

A 30,000 Piece Puzzle In My Cookie

AH... Saturday... nothing to do, day off. I watched *Star Trek III: The Search for Spock* (can't beat Doc Brown chewing the scenery as a Klingon baddie getting kicked by the ever poetic William Shatner..."**I...have HAD... ENOUGH of...YOU!**"). Then watched the start of the ball game before heading to church and some grocery shopping (UGH... grocery shopping). However, we did have some Chinese. Mass was interesting: the musicians decided to not show so Father Jim led the congregation in "Jesus Christ is Risen Today" a capella. I've heard worse. The remainder of mass was music-less. Someone asked why I did not jump up and volunteer to lead. Since it was not my home parish and I was not appropriately dressed (I did not have time to change out of my jeans and sweatshirt before we left... last minute thing) I said "Not today." Hmm... kind of reminds me of another [tangenteer's](#) latest post!

At the Chinese restaurant, my fortune was actually one of the most fitting I have ever received. "You have a great appreciation for the arts and music." REALLY... A great appreciation sounds just a bit less than reality but I'll take it! I did not even ask "What kind of fortune is that?" I had to make sure that the cookie was not opened beforehand, but I did take it out of the sealed wrapper. Six year old Alyssa's said: "Sell Your Ideas They Are Worldly Appropriate." Her idea: "To be on Spongebob." ☐

While at the 'Mart, I was asked to go to the toy department. Sounded more fun than wandering around the grocery aisles. Push push here and honk that bicycle horn! Buy me this! 30,000 piece puzzles (well... 300 piece Cinderella's Castle puzzle that looked fun). Tossed around the Nerf balls. Whatever happened to the cool Star Wars blasters. Out of stock? Then the inevitable bathroom break that seemed to take

20 minutes... and of course both girls had to go at the same time... imagine that! But in the end, I came out relatively unscathed and not a penny poorer than I went in.. so all was good!

A Big Sarcastic THANKS

THANKS – to the one who got us the 300 piece puzzle for Christmas. Granted, 300 pieces are not too many for a puzzle. But normal puzzles usually have the person putting together a broken portrait, like a picture of a landscape or a scene. But the puzzle given to my 10-year-old back in December was a depiction of a collection of small toys clustered together on some shelves – what seemed like 300 toys broken into 300 pieces which we were supposed to piece together...

I wanted to do this puzzle together as a family days after it was given to us, but since that was one of the worst weekends of my life, we didn't get around to it. Tonight, my 10-year-old was having trouble sleeping after her little sisters had gone to bed, so we hauled it out and went to work. Thank goodness the little ones were asleep. There was no way that they would have felt anything but frustration when trying to do this puzzle – it was too daunting for even my husband to try, but then again, he is not a puzzle person in the slightest. As a matter of fact, when he saw our completed triumph, he asked, "How do we preserve this?" I answered, "Why bother, we'd probably like to do it again; it was fun." He gave me the strangest look and said, "I guess our definitions of fun in this case are completely different."

I'm proud to say that together, my daughter and I finished the "impossible" puzzle about 15 minutes under our two-hour goal.

Here are some pics:



Despite my clever blog post title and in all seriousness, I am thankful for the time that we spent together doing the puzzle, and we will look forward to doing it again. The thanks I would like to expend to the puzzle-giver is not at all sarcastic; we actually had a lot of fun. But that same puzzle-giver should keep a watchful eye... there are now two of us looking to challenge you to an equal payback ☹