 46: SUPPORT LOCAL MUSIC



<https://pixabay.com/photos/guitar-classical-guitar-756326/>

**Every big-timer
Who performs used to be a
Local musician**

Chapter 47: COLLEGE STUDENTS IN WINTER



<https://pixabay.com/en/winter-snow-wintery-snowy-leaves-1971937/>

**Our future leaders
Are walking around in shorts
With coats unbuttoned**

**NOTE: I see this often at Ohio University in Athens,
Ohio.**

Chapter 48: LOOKING



<https://pixabay.com/en/gallery-pictures-museum-girl-watch-1678351/>

Looking for insight,
Art, books, movies, music, friends

The looking is fun

**NOTE: Both intellectual lightning and balance/stability
can lead to insight.**

Chapter 49: WHAT DO YOU SEE?



<https://pixabay.com/en/felt-scroll-material-web-colorful-4007361/>

**Look at this closely.
Just a bunch of felt scraps or
Something beautiful?**

Chapter 50: MY GOAL



<https://pixabay.com/en/piggy-bank-saving-money-young-woman-850607/>

**Double my money
By writing poetry. Yes!
Two pennies, not one!**

NOTE: This is probably an unachievable goal. My haiku are public domain.

Chapter 51: I LIKE THIS MOMENT



<https://pixabay.com/en/moon-star-girl-child-space-sky-3144654/>

**A supernova
Will destroy the Earth and yet
I like this moment**

NOTE: This moment right now is a good moment.

Chapter 52: OPEN-MIC NIGHT



<https://pixabay.com/en/guitar-man-music-instrument-3943201/>

**It's open-mic night —
Folks tolerate mistakes and
Sometimes applaud them**

NOTE: My experience is that open-mic nights tend to be safe venues; audience members tend to be supportive.

Chapter 53: EVERYWHERE'S SPECIAL



<https://pixabay.com/en/girl-young-portrait-globe-sleep-3973591/>

**Everywhere's special
Always wanted to go there
Special place to be**

Chapter 54: BEAUTY CONQUERS TIME



<https://pixabay.com/en/villa-farnesina-raphael-raphaël-3394288/>

Beauty conquers time

Look at beautiful artworks

They stay beautiful

NOTE: The artwork is by Raphael. The words "beauty conquers time" come from a *Guardian* article written by art critic Jonathan Jones.

Chapter 55: ORDINARY?



<https://pixabay.com/photos/woman-cat-cute-portrait-human-3976639/>

Ordinary life

Ordinary can be good

Ordinary cat

Chapter 56: MUSIC



<https://pixabay.com/photos/girl-music-fashion-listen-1990347/>

Can heighten feelings
Can move people to do things
Can lift low spirits

Chapter 57: “I’M NOT GOOD ENOUGH”



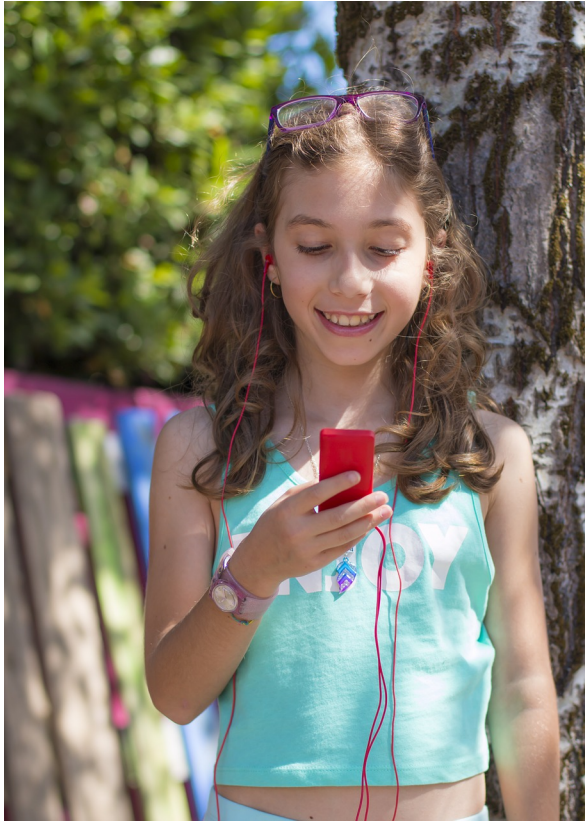
<https://pixabay.com/photos/guitar-guitarist-man-music-1853661/>

“I’m not good enough”

Wait until you’re good enough?

You’ll never perform

Chapter 58: WOO-HOO! EIGHTY MP3s!



<https://pixabay.com/photos/girl-music-mp3-headphones-young-3512181/>

One hundred dollars?

— It can buy eighty great songs —

What's it worth to you?

Chapter 59: A BIOLOGICAL 3-D PRINTER



<https://pixabay.com/photos/woman-child-mother-young-portrait-4022022/>

**It took nine months for
Her 3-D printer to make
This healthy infant**

Chapter 60: LARD SANDWICHES



<https://pixabay.com/photos/burger-food-meat-meal-beef-3365223/>

American poor

Sometimes eat lard sandwiches:

Bread, lard, and sugar

Take one slice of bread

Spread lard on it; top with salt

Stops poor folks' hunger

NOTE: The really impoverished use salt because they can't afford sugar. They certainly can't afford burgers.

Chapter 61: WHENEVER MOM MADE CHICKEN



<https://pixabay.com/photos/food-eat-diet-fried-chicken-leg-2202358/>

“Save the back for me!”

— Mom saves best parts for the kids —

“It’s my favorite!”

Chapter 62: CULTIVATE YOUR GARDEN



<https://pixabay.com/photos/girl-farmer-the-cultivation-3709907/>

**Work in the garden
In order to drive away
Boredom, vice, and need**

Chapter 63: “WHY WAS I WORRIED?”



<https://pixabay.com/photos/girl-woman-mirror-reflection-2227755/>

Now: “I don’t look good.”

Years later, look at photos:

“HEY! WOW! I WAS HOT!”

Chapter 64: MY KIND OF NATURE



<https://pixabay.com/photos/trees-path-trail-old-avenue-2897757/>

**My kind of nature:
Perfectly manicured, not
Raw, rough, and ragged**

Chapter 65: SOMEWHAT ODD



<https://pixabay.com/photos/audience-concert-guitar-guitarist-1835431/>

**This is somewhat odd:
Musicians thank audience
But they do the work**

Chapter 66: HIDING IN PLAIN SIGHT



<https://pixabay.com/photos/acoustic-band-guitar-guitarist-1851248/>

**Hiding in plain sight
Many local musicians
Are local legends**

Chapter 67: PLEASURE-CENTER STIMULATION



<https://pixabay.com/photos/girl-woman-female-lady-attractive-791686/>

**Some songs stimulate
Pleasure center of my brain
Who needs heroin?**

Chapter 68: POTENTIAL VERSUS ACTUAL



<https://pixabay.com/photos/guitar-bass-guitar-musician-4042253/>

**We can be so much
None fulfill all potential
All leave stuff undone**

Chapter 69: ONLINE REVIEWS



<https://pixabay.com/photos/board-chalk-feedback-review-study-3700116/>

Very good or bad?

Spread the word, inform people

Do write a review

NOTE: Online reviews are a good way for self-published authors and musicians to get feedback and for other people to discover good creative people or avoid bad creative people.

Chapter 70: LIFE OF MOST ARTISTS



<https://pixabay.com/photos/girl-blonde-woman-young-face-1681095/>

**Life of most artists:
Unencumbered by success
And prosperity**

Chapter 71: SHOULD HAVE DONE THIS MUCH EARLIER



<https://pixabay.com/photos/musician-music-country-music-ibiza-1518572/>

**Only recently
Got into local music
A very good scene**

Chapter 72: YEAH, I GOT PROBLEMS



<https://pixabay.com/photos/cafe-restaurant-road-4047138/>

**Yeah, I got problems
But work is over, and now
It's time to relax**

Chapter 73: PRIVACY? WHAT PRIVACY?



<https://pixabay.com/photos/bathroom-public-toilet-toilet-3d-4043097/>

Tightly fitting doors

For bathroom stall privacy

Why don't we have this?

NOTE: USAmericans have to suffer through making eye contact with strangers while sitting on the throne because of gaps between the bathroom door and bathroom stall walls. This shocks visitors to the USA. The illustration is by a Russian photographer.

Chapter 74: NO BAD WEATHER



<https://pixabay.com/photos/girl-woman-young-beautiful-white-4056682/>

**There's no bad weather
— Not if you are dressed for it —
Only bad clothing**

**NOTE: There's some truth in this, but of course
tornados and hurricanes are examples of bad weather
that good clothing won't protect you from.**

Chapter 75: FIXED STARS



<https://pixabay.com/photos/star-milky-way-background-night-1050487/>

**The fixed stars don't move,
unlike the planets,
which wander in the welkin.**

NOTE: The welkin is the sky. The fixed stars don't move in relation to each other. Some of the fixed stars make up the constellations.

Chapter 76: ONLINE REVIEWS



<https://pixabay.com/photos/person-thumbs-up-smiling-success-2385787/>

Leave a good review

If you try it and like it

Spread the word online

NOTE: My sister Brenda Kennedy puts this in each of her books: “I support Indie Authors. If you read this book, please take the time to go to the purchasing site and give it a review. Independent authors count on your reviews to get the word out about our books. Thank you for taking the time to read my books and taking the extra time to review them. I appreciate it very much.”

Chapter 77: WORKS OF ART



<https://pixabay.com/photos/museum-people-art-exhibition-man-4056343/>

**some people who look
at art make themselves into
works of visual art**

Chapter 78: THE BEST TIME TO PLANT A TREE



<https://pixabay.com/photos/cherry-tree-flowering-tree-blooming-1225186/>

Twenty years ago:

The best time to plant a tree;

Second-best time: now

NOTE: I just recently got into local music: live shows and recordings. I wish I had started twenty years ago.

Chapter 79: PLEASURE CENTERS



<https://pixabay.com/photos/children-happy-siblings-hide-play-1879907/>

Music and movies

— What hits your pleasure centers? —

Art, books, and friendship

Chapter 80: HALF-BLIND



<https://pixabay.com/photos/face-eye-hair-girl-female-view-4066029/>

**Do not be half-blind
— and what is a good reason? —
For no good reason**

Chapter 81: BEYOND MIDDLE AGE



<https://pixabay.com/photos/hands-walking-stick-elderly-981400/>

**To die is human
Now death is closer than birth
How much time is left?**

Chapter 82: NAUGHTY CAN BE NICE



<https://pixabay.com/photos/woman-chicago-art-nouveau-lady-4070329/>

**Naughty can be nice
It's wholesome to lust after
Your marriage partner**

NOTE: The model has a very nice family in Russia.

Chapter 83: coquette



<https://pixabay.com/photos/removes-a-glove-gloves-lace-4077841/>

**a woman who flirts
something we all need sometimes
it makes us feel good**

Chapter 84: MOMS TAKE CARE OF KIDS



<https://pixabay.com/photos/toddler-hand-hand-child-s-hand-4055612/>

Kids always eat first
A single-parent household
Mom eats leftovers

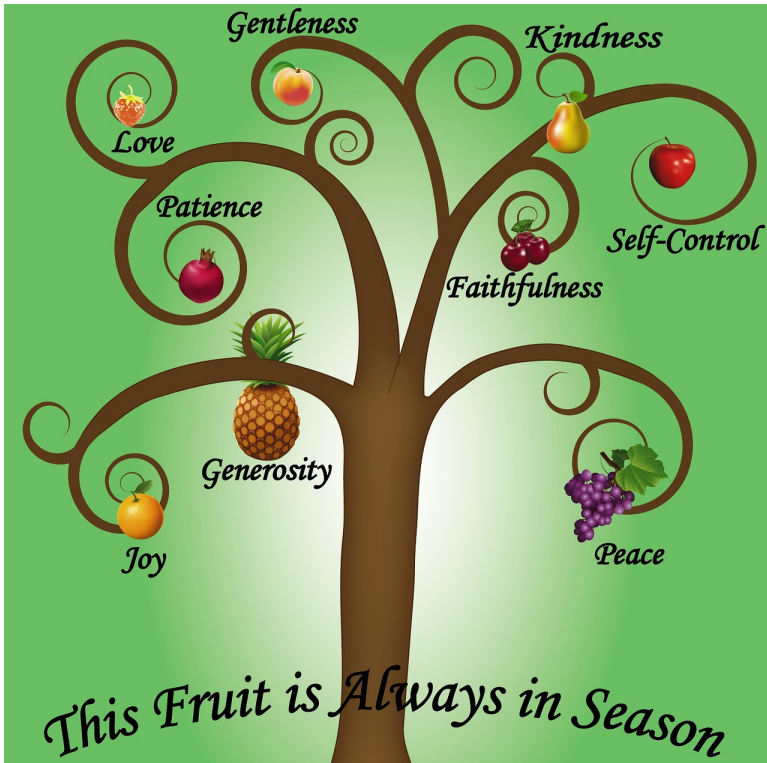
Chapter 85: SOURCES OF EUPHORIA



<https://pixabay.com/photos/ballet-dancer-dance-ballerina-4066717/>

**for many of us:
love, beauty, grace, kindness, and
the performing arts**

Chapter 86: “YOU’VE GOT TO BE KIND!”



<https://pixabay.com/illustrations/fruits-spirit-season-galatians-1388848/>

“You’ve got to be kind!”

Kurt Vonnegut’s best message

I agree with it

Chapter 87: QUINCEAÑERA



<https://pixabay.com/photos/girl-quinceanera-birthday-4081969/>

quin·ce·a·ñe·ra

mass followed by a party

she is now fifteen

NOTE: QUINCEAÑERA is a celebration in Latin American countries (and in Latino cultures) of a female becoming fifteen years ago. The celebration marks the transition of a child to an adult.

Chapter 88: EYES



<https://pixabay.com/photos/eyes-green-close-up-face-female-4077044/>

**Windows to the soul
Expressions of emotions
Can you see me now?**

Chapter 89: GOFUNDME



<https://pixabay.com/photos/ring-jewellery-silver-ring-woman-1175529/>

**“Pay for this new ring
because I really want it”
“Nope. I don’t know you”**

Chapter 90: STIMULATION



<https://pixabay.com/photos/japan-osaka-night-asia-landmark-2014617/>

Osaka, Japan

Has so much stimulation

Sights, sounds, and people

Chapter 91: THANK GOD!



<https://pixabay.com/photos/burlesque-dita-von-teese-4067838/>

**Not all are famous —
Good! Who wants to remember
Seven billion names?**

Chapter 92: SO MUCH GOOD MUSIC



<https://pixabay.com/photos/singer-karaoke-girl-woman-sing-84874/>

**so much good music
hear it as much as you can
put it on repeat**

Chapter 93: SO MUCH GOOD MUSIC #2



<https://pixabay.com/photos/girl-music-fashion-listen-1990347/>

So much good music

— Not a bad problem to have —

Cannot hear it all

Chapter 94: TWO IMPORTANT THINGS



<https://pixabay.com/photos/eyes-green-close-up-face-female-4077044/>

**two important things
nothing is more important
the here and the now**

Chapter 95: DOESN'T BOTHER ME (MUCH)



<https://pixabay.com/photos/money-dollars-success-business-1428587/>

**Burdens of success
Don't encumber me so far
Doesn't bother me**

**NOTE: Doesn't bother me
— much.**

Chapter 96: DEBATABLEY DATEABLE



<https://pixabay.com/illustrations/woman-girl-female-dancing-emotion-4105351/>

Story of my life
Debatably dateable
Must meet the right one

Chapter 97: YOUR FABULOUSNESS



<https://pixabay.com/photos/the-middle-ages-autumn-forest-2972280/>

**Your fabulousness
Personally resists this
Cookie-cutter world**

Chapter 98: HELLO, CUTIE PIE



<https://pixabay.com/photos/cat-relax-chill-out-camacho-98359/>

**Hello, cutie pie,
Do tell me about yourself
I'm interested**

Chapter 99: ADORKABLE



<https://pixabay.com/photos/easter-easter-eggs-person-funny-4107235/>

Funny and lovely
Unbelievably charming
True to him-/herself

Chapter 100: BOOPS



<https://pixabay.com/photos/family-kids-mother-with-children-4106873/>

**A boop to the nose
Nose-boops are not just for pets
Moms also like them**

APPENDIX A: SOME WEBSITES

[Free davidbrucehaiku #12 eBook \(pdf\)](#)

[Free davidbrucehaiku #11 eBook \(pdf\)](#)

[Free davidbrucehaiku eBooks \(pdfs\)](#)

[Free eBooks by David Bruce \(pdfs\)](#)

[Free eBook: YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIND](#)

[Free eBook: YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIND: Volume 2](#)

[David Bruce's Smashwords Bookstore: Retellings of Classic Literature, Anecdote Collections, Discussion Guides for Teachers of Literature, Collections of Good Deed Accounts, etc. Some eBooks are free.](#)

[David Bruce's Lulu Bookstore \(Paperbacks\)](#)

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[David Bruce's Kobo Books](#)

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SOMETIMES FREE EBOOK

John Ford's The Broken Heart: A Retelling, by David Bruce

<https://www.smashwords.com/books/view/792090>

https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B079V5BCJZ/ref=db_a_def_rwt_bibl_vppi_i8

SOMETIMES FREE EBOOK

William Shakespeare's Measure for Measure: A Retelling in Prose, by David Bruce

<https://www.smashwords.com/books/view/530136>

<https://www.amazon.com/William-Shakespeares-Measure-Retelling-Prose-ebook/dp/B00V7IRT9O>

SOMETIMES FREE EBOOK

Ben Jonson's The Alchemist: A Retelling in Prose

<https://www.smashwords.com/books/view/731768>

<https://www.amazon.com/Ben-Jonsons-Alchemist-David-Bruce-ebook/dp/B0738VSHPY>

APPENDIX B: POVERTY

By David Bruce

Poverty is not a good thing to experience, but poverty exists and we ought to know about it.

The word “poor” has two meanings: 1) lacking money (impoverished), and 2) lacking quality. I will be writing about poor people, by which I mean people who lack money. I think we all know that some high-quality people don’t have a lot of money.

My mother grew up poor in Georgia. She and her brothers and sisters ate a lot of lard sandwiches. A lard sandwich is a slice of bread, spread with lard, and sprinkled with a little sugar, if your family could afford sugar. Often, my mother’s parents couldn’t afford sugar, and their lard sandwiches were sprinkled with salt.

We would not call this nutritious food, but fat fills the belly, and lard is 100 percent fat — and it was cheap.

Sometimes, my mother and her siblings would steal vegetables from the next-door neighbor’s garden. He knew they were stealing vegetables, but he never said anything about it.

For a time, my mother had one dress and one pair of underwear. Once a week, she would stand behind the door, as she called it, take off her dress and underwear and wait until her mother hand-washed them and then let the sun dry them on a clothesline.

Georgia is hot, and in the days before air conditioning — and my mother’s family could not have afforded air conditioning even if it had been invented back then — every door and every window was open.

One day when my mother was standing behind the door, her boyfriend came to visit. How old was my mother? Old enough to be embarrassed.

As an adult, one of my mother's first jobs was working in a store that sold clothes, including baby clothes. One day, a woman walked in with a baby. The woman was not well dressed, and the baby was wearing rags. The woman set the baby down on a table displaying baby clothes, stripped the baby, and started putting new clothes on the baby. My mother looked at the woman and knew that she would not be able to pay for the clothing. But my mother helped her dress the baby and then watched as the woman carried the baby out of the store without paying for the new clothing.

One way out of poverty is to marry someone with a job, and my mother got out of poverty by marrying my father.

My mother's brother wanted to escape from poverty, so he tried to run away from it. He stole a car so he could drive up north where he hoped to find opportunity, but he got caught and ended up on a Georgia chain gang for several months. In a chain gang, prisoners are shackled every few feet by the ankles to a long length of chain to keep them from escaping. They work in the hot sun while shackled to the chain, and when they sleep, they are shackled to the bed. No freedom, hard work, hot sun, no pay, bad food, and some mean guards.

When my uncle got released from the chain gang, he hitchhiked up north. He did what a lot of people trying to escape from poverty do: He drifted. He drifted from town to town, seeking opportunity and not finding it. He worked when he could, but the jobs were temporary and low pay. My uncle slept rough often, and he was hungry often. Once, when he was completely broke and

completely hungry, he saw a restaurant with a buffet and went inside and asked to speak to the manager. He said, “I am very hungry, I don’t have any money, and I would appreciate it very much if you would give me any food that the restaurant is going to throw away. I will be happy to wait by the rear entrance until you are ready to throw away food.”

The manager told him to sit down at a table, and then the manager went to the buffet, loaded a big plate high with food, and gave it to him free of charge.

One way out of poverty is to get a good job, and my uncle got out of poverty by getting a job working with sheet metal.

My uncle’s work ethic helped him. His employer sent him to California to do some special sheet-metal work, and the people in California wanted to keep him there. They explained that their California employees liked to come to work late, leave early, and take many days off. It was difficult to get someone who would show up and do the work they were supposed to do and were paid to do.

My uncle was also good with money. He got married, bought a house, and raised six children. Each time he made a mortgage payment, he paid extra money so he could pay off the mortgage faster.

If there was a sale on food, he bought lots of it. He had a large pantry, and if there was a sale on peanut butter, two jars for the price of one, he would buy twelve jars and sometimes go back the next day and buy six more jars.

If you went in his pantry — a closet set aside to store food — you saw that it was packed with food. If you went in his kitchen, you saw that he had taken off the

doors of the high cabinets in which he stored food so that he could see the food. If you went in his bedroom, you saw that he had all the regular bedroom furniture, but he also had lots of shelves he had installed. The shelves were loaded with things that he had bought on sale that that he knew his family could use: food (of course), light bulbs, toothpaste, toilet paper, etc. His bedroom looked like a warehouse.

Once he made a bad purchase: he bought a case of baked beans. Beans are beans, but the sauce they came in can taste good or bad, and the sauce these beans came in tasted bad. His kids told him, “Dad, throw those beans away! They’re awful!”

But when you grow up poor, you don’t throw beans away. For a long time, whenever my uncle and his family ate baked beans, they ate a mixture of one can of good baked beans and one can of bad baked beans.

My uncle’s kids never had to eat lard sandwiches, and neither did I.

I was never the kind of poor that my mother and uncle were, but I did have times when I worked low-wage jobs and could have eaten better. That happens to a lot of people, including college students and people pursuing creative careers. Sometimes, people want be independent and not ask Mom and Dad for help. This can make it hard to both eat good food AND pay the rent.

For a while it seems like I lived on peanut butter-and-jelly cracker sandwiches except that I couldn’t afford jelly. I was like my uncle and stocked up on peanut and crackers when they were on sale. I also got bags of apples and bags of carrots occasionally.

Don't think I was hungry. For a while, I worked at a place where I could eat all the doughnuts I wanted, so I weighed 40 pounds more than I do now and resembled the Pillsbury Doughboy.

Once, I was looking forward to getting my paycheck. I like doughnuts and peanut butter and crackers, but eating them every day gets old. I was looking forward to getting my paycheck and eating something good.

I was going to get a sub, and not just any sub — I was going to get a 12-inch sub.

I even wrote a song — songwriters, take note. It goes like this: "I'm going to eat tonight! I'm going to eat tonight!" Repeat 10 or 11 times.

I got my paycheck and it was exactly two cents more than my rent, which was due. So I went to my landlord and signed my paycheck over to him and got two cents back.

My landlord was a nice guy and offered to wait a few more days for the rent, but I turned him down. I didn't have any more money coming in and if I spent my paycheck on food, I wouldn't be able to pay my rent. I did not want to sleep rough.

After paying my rent, I went to my one-room apartment with bath and ate peanut butter and crackers.

Two weeks later, I got another paycheck and ate a 12-inch sub.

I got out of that kind of poverty — which a lot of people go through — by earning my degrees and getting a good job in the OU English Department teaching composition.

Many of my assignments were practical writing because I wanted my students to get jobs when they graduated. My assignments gave students things to talk about at job interviews and papers to add to their writing portfolio.

For example, I assigned a problem-solving letter in which students would write someone and make a recommendation about solving a problem. No one was allowed to write their roommate and recommend that he or she take more showers, but they could write a former manager about ways of increasing profits, raising employee morale, and improving customer satisfaction.

I learned some things from students by reading their assignments, some of which were autobiographical essays. Sometimes I could read between the lines and realize some things that the student may not have realized.

Some of my students wrote about special nights when everyone would eat pancakes for supper. Kids like pancakes with syrup or sprinkled with sugar or spread with peanut butter, so these were really special nights.

If this happens once, then Mom and Dad are probably tired and don't feel like cooking, but sometimes they happened a few nights in a row.

When and where I was growing up, it wasn't unusual for a mother to send a kid over to borrow a cup of flour or a cup of sugar or a couple of eggs. The family was having a special-pancake supper because it was the end of the month and money and food were running low.

Parents really do take special care of their kids. Jerry Clower, a country comedian, remembers that when he was young whenever his mother made chicken, she

would tell her kids, “Save the back for me! That’s my favorite part!”

Of course, a chicken back is not good eating, and when he got older, he realized that his mother loved her kids and wanted them to eat the best parts of the chicken.

Kids often realize later in life what their parents did for them when the kids were growing up. Sometimes a single mother would sit her kids down at the dinner table, feed them, and not eat. Later, the kids would see her eating peanut butter and crackers. When they got older, they would realize that there wasn’t enough good food to go around, so the mother would feed the kids first, eat what they left behind, and then fill up on peanut butter and crackers.

One of my students wrote about one of the best weeks in her life. She was in elementary school, and one day she got off the school bus and went inside her home. The electric lights were off, and her mother and father were wearing jackets inside the house.

Her parents told her that they had a special treat for her: They were going to go camping — in the living room.

They used candles because you don’t have electric lights when you go camping, her parents made a tent out of a rope and blankets, and her mother cooked on a tiny portable camp stove that was normally used by backpackers. The “campfire” was twelve tealights (small candles) on plates in the middle of the living room; they cooked marshmallows over those tealights. Her parents sang camp songs and told scary camp stories, and they told family stories about how Mommy and Daddy met and what their little girl was like as a baby. My student had a really fun time camping out in

the living room because her parents made it a fun time: She had lots of quantity time and quality time with her parents.

Then one day she came home from school, walked inside her home, and the electric lights were on and the house was warm.

My father made good money as a power lineman, but before he went to lineman school, his job was turning off people's electricity if they couldn't pay their bill. Sometimes, he would knock on the door of a run-down trailer, and a poorly dressed pregnant woman, or a poorly dressed woman holding a baby, or a poorly dressed woman with a couple of toddlers standing behind her would answer the door. Often, the poorly dressed woman wouldn't have the money to pay the electric bill, so my father would tell her that she needed to pay it quickly or her electricity would be cut off. He would then mark on a form that no one was home at the trailer because if no one was home he wasn't allowed to cut off the electricity. He always had to give them a chance to pay their overdue bill, and if they weren't home, they didn't have that chance.

Make no mistake. It's good not to experience poverty, but I think it's good to know what poverty is as long as poverty exists.

Note: David Bruce is a retired English and Philosophy teacher who taught at Ohio University in Athens, Ohio.

APPENDIX C: SOME BOOKS BY DAVID BRUCE

Retellings of a Classic Work of Literature

Ben Jonson's The Alchemist: A Retelling

Ben Jonson's Bartholomew Fair: A Retelling

Ben Jonson's Volpone, or the Fox: A Retelling

Christopher Marlowe's Complete Plays: Retellings

Christopher Marlowe's Dido, Queen of Carthage: A Retelling

Christopher Marlowe's Doctor Faustus: Retellings of the 1604 A-Text and of the 1616 B-Text

Christopher Marlowe's Edward II: A Retelling

Christopher Marlowe's The Massacre at Paris: A Retelling

Christopher Marlowe's The Rich Jew of Malta: A Retelling

Christopher Marlowe's Tamburlaine, Parts 1 and 2: Retellings

Dante's Divine Comedy: A Retelling in Prose

Dante's Inferno: A Retelling in Prose

Dante's Purgatory: A Retelling in Prose

Dante's Paradise: A Retelling in Prose

The Famous Victories of Henry V: A Retelling

From the Iliad to the Odyssey: A Retelling in Prose of Quintus of Smyrna's Posthomerica

George Peele's The Old Wives' Tale: A Retelling

The History of King Leir: A Retelling

Homer's Iliad: A Retelling in Prose

Homer's Odyssey: A Retelling in Prose

***Jason and the Argonauts: A Retelling in Prose of
Apollonius of Rhodes' Argonautica***

John Ford's The Broken Heart: A Retelling

John Ford's Love's Sacrifice: A Retelling

John Ford's 'Tis Pity She's a Whore: A Retelling

John Ford's The Queen: A Retelling

King Edward III: A Retelling

***Robert Greene's Friar Bacon and Friar Bungay: A
Retelling***

Tarlton's Jests: A Retelling

***The Trojan War and Its Aftermath: Four Ancient Epic
Poems***

Virgil's Aeneid: A Retelling in Prose

***William Shakespeare's 5 Late Romances: Retellings in
Prose***

William Shakespeare's 10 Histories: Retellings in Prose

William Shakespeare's 11 Tragedies: Retellings in Prose

William Shakespeare's 12 Comedies: Retellings in Prose

William Shakespeare's 38 Plays: Retellings in Prose

***William Shakespeare's 1 Henry IV, aka Henry IV, Part
1: A Retelling in Prose***

William Shakespeare's 2 Henry IV, aka Henry IV, Part 2: A Retelling in Prose

William Shakespeare's 1 Henry VI, aka Henry VI, Part 1: A Retelling in Prose

William Shakespeare's 2 Henry VI, aka Henry VI, Part 2: A Retelling in Prose

William Shakespeare's 3 Henry VI, aka Henry VI, Part 3: A Retelling in Prose

William Shakespeare's All's Well that Ends Well: A Retelling in Prose

William Shakespeare's Antony and Cleopatra: A Retelling in Prose

William Shakespeare's As You Like It: A Retelling in Prose

William Shakespeare's The Comedy of Errors: A Retelling in Prose

William Shakespeare's Coriolanus: A Retelling in Prose

William Shakespeare's Cymbeline: A Retelling in Prose

William Shakespeare's Hamlet: A Retelling in Prose

William Shakespeare's Henry V: A Retelling in Prose

William Shakespeare's Henry VIII: A Retelling in Prose

William Shakespeare's Julius Caesar: A Retelling in Prose

William Shakespeare's King John: A Retelling in Prose

William Shakespeare's King Lear: A Retelling in Prose

William Shakespeare's Love's Labor's Lost: A Retelling in Prose

William Shakespeare's Macbeth: A Retelling in Prose

William Shakespeare's Measure for Measure: A Retelling in Prose

William Shakespeare's The Merchant of Venice: A Retelling in Prose

William Shakespeare's The Merry Wives of Windsor: A Retelling in Prose

William Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream: A Retelling in Prose

William Shakespeare's Much Ado About Nothing: A Retelling in Prose

William Shakespeare's Othello: A Retelling in Prose

William Shakespeare's Pericles, Prince of Tyre: A Retelling in Prose

William Shakespeare's Richard II: A Retelling in Prose

William Shakespeare's Richard III: A Retelling in Prose

William Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet: A Retelling in Prose

William Shakespeare's The Taming of the Shrew: A Retelling in Prose

William Shakespeare's The Tempest: A Retelling in Prose

William Shakespeare's Timon of Athens: A Retelling in Prose

William Shakespeare's Titus Andronicus: A Retelling in Prose

William Shakespeare's Troilus and Cressida: A Retelling in Prose

William Shakespeare's Twelfth Night: A Retelling in Prose

William Shakespeare's The Two Gentlemen of Verona: A Retelling in Prose

William Shakespeare's The Two Noble Kinsmen: A Retelling in Prose

William Shakespeare's The Winter's Tale: A Retelling in Prose

Children's Biography

Nadia Comaneci: Perfect Ten

Personal Finance

How to Manage Your Money: A Guide for the Non-Rich

Anecdote Collections

250 Anecdotes About Opera

250 Anecdotes About Religion

250 Anecdotes About Religion: Volume 2

250 Music Anecdotes

Be a Work of Art: 250 Anecdotes and Stories

The Coolest People in Art: 250 Anecdotes

The Coolest People in the Arts: 250 Anecdotes

The Coolest People in Books: 250 Anecdotes

The Coolest People in Comedy: 250 Anecdotes

Create, Then Take a Break: 250 Anecdotes

Don't Fear the Reaper: 250 Anecdotes

The Funniest People in Art: 250 Anecdotes

The Funniest People in Books: 250 Anecdotes

The Funniest People in Books, Volume 2: 250 Anecdotes

The Funniest People in Books, Volume 3: 250 Anecdotes

The Funniest People in Comedy: 250 Anecdotes

The Funniest People in Dance: 250 Anecdotes

The Funniest People in Families: 250 Anecdotes

The Funniest People in Families, Volume 2: 250 Anecdotes

The Funniest People in Families, Volume 3: 250 Anecdotes

The Funniest People in Families, Volume 4: 250 Anecdotes

The Funniest People in Families, Volume 5: 250 Anecdotes

The Funniest People in Families, Volume 6: 250 Anecdotes

The Funniest People in Movies: 250 Anecdotes

The Funniest People in Music: 250 Anecdotes

The Funniest People in Music, Volume 2: 250 Anecdotes

The Funniest People in Music, Volume 3: 250 Anecdotes

The Funniest People in Neighborhoods: 250 Anecdotes

The Funniest People in Relationships: 250 Anecdotes

The Funniest People in Sports: 250 Anecdotes

The Funniest People in Sports, Volume 2: 250 Anecdotes

The Funniest People in Television and Radio: 250 Anecdotes

The Funniest People in Theater: 250 Anecdotes

The Funniest People Who Live Life: 250 Anecdotes

The Funniest People Who Live Life, Volume 2: 250 Anecdotes

The Kindest People Who Do Good Deeds, Volume 1: 250 Anecdotes

The Kindest People Who Do Good Deeds, Volume 2: 250 Anecdotes

Maximum Cool: 250 Anecdotes

The Most Interesting People in Movies: 250 Anecdotes

The Most Interesting People in Politics and History: 250 Anecdotes

The Most Interesting People in Politics and History, Volume 2: 250 Anecdotes

The Most Interesting People in Politics and History, Volume 3: 250 Anecdotes

The Most Interesting People in Religion: 250 Anecdotes

The Most Interesting People in Sports: 250 Anecdotes

The Most Interesting People Who Live Life: 250 Anecdotes

The Most Interesting People Who Live Life, Volume 2: 250 Anecdotes

Reality is Fabulous: 250 Anecdotes and Stories

Resist Psychic Death: 250 Anecdotes

Seize the Day: 250 Anecdotes and Stories

APPENDIX D: ABOUT THE AUTHOR

It was a dark and stormy night. Suddenly a cry rang out, and on a hot summer night in 1954, Josephine, wife of Carl Bruce, gave birth to a boy — me. Unfortunately, this young married couple allowed Reuben Saturday, Josephine’s brother, to name their first-born. Reuben, aka “The Joker,” decided that Bruce was a nice name, so he decided to name me Bruce Bruce. I have gone by my middle name — David — ever since.

Being named Bruce David Bruce hasn’t been all bad. Bank tellers remember me very quickly, so I don’t often have to show an ID. It can be fun in charades, also. When I was a counselor as a teenager at Camp Echoing Hills in Warsaw, Ohio, a fellow counselor gave the signs for “sounds like” and “two words,” then she pointed to a bruise on her leg twice. Bruise Bruise? Oh yeah, Bruce Bruce is the answer!

Uncle Reuben, by the way, gave me a haircut when I was in kindergarten. He cut my hair short and shaved a small bald spot on the back of my head. My mother wouldn’t let me go to school until the bald spot grew out again.

Of all my brothers and sisters (six in all), I am the only transplant to Athens, Ohio. I was born in Newark, Ohio, and have lived all around Southeastern Ohio. However, I moved to Athens to go to Ohio University and have never left.

At Ohio U, I never could make up my mind whether to major in English or Philosophy, so I got a bachelor’s degree with a double major in both areas, then I added a Master of Arts degree in English and a Master of Arts degree in Philosophy. Yes, I have my MAMA degree.

Currently, and for a long time to come (I eat fruits and veggies), I am spending my retirement writing books such as *Nadia Comaneci: Perfect 10*, *The Funniest People in Dance*, *Homer's Iliad: A Retelling in Prose*, and *William Shakespeare's Othello: A Retelling in Prose*.