

The Question Phase – Already?

My daughter Disney is not yet 2 and has already entered the question phase – a time of life when a child asks questions about anything and everything. It seems a little early for this; I don't seem to remember her two older sisters entering the question phase until about 3½ or 4 years old. Heck, at Disney's age Samantha was busy painting with poop!

But as we know, all kids are different (thank goodness for that because we already have a Sammie), and so we welcome Disney's transition into the question phase. Since it's just beginning, she doesn't yet ask questions about how things work, but rather about where her favorite people are. It's really cute since she gets this little inquisitive look on her face and because she's not even 2 yet, her questions aren't very well formed. We know what she means though, and try to answer the best we can. Some of her favorite questions are: "What Daddy doin'?" "Where Taywer (translation: big sister Taylor) go?" "What Sammie doin'?"

I guess most of her questions do revolve around the whereabouts of her loved ones... an example of her super-sweet nature. Disney truly cares about other people and she is such a sweet little girl – always saying please and thank you even when it's not expected of her. So this isn't a full example of the questions phase – that title will be reserved for the sometimes difficult-to-answer questions that revolve around "why"? Like... Why is the sky blue? Why does Sammie get more candy than I do? Why can't we have a kitty? Why do I have to go to school? Why is Mommy's hair turning gray?

Disney's inquisitive face:



Mine is smaller than yours!

Wait- that's not quite how the saying goes of two boys comparing sizes, is it? Well, in second grade apparently that is quite the appropriate comparison for comparing the lengths of their pencils. Literally speaking of course- how can you even think...! ☐ Oh, never mind. Anyway, the lower grades can prove to be quite interesting as the way a small child thinks is so alien to adults. In the case I mentioned, two boys were in competition to see who could use the shortest stub of a pencil. The clear winner was the one who sharpened his pencil so much only the metal eraser band was left with only a small point at the other end. The next day, there was a boy who would break the point on his pencil on purpose and just use the broken tip. I guess that actually beats the stub from the day before. Including last Wednesday, I kind of just worked my way down the hall from one second grade room to the next. Each room had its own challenges and own interesting characters.

Umm, 'scuse me a minute while a close my window. A skunk just walked by... There. Whew. Where was I? Oh- characters. The latest room had a boy who liked to fight and apparently did so

at recess time yesterday. He was supposed to spend lunch with the principal today, but he didn't show up. Did his mom keep him home? There was also the hearing-impaired girl who required me to wear a microphone. I had to try to remember to take it off when I wasn't talking to the whole class or to her. For some reason I thought it would be a good idea to stuff it in my shirt pocket when not in use. Bad idea of course. Instead of getting me talking to others, she got the scratching of the microphone against the material of my shirt. She never told me. Only during the afternoon today did she tell her one-on-one assistant who told me. Apparently Pokemon is still in fashion, as one boy showed me his small book of cards he would take with him to lunch. And you already read about the pencil boys.

Of course as is normal for primary grades, there was the ever-present "this is how we do things and so you'd better get it exactly right." Okay, it wasn't that bad but small children really aren't as flexible as older ones when it comes to routine. speaking of routine, it was nice how the teachers worked together and had their classes doing a lot of the same things. Some of the stuff I got to teach more than one class, making it easier for the second since I already knew what I was doing. All-in-all, it really wasn't that bad working the five days with second grade. Experience normally has me dreading multiple primary days as so much extra focus is required compared to the older ones, but this wasn't bad at all, perhaps because the teachers were still there (doing testing) and checked in from time to time taking some of the pressure off. I don't know. Tomorrow will be a little different in any event. I have two half-days for music, but I might drop the afternoon because there's a job fair going on at that time that I should attend.

EDIT: I forgot to mention the "does this look like the face of a guilty person" look of innocence one of the boys gave me when I asked him to change his card (behavior system). It

reminded me of when a sixth-grader tried this a couple of years ago with another teacher. It failed then too- the teacher just said (a little sarcastically), “aww- how cute” then gave him his punishment anyway.

A FUN Quiz For A Change

I received an email today and thought it was one in an endless stream of useless waste of time pieces of junk. Even reading it I was hesitant, but after following the link and following the instructions, I found it to be very accurate although I do have to question one of the qualities it listed:

- “Fruity and adventurous” the adventurous DEFINITELY; however, fruity? I don’t think so.

Which brings me to the big topic of the day. Who cares who sleeps with whom? I think there are much more important issues in the world than the fact that Clay Aiken came out of the closet. I was TRYING to watch the new [Knight Rider](#) (which is one of the best NEW offerings this season... which usually means it will be gone within a month) last night and I swear I heard the news at least 5 times in one hour. Live and let live.

Ok... back to the topic at hand. Follow the link, follow the directions and see if you find yourself:

[Http://DNA.imagini.net/friends](http://DNA.imagini.net/friends)

Is Lakeview Terrace Fireproof?

I saw the movie [Lakeview Terrace](#) yesterday, and I decided to merge it with the title of another movie, Fireproof, for my post title because Fireproof almost stole the show.

An action thriller starring [Samuel L. Jackson](#), Lakeview Terrace is about a tough Los Angeles cop who does not like his new neighbors, seemingly because they are an interracial couple. He makes indirect threats, among other things, and the couple has trouble at first determining whether or not they're making something of nothing. As the tension escalates however, it soon becomes clear that their neighbor is in fact mentally unstable, and as he comes closer and closer to cracking, the couple has no one to call for help because of the camaraderie between police officers known as the "blue wall of silence". The movie was entertaining to watch; it wasn't as good as I had hoped but just as good as I expected – one of those movies where they showed most of the good parts in the previews. It was very predictable yet also very good at establishing mood throughout. For instance, at times, the tension that was built in the movie – and the theater – was so thick you could have cut it with a knife. They did a nice job of setting the mood of the neighborhood also; a nice homey-like cul-de-sac, complete with barking dog nestled in the California hills gave it both a nice family feeling and also played up the isolation factor. I thought Samuel L. Jackson was really good in this movie – the way he delivered some of his lines was effective in subtly portraying his disdain for his neighbors. And the reason for his racial prejudices was surprising and an interesting addition to the plot. The movie did put the spotlight on many racial issues in a thought-provoking manner.

Overall, a very entertaining movie, even though some of the

events that I think were meant to surprise the audience did not because the movie was predictable. The other criticisms I have with it are that none of the characters were likable – it was difficult to root for the couple who was being picked on by Jackson because they each had some serious character flaws. Also, it was not believable that an LA cop would have enough money to be able to afford the house where he resided – nestled in the hills outside of Los Angeles, the houses featured in the movie had spectacular views, gorgeous landscaping, and the neighbors had a beautiful in-ground pool. How the neighbor could afford what would probably be a multi-million dollar house as his “starter home” on a grocery store management position’s salary, I do not know. Hey, Jamiahsh, when you get your house in the hills of LA with your in-ground pool and luxury patio furniture, can we visit?

Another thing I found strange about Lakeview Terrace was the impending wildfire that threatened the neighborhood – I didn’t see the point in it. Maybe to further illustrate the isolation the couple felt as their neighbor tormented them? I don’t know, but it fits in well with the title of my post because of another movie that’s coming out called [Fireproof](#). As we bought our tickets, the worker at the movie theater asked if we had heard of Fireproof and gave us a flier. We hadn’t heard a word about it, and she said that some church bought up all the vouchers they were selling for the movie. They weren’t going to get the movie if they didn’t sell enough vouchers, but apparently they sold well over what they expected. I was intrigued because I hadn’t heard of the movie before and wondered why it was getting so much underground buzz. Since we got home late last night and went right to bed, before I had a chance to look it up it was talked about on the Dr. Phil show this morning. Apparently it stars [Kirk Cameron](#), and it’s about a firefighter who tries to save his marriage by doing a 40-day experiment called “The Love Dare”. Hmmm, I still don’t really get it, but I think it’s neat that it’s getting so much buzz without being a mainstream movie and

showing previews and all that jazz. It's supposed to be a really good movie, thought provoking and well-written, and that isn't just coming from Kirk Cameron – it's on imdb.com. Hopefully it will be at the theater for longer than its limited run so I can check it out. A bit of interesting trivia I found out about it – Kirk Cameron made a promise to [Chelsea Noble](#), his wife of 17 years that he wouldn't ever kiss another woman, on screen or off. So in the part of the movie where they needed a shot of him kissing his movie wife, his real wife was a stand-in so they could get the shot of the husband and wife kissing. I think it's sweet, but some people used it as a reason to pick on [Cameron saying he doesn't understand acting](#)... Oh, well, you can't please everyone!

Near disaster

Last night I was a bit exhausted from work, short nights of sleep, choir on the weekend, small group... Well, you get the picture. So it is understandable that when I read a news item about some new Vista Ultimate extras and I went to Windows update to get them and saw SP1 asking to be installed instead, I decided why not?

Well, as it turns out, the answer to that question is the reason it showed up for me so many months after its release. I forgot that I rejected it a while back due to problems I read about. What problems you ask? Failed installations for starters. No problem, right? I can always restore if there's a problem. Why not just forget for the moment this is the infamous Microsoft we're discussing? Yeah, sure, I did. ☐

I didn't remember I rejected it, and I didn't remember the installation issues. So as I said I started the installation,

which by the way said could take over an hour and did even on this fast machine of mine. I should say unsuccessful installation. It *seemed* like it worked, but then it rebooted, disk activity for a while, then... blue screen of death. Great... Okay, rebooted to try again, same results. Starting to feel the dread coming on I chose to repair next time and it asked me if I wanted to restore. Sigh. All that time wasted. I clicked yes and waited. And waited. And waited. Eventually, I looked at the hard drive activity light and no activity. What? I unsuccessfully tried a few other things and eventually wound up at the restore application itself (the other was the repair app) and noticed all the points I could choose from. All one of them that is. The SP1 installation created a point and decided, hey why not delete the old restore points? Gee, thanks Microsoft. Well, I tried the one restore point and started the process. Things were looking good until it got to the end where it was "finalizing the restore." At this point (no pun intended) all hard drive activity stopped and the finalizing animation kept going, and going... Clearly, this was the point where the repair program failed.

I looked online on the other computer and found out that this was a common problem, and there were few solutions. I wound up downloading a Vista recovery CD and a Ubuntu (Linux) CD in case I had to restore the entire system. With that, I could hopefully move critical files to the D: drive before reformatting. You may have noticed in the headline I wrote **near** disaster. As it turned out, I didn't need the Linux CD because the Vista recovery CD worked. Not that I expected it to after I saw it just had the same tools as on my HD that I already tried. I tried the repair, and it actually found a problem. Maybe. It said the boot record was corrupt and repaired it. Reboot. Nope. Now it seemed worse. Wonderful. I booted the CD again and tried the restore program just for kicks. Well, surprise surprise- no, really- **it actually finished the restore!** By now the computer had my

full attention as I watched it reboot, start loading, get past the problem point, get to the GUI, and... LOGIN SCREEN! YES!!

Lesson learned- no service packs on **this** computer, a big thanks but no thanks. Security updates, but no big service packs. And I think my next software purchase will be a good backup program that is hopefully mostly painless unlike the basic one included with the OS. Ghost maybe? During yesteryear it was supposed to be a good program. Now...?

Well, back to the regular posts next time.

Williams County Murders

The other night some friends and I had a conversation about local murders that have taken place in our county. Because we are a rural county, murders here are few and far between. A resident city council member who is also a local historian gives a yearly presentation, usually on Halloween, detailing the murders in Williams County, Ohio. Because many people know everyone else, he doesn't cover anything past the 1950's, but I was able to find some information on my own. For the incidents that did take place a long time ago, many of the circumstances are interesting as they reflect the moods and cultural attitudes of times past. Being both a researcher of local history and a true crime buff, I've attended several of these presentations and decided to share the notes I've taken for those who are interested:

Williams County Murders

6/20/1847 – W. Unity – David Schamp murdered by Andrew F. Tyler and Daniel Heckerthorne. Buried in German cemetery on Cty Rd. K. Botched ransom kidnapping – family farm is 1/2 mi.

W of US127. 4 pg article in Bryan Times on 150th anniversary. In 1939, Ralph Gall wrote several articles in Inside Detective Magazine (June, July, Aug) about the crime.

3/23/1865 – Bryan – Conrad Rutman murdered by unknown – found hung in outhouse

12/1/1868 – West Jefferson – Unknown female infant by unknown

12/3/1873 – Bryan – Peter Himes by Ben Evarts

4/8/1875 – Bryan N. Main St. – unknown infant found in cigar box just N of RR trks

5/17/1877 – Denmark – unknown male infant

2/21/1878 – Bryan – unknown male infant

7/25/1878 – W Unity – Infant Loveless by mother, Lucy Loveless. Father of infant was mother's brother in law.

4/7/1880 – Edgerton – Unknown f infant

6/3/1880 – Edgerton – James Marshall by unknown

9/11/1880 – Bryan, dwntwn, N side of square – John Burchell, Jr. by William Everett – gut cut in fight

5/2/1883 – Melbern – Jacob Nihart killed with ax by mentally ill wife, Saloma Nihart. Both buried in Brown cemetery.

7/21/1889 – Edgerton – Sarah Hoadley (71) and Christian Newman (72) by Hiram Hoadley, Jr. (45). Murder / Suicide – in process of divorce, didn't want to pay \$2,000. Divorce announcement in same issue of newspaper as the murders.

8/26/1891 – Montpelier – Milton Hogue by Perry Yoder

1/11/1892 – W. Unity – Infant Hayes – female, by Dr. Frank O. Hart

2/20/1892 – Bryan, SW corner of Beech and High. Tom Murphy age 63 by unknown

5/4/1892 – Bryan. Alley next to Christmas Manor went thru to High St. before Central School building was there. Arthur Brown, about 22 yrs old, was at a saloon bragging about having a lot of money. He was murdered by George and Michael Burchell, Walter Plummer, and William Elkins. Witnessed by little girl from window of her house on W Butler. Story featured in "Native Sons Gone Wrong" booklet. Victim buried in Old Pulaski cemetery across from Winery.

5/8/1898 – Florence – Unknown Male infant

7/2/1904 – Bryan, just N of overpass. Noah Schartzler shot by unknown. Buried in Brown cemetery. Case of mistaken identity. Stopped and checked every train between S Bend and Toledo.

6/7/1905 – Montpelier – unknown infant

9/21/1905 – Montpelier, E of Bryan on RR trks – August Julius by unknown

2/7/1914 – Bryan, W side of Portland St. 2nd blk. Portland and Mulberry – murder/suicide – Blanche Stauffer by Charles Stauffer. 12 pg suicide letter – “She was a hard person to live with.”

11/10/1914 – Pioneer – Joe Varada by Joe Dohon. argument over wheelbarrow, shovel over head, both Hungarians.

3/14/16 – W. Unity – Mrs. Andre by Wilson Andre

6/12/18 – Montpelier – Alex Grant by James Morgan. Morgan (Afrcn/Amer.) wanted to get from Chicago to Detroit, didn't have any \$, so he hid in the btrm on a train where Grant was conductor. Morgan was executed in Columbus, picture from OH Dept. of Prisons

9/29/27 – Montpelier – James Andrews (Afrcn/Amer.) by unknown

12/11/27 – Stryker – Celina Huber by Camiel Clark who was fined \$125 for liquor violations. Huber, age 39, was cut during fight, went to lay down, bled to death.

1/4/32 – Bryan – Fred Wonser, Jr. and Margaret Wonser by Lewis Wonser

12/28/36 – Bryan – Frank Lewis by William White

12/1/38 – Edgerton – Vern Eck, age 42 by Nona Goeltzenluchter. Murder-suicide. Having an affair, though both married to other people. She was accusing him of seeing yet another woman.

6/14/45 – Pioneer – Murder/Suicide. Mary Jane, Earl, Alice May, Betty Lou, Alva Stoner by their father, Alfred Stoner, age 38, just gotten back from WWII, distant cousin of Mark Kelly (murders in Wms Cty speaker). Drove himself and kids into gravel pit S of Pioneer while wife was in hospital giving birth to baby 6. Over 1,000 people showed up to watch the search for the bodies.

9/19/46 – Bryan – Emily Abernathy, age 30 by James Engle, age 21. Jim was drinking a coke across the street at the bowling alley when the body of his victim was found in the library – rumor has it he watched them secure the crime scene as he was sipping his coke. She had been strangled, beaten, and cut with a pen knife, died from strangulation. Jim confessed – said he wanted to see what it was like to kill someone. Paroled in 1974, moved to Bryan in 1989, currently resides in local nursing home. Crime was chronicled in tv show “The Big Story”, but the show upset Bryanites.

5/5/1948 – Bryan – John (age 56) and Pearl (age 63) Gabriel by Ervin “Bud” Ingle, age 14, “King of 8th grade”. They were his neighbors, and he wanted to borrow their car. There is a rumor that Mrs. Gabriel liked young boys, and John did the killing. Years later, Bud was a chauffer for the governor, and the governor thought highly of him and wrote a book. There was a photo of Pearl’s body in the newspaper.

1/2/50 – Edgerton – Helen Bigger by Vernon O. Bigger – father in law of victim, possible molestation.

5/5/50 – Melbern – George and Evalina Fisher by their grandson, Jack Hartman.

9/12/51 – West Unity – Celia Walters by Edwin Walters

8/18/59 – Pioneer – James W. Elliott by unknown

9/11/59 – Blakeslee – William Bigger by Harold H. Bostater

12/29/61 – Blakeslee – Howard Tanner by Ned Eugene Tanner

8/18/63 – Montpelier – Dean Allen Nichols by David W. Nichols

6/22/64 – Pioneer – Dr. William Crall by Frank Patalon

5/21/66 – Montpelier – John McCamis by Raymond Burgess

8/31/68 – Stryker – Eben Henry Harney by William O. Bolster

10/12/71 – Stryker – John F. Meisner by Thomas E. Elliott

9/30/72 – Stryker – Judi Hagerman by Jon Garber

4/28/76 – Edgerton – Deborah Unger by Jeffrey Ailiff

3/15/77 – Bryan – Danny Hanisko by Lawrence E. Finn

6/19/90 – West Unity – Genieve Willene and Orlo E. Ansley by William Ansley

2/2/91 – Montpelier – Travis Pospeshil by Timothy Kelley.

Invol. mansltr. released from prison 9/11/06

2/7/92 – Montpelier – Torilyn Contreras by Jonathon Leggett – Invol. Mansltr.

9/30/96 – Melbern – Brenda Sue Kafai by Rocky W. Kafai – invol. mansltr. released 9/23/06

2/15/98 – Edgerton – Beth Garber by Shane Frisbie

12/6/98 – Edgerton – Terri D. Swearingin by William M. Swearingin

12/7/00 – Holiday City – Mary Kosier by Jason Crawford and James Jones Jr. – they kidnapped Mary who was an employee of Econolodge near toll road for robbery, killed her near covered bridge

6/30/01 – Bryan – Thomas G. Flint by Linda Ames (**NOTE** – a reader left a comment below containing additional info about this event. I have not verified the source and am still in the process of research)

Psychic or Fraud?

I don't really believe in psychics. I believe that some people may have a gift where they are psychologically in tune with others and / or nature; leading them to be able to predict happenings or events with some accuracy. For instance, I used to be able to tell who was calling when our phone was ringing (in the days before caller ID). It's not that people called us at regular times or intervals, but I could just "feel" who was on the other end of the line. Not that I think I'm psychic or anything; I think I just learned the behavior patterns of the people who called our house. So I believe that people can have what could be called psychic abilities, especially if they practice and hone their skills, but I don't believe anyone can see the future or anything like that. And I don't believe the self-proclaimed psychic Sylvia Browne possesses any special skills other than the abilities

to defraud and manipulate people, if you want to call those things abilities.

While flipping channels and feeding the baby the other day, I came across the Montel Williams show. Apparently Montel is on his way out after 17 years of being on the air. During the episode the other day, he got teary-eyed as he bid his weekly guest Sylvia Browne good-bye. It got me to thinking; does Montel believe that Sylvia is psychic, or did he just like his audience's reception of her? After a few internet searches on wikipedia.com and youtube.com, I was armed with evidence that Sylvia Browne is a fraud (not that I really needed any, but I found plenty anyway). Here is the first example where Sylvia tries to tell a greiving woman that her missing boyfriend is in water. The woman is confused because her boyfriend was a fireman killed in the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001, and no trace of him was ever found. Watch as Sylvia tries to cover her tracks, backed up by Montel, I might add, with some lame excuse about how the boyfriend might have drowned when they were extinguishing the fire at the World Trade Center. What?!? That doesn't even make sense!

Not only that, but she was on Larry King Live a mere 8 days before the September 11 attacks and didn't say a word about the impending doom. After the attacks, she claimed that she had dreams full of fire in the weeks before the attacks – yet she failed to mention such premonitions on her September 3, 2001 appearance on Larry King!

One more example is the case of Shawn Hornbeck, a preteen who went missing in 2002. Sylvia Browne told Shawn's devastated parents that he was abducted by a dark man with dreadlocks and murdered, and she also provided details about where they could find his body. Four and a half years after his abduction, Shawn was found with Michael Devlin, a white man who had abducted Shawn – a far cry from the so-called “dark man with dreadlocks” who “murdered” him. In this case, it's a very good thing she was wrong – those parents got their son back alive, but one can only imagine the pain they felt when this so-called psychic told them that their son was dead.

There are plenty more examples of this woman's fraudulent behavior – I'm just not going to waste my time writing them nor your time reading them. If you want to see more, go to youtube.com and do a search for “Sylvia Browne”. For fun, you can add words like, “wrong”, “fraud”, or “lie” to your search and see what you come up with. There is also an interesting site called stopsylviabrowne.com that's maintained by one of her biggest opponents. He talks about his experience encountering Sylvia, how she hired a private detective to research him, and his experience at one of her live shows.

Well, enough of that, like I said, I consider the woman a fraud, therefore she's not worth any more of our time to go through the hundreds of instances that prove she is full of BS. I don't know how she can live with herself when she toys with the emotions of the grief-stricken. I suppose she could tell herself that she is helping to give them closure, but if that's the case, I would say to her, “Stop fooling yourself lady, you're causing more harm than good!”

Things I Like...

Not quite a list, because my interests are varied, but some of the things I like to do, all G-rated of course. (I have a daughter or two who may read this. Yes, they are all over 16, but they are still my little girls.)

I like insignificant bits of trivial knowledge. The more trivial the better. Knowledge that Diners Club was the first independent credit card (1949) and that is when the middle man started handling our money is interesting. Knowing that it came about because one of the first partners forgot their wallet at dinner is the cake. Knowing that partner was a man named Frank X. McNamara is the icing. Finding out what his middle name was would be, as they say, priceless.

I like reading. Of all sorts, but I tend to read Science Fiction, Fantasy (Swords/Sorcery), Mysteries, and Trivia on the web. Will read almost any well written book. Great rainy day time filler.

Computers... Yep, I can't get enough of them. I work 8 hours a day on them and then I come home and spend free time on them... You would think I would get tired of the little buggers.

Cooking occasionally. There are times when I really want to whip up a special meal, I just don't like doing it everyday. But, you have to eat...

Time spent with friends. I'm glad to say I have a few people in my life, that don't seem to mind having me around. My wife used to call this "Adult Time". Sometimes, I think we adults act a bit like children, but that is part of the fun.

Softball and Baseball. Baseball is the only sport I ever really followed (I played at one time too). No matter how old I get, if I can still swing a bat and toddle down to first base, I plan on playing softball as often as I can. If I would do it more often, I imagine I wouldn't be as sore the next day...

Theater. In my college years, I never would have thought I would want to get on stage in front of people. Wasn't me at all in my early years. I've had a lot of fun doing my ham-bit on stage.

Science and math. Things that make my logical little brain tick. You've got to keep the gears greased to keep everything running smooth, and that's what the Science and math does for me...

A bit of wood working. I really like destruction the best, but I like using power tools. The smell of cut wood is something too.

And last but certainly not least, I like my family. Every dang one of them. They helped form the person I am today (along with many others I've met along the way) and since I tend to like the person I became, I guess I could thank them once or twice... Nah, it would go to their heads wouldn't it.

For Good

It has been just over a week since Emily's memorial service; however, I had to include one of the most emotional moments. A soloist sang a song that I knew that I had to know but at the time could not remember from where. It was THAT powerful. While listening to my library of songs on my itunes shuffle,

the song [For Good](#) from the musical [Wicked](#) played. AHAHA. Just hearing the words to the beautiful song took me back not only to the service but through many of my most cherished moments with Emily. Amazing the power of the gift that she helped me cultivate for so many years.

I've heard it said
That people come into our lives for a reason
Bringing something we must learn
And we are led
To those who help us most to grow
If we let them
And we help them in return
Well, I don't know if I believe that's true
But I know I'm who I am today
Because I knew you...

Like a comet pulled from orbit
As it passes a sun
Like a stream that meets a boulder
Halfway through the wood
Who can say if I've been changed for the better?
But because I knew you
I have been changed for good

It well may be
That we will never meet again
In this lifetime
So let me say before we part
So much of me
Is made of what I learned from you
You'll be with me
Like a handprint on my heart
And now whatever way our stories end
I know you have re-written mine
By being my friend...

Like a ship blown from its mooring
By a wind off the sea
Like a seed dropped by a skybird
In a distant wood
Who can say if I've been changed for the better?
But because I knew you
Because I knew you
I have been changed for good

And just to clear the air
I ask forgiveness
For the things I've done you blame me for
But then, I guess we know
There's blame to share
And none of it seems to matter anymore



Like a comet pulled from orbit
As it passes a sun
Like a stream that meets a boulder
Halfway through the wood

Like a ship blown from its mooring
By a wind off the sea
Like a seed dropped by a bird in the wood
Who can say if I've been
Changed for the better?
I do believe I have been
Changed for the better

And because I knew you...
Because I knew you...
Because I knew you...
I have been changed for good...

Everyone has at one time turned to someone be it a parent, sibling, friend, teacher, or even a complete stranger and been changed profoundly in some way. Thank you for being that someone to not only myself but to all those whose lives you

touched, For Good.

 	<p>Wicked (Piano/Vocal Selections) (A New Musical) By Stephen Schwartz. Songbook for voice, piano and guitar chords. This edition is in standard piano/vocal format with the melody in the piano part. 120 pages. Published by Hal Leonard. (HL.313267) See more info...</p>
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The test of Time

The final game at Yankee Stadium had an effect on this true Yankee Hater... For years I've rooted for any team but the Yankees. If the Tigers weren't playing, my favorite team of the day was whoever was playing the Yankees. That said, Yankee stadium was one of the last great baseball parks. So much history will be lost.

In the American league only Fenway remains as one of the "Old" parks. In the National league, only Wrigley field (home of the cubs) remains as one of the old parks. 1912 and 1914 respectively these two ball fields are the last to stand up to the Test of Time. From the Green Monster to the Ivy covered walls, baseball is just a bit different at these two parks.

These are not the cookie cutter parks from the 60's and 70's with their artificial turf and half circle outfield walls. The old parks do have some home field advantage. These are not the parks from the 80's and 90's that had closer to little league dimensions (ok, I'm stretching it a little), but check out the dimensions of Camden Yards and Jacobs Field (excuse me Progressive Field). The old parks, Yankee Stadium, the old Tiger Stadium, even Cominsky park and Cleveland's Municipal park had character.

They have tried to do that with some of the recent ball fields, but only time will tell if they made good decisions. Ballparks that were new in the early 70's are now gone too.. Why didn't fields in Houston, Cincinnati, Pittsburgh last more than few decades.

I'm not sure of the future of the two oldest ballparks in the major leagues, but I would love to see both last until at least their 100th anniversary. I'm sure there are plans in the works, if not already in development for these cities, but wouldn't it be something if they could hold off until 2012 and 2014. We need more things that can pass the test of time..