



davidbrucehaiku #1

David Bruce



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\*\*\*

**Write five syllables**

**Write seven syllables, then**

**Write five syllables**

\*\*\*

**Five, seven, then five**

**Syllables. Not a haiku?**

**Just add poetry**

\*\*\*

**How to stay alive?**

**One way among many — write**

**A haiku a day**



<https://pixabay.com/en/tattoo-tattooed-girl-white-people-990097/>

\*\*\*

**BODIES**

\*\*\*

**pleasuring body  
should be the same body as  
a pleased body**



**Photo: David Bruce**

\*\*\*

## **BENEVOLENCE**

\*\*\*

**student food pantry**

**genuine benevolence**

**donate Crispy Oats**



<https://pixabay.com/en/lightning-storm-199651/>

\*\*\*

**NOT SAFE**

\*\*\*

**Things that are not safe**

**Can be very attractive**

**Lightning versus light**



<https://pixabay.com/en/dandelion-close-spring-nature-1374627/>

\*\*\*

**DEAD, ALIVE**

\*\*\*

**I am live inside**

**Spring leaves and winter arrives**

**I am dead inside**

\*\*\*

**I am dead inside**

**Winter leaves and spring arrives**

**I am live inside**



<https://pixabay.com/en/girls-children-tulips-netherlands-739071/>

\*\*\*

## FLOWERS

\*\*\*

**Now the flowers bloom**  
**Beautiful things don't last long**  
**Death comes all too soon**



<https://pixabay.com/en/sakura-girl-model-flower-spring-2152080/>

\*\*\*

**SPRING**

\*\*\*

**Now is the season  
Japanese cherry blossoms  
We all feel refreshed**





<https://pixabay.com/en/sun-flower-yellow-summer-blossom-1627179/>

\*\*\*

**SUMMER**

\*\*\*

**Now is the season**

**Warm sun, blue sky, and flowers**

**We all feel refreshed**



<https://pixabay.com/en/autumn-tree-leaves-red-209479/>

\*\*\*

**AUTUMN**

\*\*\*

**Now is the season  
Red and yellow autumn leaves  
We all feel refreshed**



<https://pixabay.com/en/winter-white-cold-snow-wintery-343565/>

\*\*\*

**WINTER**

\*\*\*

**Now is the season  
Snowy winter wonderland  
We all feel refreshed**



<https://pixabay.com/en/girl-with-flowers-photoshoot-hair-1374223/>

\*\*\*

**NONCONFORMIST**

\*\*\*

**Always hide myself?**

**I think, so I don't think so**

**Show my inner self**



<https://pixabay.com/en/woman-carnival-decoration-678315/>

\*\*\*

**BE A WORK OF ART**

\*\*\*

**Why paint a canvas?**

**Paint your own body instead**

**Be a work of art**



<https://pixabay.com/en/family-breastfeeding-mom-dad-son-1350742/>

\*\*\*

## **BREASTFEEDING**

\*\*\*

**How is this evil?**

**Some Americans fear breasts**

**Baby's twin feeders**

\*\*\*

**Only in private?**

**Norman Rockwell would paint this**

**Makes healthy babies**



<https://pixabay.com/en/justitia-goddess-goddess-of-justice-2597016/>

\*\*\*

**BLIND JUSTICE**

\*\*\*

**Blind justice for all  
Something for us to believe  
More than a statue**



<https://pixabay.com/en/the-festival-of-colors-holly-moscow-2374421/>

\*\*\*

## **RAINBOW RAIN**

\*\*\*

**Rain fell and then stopped  
Color-filled rainbow filled sky  
New rain painted me**





[https://cdn.pixabay.com/photo/2017/06/08/02/03/the-festival-of-colors-2382211\\_640.jpg](https://cdn.pixabay.com/photo/2017/06/08/02/03/the-festival-of-colors-2382211_640.jpg)

\*\*\*

## COLOR FESTIVAL

\*\*\*

**Rainbow in the sky**

**New rain fell through the rainbow**

**The rain fell on me**

\*\*\*

**Color festival**

**Like rain passing through rainbow**

**We are the canvas**



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

\*\*\*

## DEFINITION OF PAINT

\*\*\*

### Paint definition

Rain that fell through a rainbow

Just ask a poet

\*\*\*

Rain goes through rainbow

Falls to earth and paints people

Color in our lives



<https://pixabay.com/en/microbiologist-scientist-woman-1332376/>

\*\*\*

**WHAT WOMEN HAVE**

\*\*\*

**What do women have?  
Half of all the human brains  
Let us not waste them**

\*\*\*

**What do women have?  
Of human brainpower half  
Let us not waste it**



<https://pixabay.com/en/child-beach-liangxiaowucai-happy-538029/>

\*\*\*

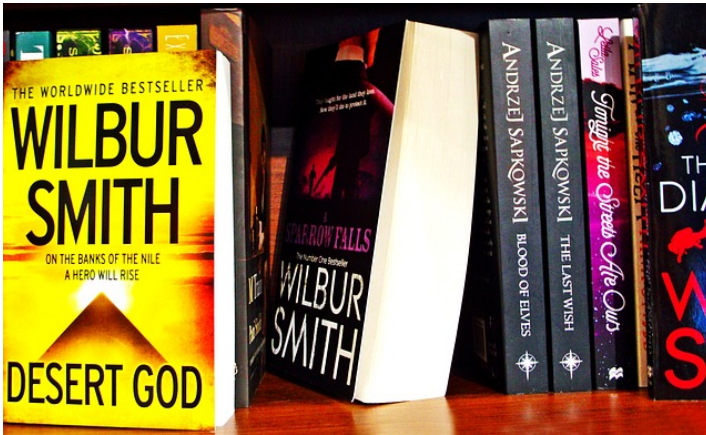
**VOID OF EMPTINESS**

\*\*\*

**Void of emptiness**

**A great thing to be void of**

**Filled with happiness**



<https://pixabay.com/en/background-books-shelf-novels-1090109/>

\*\*\*

## **SWEET, CHEAP VACATIONS**

\*\*\*

**Shelf of paperbacks**

**Romance, mysteries, sci-fi**

**Sweet, cheap vacations**

\*\*\*

**Box of paperbacks**

**Romance, mysteries, sci-fi**

**Sweet, cheap vacations**



<https://pixabay.com/en/femme-fatale-graffiti-wall-paint-2183400/>

\*\*\*

**YOU DON'T GET GOOD ART WITHOUT BAD ART**

\*\*\*

**Graffiti on wall**

**Some good art and some bad art**

**Both kinds are needed**



<https://pixabay.com/en/beautiful-smile-girl-woman-happy-1274360/>

\*\*\*

**CUTE RANDOM**

\*\*\*

**Cute random women**

**Some of life's most pleasant sights**

**Beauty in public**

\*\*\*

**Cute random children**

**Some of life's most pleasant sights**

**Beauty in public**

\*\*\*

**Cute random fashion**

**Some of life's most pleasant sights**

**Beauty in public**



<https://pixabay.com/en/black-and-white-fashion-young-model-2586912/>

\*\*\*

**BLACK IS BEAUTIFUL**

\*\*\*

**Black is beautiful  
It's obvious, isn't it?  
Look at the photo**





<https://pixabay.com/en/woman-person-staring-sea-ocean-801928/>

\*\*\*

**LOVE ATTITUDE**

\*\*\*

**Black is beautiful?**

**Only black is beautiful!**

**Loves a black woman**

\*\*\*

**Black is beautiful**

**All colors are beautiful**

**White is beautiful**



<https://pixabay.com/en/musician-country-song-banjo-ukulele-349790/>

\*\*\*

## CREATIVITY

\*\*\*

**Songs are in the air  
All the time and everywhere  
Reach out and grab one**

\*\*\*

**Poems are in the air  
All the time and everywhere  
Reach out and grab one**



<https://pixabay.com/en/lake-constance-lake-water-nature-1937138/>

\*\*\*

**US AMERICAN OBESITY**

\*\*\*

**it's a pandemic  
the American diet  
has spread worldwide**



<https://pixabay.com/en/agriculture-asia-cambodia-grain-1822530/>

\*\*\*

## TRAVEL

\*\*\*

**the sights we see there  
are not the sights we see here  
and so we travel**

\*\*\*

**what is normal there  
is not our own normal here  
and so we travel**



<https://pixabay.com/en/dinosaur-prehistoric-ancient-dino-702654/>

\*\*\*

**RED**

\*\*\*

**Red in tooth and claw  
Red is a fearsome color  
Red from fearful prey**



<https://pixabay.com/en/hat-girl-tea-2152573/>

\*\*\*

**TEA**

\*\*\*

**The way I make tea  
Squeeze way too many teabags  
A British nightmare**



<https://pixabay.com/en/woman-drinking-coffee-person-601568/>

\*\*\*

**MIRACLE: TURN WATER INTO ?**

\*\*\*

**How special am I?  
Turned water into coffee  
My best miracle**



<https://pixabay.com/en/business-shoes-gentleman-man-pants-2049312/>

\*\*\*

**\$5,000 SOCKS**

\*\*\*

**Man on Judgment Day**

**Wears \$5,000 socks**

**God: "You go to Hell!"**

\*\*\*

**A blind person sees**

**Simple medical magic**

**Seva Foundation**

\*\*\*

**Note: A \$50 donation to Seva Foundation is enough to make a blind person see.**





<https://pixabay.com/en/man-sculpture-art-wonders-talk-1483479/>

\*\*\*

## ART INTERACTION

\*\*\*

**interact with art**  
**communicate with statue**  
**meet an art wonder**



<https://pixabay.com/en/softball-girls-game-athlete-sport-148911/>

\*\*\*

## HOW TO MAKE A FATHER A FEMINIST

\*\*\*

**feminist dad: one  
whose daughter society  
says cannot do stuff**

\*\*\*

**Stupid rules for girls?  
Fathers become feminists  
Stuff society**



<https://pixabay.com/en/street-art-london-eastend-street-2046929/>

\*\*\*

## STREET ART

\*\*\*

once just a blank wall

creator: "Let there be art!"

this art is now real

\*\*\*

only a blank wall

artist: "A perfect 'canvas'!"

new beauty exists



<https://pixabay.com/en/computer-female-girl-isolated-15812/>

\*\*\*

**NEW BEAUTY**

\*\*\*

**only a blank screen  
writer: "A perfect 'canvas'!"  
new beauty arrives**



<https://pixabay.com/en/wheelchair-mobility-disability-2447258/>

\*\*\*

**NOT UNUSUAL THESE DAYS**

\*\*\*

**wheelchairs everywhere**

**diabetes pandemic**

**feet amputated**



<https://pixabay.com/en/raindrop-drop-of-water-rain-water-1913347/>

\*\*\*\*

**CENSORSHIP**

\*\*\*

**Nipples are evil?**

**But only the female ones?**

**Is this pic OK?**



<https://pixabay.com/en/man-model-handsome-happiness-smile-2678998/>

\*\*\*

**Is it art, or life?  
A painting, or a human?  
Both are really real**



<https://pixabay.com/en/museum-art-exhibition-frame-2602957/>

\*\*\*

## MANY SACRED SPACES

\*\*\*

many sacred spaces  
not just churches and temples  
art museums, too

\*\*\*

good art done so well  
no need for taking selfie  
glimpse of heaven's bliss

\*\*\*

see, think, and wonder  
another reality  
appreciation





<https://pixabay.com/en/make-up-ceremonial-dead-woman-face-1761844/>

\*\*\*

**FULLY NAKED**

\*\*\*

**unzip all my skin  
let me see what lies within  
it's fascinating**

\*\*\*

**the stuff of nightmares  
make up a reality  
with horror makeup**



<https://pixabay.com/en/csd-colorful-rainbow-dance-pride-2635593/>

\*\*\*

**TIME OF HIS LIFE**

\*\*\*

**Mister Fabulous**

**Having the time of his life**

**Crowned king of gay pride**



<https://pixabay.com/en/affair-alcohol-anniversary-1238430/>

\*\*\*

## MEMORIES

\*\*\*

**flooding my thoughts are  
memories of that day and  
the following days**



<https://pixabay.com/en/discs-cd-dvd-software-digital-1344774/>

\*\*\*

**WAY TOO MANY DVDs TRY TO WASTE MY TIME**

\*\*\*

**can't fast forward past  
annoying advertising;  
eject and don't watch**

\*\*\*

**I'm going downhill  
I'm past sixty years of age  
F— advertising**



<https://pixabay.com/en/writing-writer-notes-pen-notebook-923882/>

\*\*\*

## **KNOW YOURSELF**

\*\*\*

**people who don't write  
how can they know who they are?  
write and know yourself**



<https://pixabay.com/en/young-woman-girl-sporty-nature-2699780/>

\*\*\*

**DO THINGS IN RIGHT PLACES**

\*\*\*

**place for sightseeing  
not for such exercising  
still, pretty photo**



<https://pixabay.com/en/handcuffs-black-criminal-arrest-2202224/>

\*\*\*

**THUG LIFE**

\*\*\*

**receive and cause pain**  
**what's so great about thug life?**  
**makes no sense to me**



<https://pixabay.com/en/girl-sunglasses-pose-woman-stylish-424918/>

\*\*\*

**TOO COOL TO GET UPSET OVER THIS HAIKU**

\*\*\*

**Am I cool or what?  
I do it without trying  
I like my own skin**





<https://pixabay.com/en/woman-female-lady-girl-attractive-424687/>

\*\*\*

**VERY COOL**

\*\*\*

**very cool woman**

**I know it and you know it**

**no disagreement**

\*\*\*

**very cool woman**

**she knows it and I know it**

**no false modesty**



<https://pixabay.com/en/eyewear-summer-holiday-textile-2701173/>

\*\*\*

**EFFORTLESSLY COOL**

\*\*\*

**effortlessly cool  
she is cool without trying  
why can't I do this?**



<https://pixabay.com/en/beach-sea-ocean-sunset-sunglasses-1127838/>

\*\*\*

## REFLECTION

\*\*\*

**visit nudist camp**

**look at nudist's sunglasses**

**see all — all! — of me**

\*\*\*



<https://pixabay.com/en/sign-no-nude-sunbathing-information-1745393/>

\*\*\*

**SILLY SIGN?**

\*\*\*

**No nude sunbathing?**

**Why? Nude: best way to sunbathe.**

**Some rules don't make sense.**

\*\*\*

**sign can be OK**

**have nude sunbathing elsewhere**

**give people a choice**



<https://pixabay.com/en/hands-compassion-help-old-care-699486/>

\*\*\*

## **EMPATHY LESSONS**

\*\*\*

- Read biographies**
- Experience others' lives**
- Learn to empathize**



<https://pixabay.com/en/hands-pregnant-woman-heart-love-2568594/>

\*\*\*

### **SINGLE MOM'S MEALS**

\*\*\*

**“Save the back for me”**

**Mom’s “favorite” chicken part**

**Gives kids the best parts**

\*\*\*

**Single mother’s meals:**

**Peanut butter on crackers.**

**Her kids eat better.**

\*\*\*

**Special pancake meal**

**The kids think it’s a treat, but**

**No other food here**



<https://pixabay.com/en/girl-colorful-happy-cool-person-438133/>

\*\*\*

## **PAINTED EYEGLASSES**

\*\*\*

**Paint makes me happy  
And makes a great photograph  
Look good, but can't see**



<https://pixabay.com/en/girl-mejk-color-rainbow-model-2696947/>

\*\*\*

**WORK OF ART**

\*\*\*

**I am a canvas**

**I am a true work of art**

**I am a woman**





<https://pixabay.com/en/girl-smiling-kid-cute-young-happy-403511/>

\*\*\*

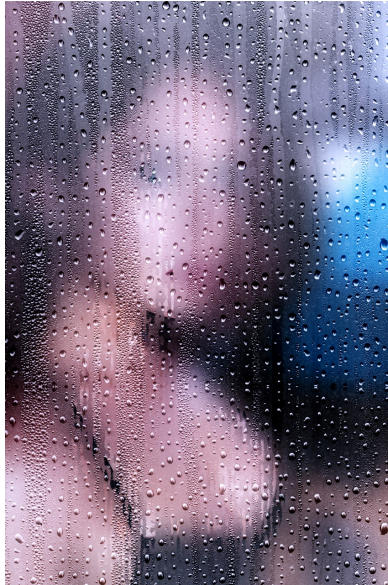
**GOOD-LOOKING REBEL WHO LIVES BY HER  
OWN RULES**

\*\*\*

**Should children babble?**

**I really, really don't care**

**I like to babble**



<https://pixabay.com/en/woman-act-naked-female-sexy-body-2548301/>

\*\*\*

## **GREED**

\*\*\*

**She looks at me, thinks,  
*How much money does he have?***

**Stays away from me**

\*\*\*

**She looks at me, thinks,  
*He can't advance my career***  
**Stays away from me**



<https://pixabay.com/en/artistic-face-woman-forest-2695492/>

\*\*\*

**HUNDRED-DOLLAR BILL**

\*\*\*

**She looks at me, thinks,  
*That's a hundred-dollar bill*  
Comes over to me**



<https://pixabay.com/en/child-lost-anxiety-only-black-429197/>

\*\*\*

## NIGHT THOUGHTS

\*\*\*

**Night thoughts keep me up  
Bad deeds, mistakes, and wrong turns  
I wish I could forget**



<https://pixabay.com/en/gangster-cool-urban-fashion-model-1876017/>

\*\*\*

**IMAGE**

\*\*\*

**Please buy my music  
The songs are all about how  
I'm better than you**

\*\*\*\*

**Yeah, I look so tough  
The very latest fashion  
Wish I could relax**



<https://pixabay.com/en/gangster-tough-per-gang-attitude-539993/>

\*\*\*

**GANGSTER**

\*\*\*

**Do I want this pose?**

**You got milk; I got street cred**

**Would my mom approve?**

\*\*\*

**the furious pursuit**

**of fame and fortune, not art**

**so not a smart man**



<https://pixabay.com/en/leave-girl-poetry-seal-learn-864558/>

\*\*\*

**SUPPOSE POETRY VANISHED FROM OUR MINDS**

\*\*\*

**Poems disappear  
Memory of poems gone  
New poems by noon**



<https://pixabay.com/en/study-girl-writing-notebook-1231394/>

\*\*\*

**POETRY IS DEAD?**

\*\*\*

**Poetry is dead?  
Alive and well and online  
Still much loved by most**

\*\*\*

**Poetry is dead?  
Will die after rock-n-roll  
Day after never**





<https://pixabay.com/en/fashion-woman-clothing-female-1623092/>

\*\*\*

### **FASHION'S GOAL**

\*\*\*

**Fashion has a goal  
Something pretty to look at  
A good deed for all**



<https://pixabay.com/en/woman-mourning-sad-face-cemetery-1672857/>

\*\*\*

**KNOW YOUR OWN FUTURE**

\*\*\*

**know your own future**

**the future of all of us**

**visit a graveyard**



<https://pixabay.com/en/cemetery-grave-graves-tombstone-989920/>

\*\*\*

**OUR GOOD DEEDS PLEAD FOR US ON  
JUDGMENT DAY**

\*\*\*

**Money deserts us  
Family leaves us at grave  
Good deeds stay with us**



<https://pixabay.com/en/people-woman-girl-sitting-alone-2602371/>

\*\*\*

**CANCER**

\*\*\*

**major cancer cause?  
quite simply very bad luck  
cells divide wrongly**



<https://pixabay.com/en/hurricane-matthew-damage-dock-pier-1769035/>

\*\*\*

## HUNGRY GHOSTS

\*\*\*

**small mouths, huge bellies**

**always feeding, never full**

**life not worth living**

\*\*\*

**always pursuing**

**things not worth the pursuit**

**life not worth living**

\*\*\*

**No fame, fame, more fame**

**Treadmill to oblivion**

**More fame, fame, no fame**



<https://pixabay.com/en/man-mature-portrait-mafia-violence-2677829/>

\*\*\*

**F-word**

\*\*\*

**Cuss words: powerful**

**But only when not overused**

**Don't "f—" everything**

\*\*\*

**"F— the government!"**

**doesn't mean a thing if you**

**say "f— everything"**



<https://pixabay.com/en/fisherman-ocean-female-woman-2084346/>

\*\*\*

## **POLLUTED OCEANS**

\*\*\*

**pollute the oceans  
result for our dinner plates?  
eat polluted fish**



<https://pixabay.com/en/earth-blue-planet-globe-planet-11015/>

\*\*\*

**TAKE CARE OF YOUR GARDEN, AND IT WILL BE  
EDEN'S GARDEN, TOO**

\*\*\*

**this is your garden  
you will have only this one  
Eden's garden, too?**





<https://pixabay.com/en/apple-fruit-autumn-apfelernte-871316/>

\*\*\*

**SOMEDAY I'LL EAT ANOTHER APPLE**

\*\*\*

**ate an apple once**

**weighed my body — lost five pounds!**

**that was a good day**

\*\*\*

**ate an apple once**

**five girls gave me phone numbers**

**that was a good day**

\*\*\*

**ate an apple once**

**under cushion: \$5!**

**that was a good day**



<https://pixabay.com/en/cherries-fruit-red-sweet-tree-1517973/>

\*\*\*

**A SWEET, CHEAP GOOD DEED**

\*\*\*

**Give to food pantry?**

**On Judgment Day, God may ask,**

**“Did you feed people?”**

\*\*\*

**An extra item**

**Purchased for local food bank**

**A sweet, cheap good deed**



<https://pixabay.com/en/children-people-boy-girl-sea-909275/>

\*\*\*

## **LITTLE GIRL MOVES TO GERMANY WITH HER FAMILY**

\*\*\*

**Girl can't speak German  
Plays with German boy three months  
"Who's the German girl?"**



<https://pixabay.com/en/brazil-beach-coastal-woman-189345/>

\*\*\*

**“BE ONE WITH NATURE”**

\*\*\*

**“be one with nature”**

**seriously and all too**

**literally true**



<https://pixabay.com/en/baby-boy-child-cuddle-cuddling-84639/>

\*\*\*

**“WHERE DID I COME FROM?”**

\*\*\*

**“Where did I come from?”**

**“Your mother’s 3D printer”**

**takes nine months to print**



<https://pixabay.com/en/people-man-woman-protest-rally-2590590/>

\*\*\*

### FOUND HAIKU

\*\*\*

“I couldn’t get there”

“I moved on her like a bitch”

“And she was married”

\*\*\*

**Recommended Reading: “Transcript: Donald Trump’s Taped Comments About Women.” *New York Times*. 8 October 2016 <<http://tinyurl.com/y9etc6w9>>.**

**An excerpt: “I moved on her like a bitch. But I couldn’t get there. And she was married. Then all of a sudden I see her, she’s now got the big phony tits and everything. She’s totally changed her look.”**



<https://pixabay.com/en/man-bavaria-dirndl-folklore-woman-1979269/>

\*\*\*

**THE MUSES ARE OUT PARTYING**

\*\*\*

**waiting for muses**

**blank screen, blank space, and blank brain**

**where, oh where, are you?**



<https://pixabay.com/en/gears-cogs-machine-machinery-1236578/>

\*\*\*

**REMAIN CREATIVE**

\*\*\*

**Remain creative**

**In the face of the machine**

**Make the face human**





<https://pixabay.com/en/books-shelf-rack-library-school-2567259/>

\*\*\*

**WISDOM DISPENSED HERE**

\*\*\*

**Wisdom dispensed here**

**Libraries, schools, and churches**

**Bring own containers**

\*\*\*

**Wisdom dispensed here**

**Libraries, schools, and churches**

**Bring an alert brain**



<https://pixabay.com/en/sisters-girl-on-the-terrace-74069/>

\*\*\*

**PIERRE AUGUSTE RENOIR'S *THE TWO SISTERS*  
(ON THE TERRACE)**

\*\*\*

**the beauty of spring**

**a celebration of art**

**the beauty of youth**



<https://pixabay.com/en/starry-sky-van-gogh-oil-painting-1948523/>

\*\*\*

**VINCENT VAN GOGH'S *STARRY NIGHT***

\*\*\*

**view from his window**

**this is what Van Gogh's eyes see**

**kinetic night sky**

\*\*\*

**glowing turbulence**

**the artist enables me to see**

**striking sky movement**



<https://pixabay.com/en/people-man-art-museum-paint-frame-2589168/>

\*\*\*

## HOW TO LOOK AT ART 101

\*\*\*

**stand in front of art**

**look at art, not at your phone**

**look attentively**



<https://pixabay.com/en/british-columbia-canada-clear-lake-2382640/>

\*\*\*

## **GRAVITY**

\*\*\*

**Law of gravity**

**Falling stars have got to fall**

**Comets are rebels**



<https://pixabay.com/en/attack-spray-alarm-rape-woman-2321343/>

\*\*\*

### CAUSES OF RAPE

\*\*\*

**Clothes? Alcohol? Nope.**  
**Being alone? Flirting? Nope.**  
**Rapists? That is right.**



<https://pixabay.com/en/sun-flower-flower-sunflower-yellow-1349952/>

\*\*\*

**UNEXPECTED JOY**

\*\*\*

**dreary, gray-sky day  
flower growing in alley  
unexpected joy**



<https://pixabay.com/en/dandelion-flower-roadside-plant-16656/>

\*\*\*

**LIFE WILL FIND A WAY**

\*\*\*

**despite obstacles  
life will find a way  
to be beautiful**





<https://pixabay.com/en/women-young-free-freedom-2514357/>

\*\*\*

## **REALMS OF BEING**

\*\*\*

**Be irrational?**

**Stick your hand in a blender?**

**Not a chance in Hell!**

\*\*\*

**So be rational?**

**Logic, math, and arguments**

**Have their place in life**

\*\*\*

**Be nonrational?**

**Realm of comedy, art, love**

**A fun way to live**



<https://pixabay.com/en/stairs-stand-wait-woman-paragraph-1694604/>

\*\*\*

**UP OR DOWN?**

\*\*\*

**choose good or evil**

**deliberate decision**

**it is up to you**



**Photo: David Bruce**

\*\*\*

**SHE IS THE WOMAN WHO KNOCKS ... LADDERS  
OVER**

\*\*\*

**Cat-called a woman  
Now stranded high up on roof  
His ladder knocked over**



<https://pixabay.com/en/newborn-baby-mother-adorable-sweet-659685/>

\*\*\*

**SHOULD HUMANS EXIST?**

\*\*\*

**Should humans exist?**

**A baby born each minute**

**One true God votes yes**

\*\*\*

**Carl Sandburg said, "A baby is God's opinion that life should go on."**



<https://pixabay.com/en/comedy-face-theater-tragedy-masks-157719/>

\*\*\*

## **TWO WAYS OF SEEING**

\*\*\*

**two ways of seeing  
comedy and tragedy  
each is sometimes right**



<https://pixabay.com/en/blue-sunbeam-dazzle-clouds-sky-68906/>

\*\*\*

**I AM IMMORTAL!**

\*\*\*

**I am immortal!**

**Is that good news or bad news?**

**I am still me. Damn!**

\*\*\*

**I am immortal!**

**Is that good news or bad news?**

**I am still me. Great!**



<https://pixabay.com/en/superhero-shirt-tearing-superman-2503808/>

\*\*\*

### THINGS HEROES SAY

\*\*\*

**“someone had to help”**

**“I was there at the right time”**

**“other people helped”**

\*\*\*

**“right time at right place”**

**“anyone would have done it”**

**“don’t call me ‘hero’”**



<https://pixabay.com/en/target-goal-aiming-dartboard-aim-1551494/>

\*\*\*

**OUR BEST SELF**

\*\*\*

**always perceiving  
almost always creating  
defiant when needed**





<https://pixabay.com/en/afterglow-sunset-evening-sky-73147/>

\*\*\*

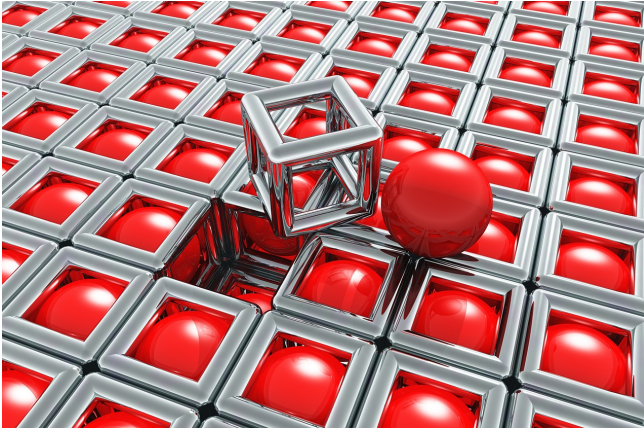
## **THE SUN'S LAST RAYS**

\*\*\*

**Watch the sun's last rays**

**Crisp air almost palpable**

**Simply breathtaking**



<https://pixabay.com/en/chrome-metal-cage-cages-ball-103695/>

\*\*\*

## **LIVING ALONE**

\*\*\*

**always alone, but  
never lonely; I am blessed  
with total freedom**

\*\*\*

**love living alone  
walk length of my apartment  
for each step, a fart**

\*\*\*

**not a badass, but  
I do whatever I want  
living-alone joy**



<https://pixabay.com/en/pen-paper-notebook-business-office-994464/>

\*\*\*

## **WRITER'S BLOCK**

\*\*\*

**Writer's block blocked me  
I search my mind's recesses  
Look! I see an idea!**

\*\*\*

**“Hurry, run away.  
Or he will write about you.”**

**This idea's long gone.**



<https://pixabay.com/en/clown-mask-face-scary-grinning-238527/>

\*\*\*

**SOMETIMES, EXES LIKE IT WHEN YOU  
EMBARRASS YOURSELF**

\*\*\*

**Oops! Farted out loud  
While meeting ex's boyfriend  
Made her so happy**



<https://pixabay.com/en/people-man-woman-protest-rally-2590590/>

\*\*\*

**SPECIAL BRAVERY**

\*\*\*

**Special bravery  
A female's insouciance  
Against male fascism**



**Photo: David Bruce**

**\*\*\***

**FASCINATING**

**\*\*\***

**three people I find  
endlessly fascinating:  
me, myself, and I**

## APPENDIX A: SOURCES

Comedian Fred Allen wrote an autobiography titled *Treadmill to Oblivion*.

A standup comic whose name I can't remember said something like this: "I'm a good-looking rebel who lives by my own rules."

On the WWW you can find pie charts listing the causes — actually the one cause — of rape: rapists.

A pastor wrote an evaluation of himself in which he compared himself to Jesus. For example, Jesus turned water into wine, while the pastor turned water into coffee.

A father posted a photo of a newborn on Imgur and wrote something like this: "Look what my wife's 3D printer just made!"

Someone's mother referred to romance novels as "sweet, cheap vacations."

Was it James Brown who first said (and sang), "Black is beautiful"?

A *Guardian* columnist (I can't remember which one) wrote something like this: "You don't get good art without bad art."

Carl Sandburg said, "A baby is God's opinion that life should go on."

NOTE: Bits of vivid language float around in my environment. Some of it sticks in my brain. No plagiarism is intended.

**APPENDIX B: FAIR USE**

§ 107. Limitations on exclusive rights: Fair use

Release date: 2004-04-30

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- (2) the nature of the copyrighted work;
- (3) the amount and substantiality of the portion used in relation to the copyrighted work as a whole; and
- (4) the effect of the use upon the potential market for or value of the copyrighted work.

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Source of Fair Use information:

<<http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/17/107.html>>.



## APPENDIX C: 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*.

**APPENDIX D: EXTREME OLD AGE**

**My head hurts!**

**My head hurts!**

**My head hurts!**

**Ow! Ow! Ow!**

**My hands hurt!**

**My hands hurt!**

**My hands hurt!**

**Ow! Ow! Ow!**

**My butt hurts!**

**My butt hurts!**

**My butt hurts!**

**Ow! Ow! Ow!**

**My knees hurt!**

**My knees hurt!**

**My knees hurt!**

**Ow! Ow! Ow!**

**My feet hurt!**

**My feet hurt!**

**My feet hurt!**

**Ow! Ow! Ow!**

**What hurts now?**

**What hurts now?**

**What hurts now?**

**Everything!**

## APPENDIX E: SOME BOOKS BY DAVID BRUCE

*(Lots of FREE eBooks)*

### RETELLINGS OF A CLASSIC WORK OF LITERATURE

Do you know a language other than English? If you do, I give you permission to translate any or all of my retellings, copyright your translation, publish or self-publish it, and keep all the royalties for yourself. (Do give me credit, of course, for the original retelling.)

I would like to see my retellings of classic literature used in schools, so I give permission to the country of Finland (and all other countries) to give copies of this book to all students forever. I also give permission to the state of Texas (and all other states) to give copies of this book to all students forever. I also give permission to all teachers to give copies of this book to all students forever.

Teachers need not actually teach my retellings. Teachers are welcome to give students copies of my eBooks as background material. For example, if they are teaching Homer's *Iliad* and *Odyssey*, teachers are welcome to give students copies of my *Virgil's Aeneid: A Retelling in Prose* and tell students, "Here's another ancient epic you may want to read in your spare time."

David Bruce Blog with Many Free PDFs

<https://davidbruceblog429065578.wordpress.com/>

Ben Jonson's *The Alchemist: A Retelling*

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

<https://davidbruceblog429065578.wordpress.com/ben-jonson-free-pdfs/>

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ZEHJnB1\\_5RpznJDgrdO9Fzkz0R5nqF6n/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ZEHJnB1_5RpznJDgrdO9Fzkz0R5nqF6n/view?usp=sharing)

Ben Jonson's *The Arraignment, or Poetaster: A Retelling*

<https://www.smashwords.com/books/view/1144681>

<https://anecdotesandmusic.wordpress.com/2022/05/02/david-bruce-ben-jonsons-the-arraignment-or-poetaster-a-retelling-free-pdf/>

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1S1nIEZ7fgHIyV4-ZDozfJ4FcVUlaC13\\_/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1S1nIEZ7fgHIyV4-ZDozfJ4FcVUlaC13_/view?usp=sharing)

**Ben Jonson's Bartholomew Fair: A Retelling**

<https://www.smashwords.com/books/view/759774>

<https://davidbruceblog429065578.wordpress.com/ben-jonson-free-pdfs/>

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**Ben Jonson's The Case is Altered: A Retelling**

<https://www.smashwords.com/books/view/1112743>

<https://davidbruceblog429065578.wordpress.com/ben-jonson-free-pdfs/>

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1WHn6mnGPDbZITus6A644w0TCgQoNDE4/view?usp=sharing>

**Ben Jonson's Catiline's Conspiracy: A Retelling**

<https://www.smashwords.com/books/view/1098400>

<https://davidbruceblog429065578.wordpress.com/ben-jonson-free-pdfs/>

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1uQOLh10ExHMrx9z-P-5qUxaHc2CQTD0x/view?usp=sharing>

**Ben Jonson's The Devil is an Ass: A Retelling**

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<https://drive.google.com/file/d/17vGtkBruVyQ09aeFtVStum9NCixZtfN1/view?usp=sharing>

**Ben Jonson's Epicene: A Retelling**

<https://www.smashwords.com/books/view/1073045>

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**Ben Jonson's Every Man in His Humor: A Retelling**

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**Ben Jonson's Every Man Out of His Humor: A Retelling**

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[LdviAoeLdU/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1dGmaBNTIgz33Kk7kFWn9-LDviAoeLdU/view?usp=sharing)

**Ben Jonson's The Fountain of Self-Love, or Cynthia's Revels: A Retelling**

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**Ben Jonson's The Magnetic Lady: A Retelling**

<https://www.smashwords.com/books/view/1155616>

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1IVkWpm03vUkR69SKkXRdPomyDBkSLDTv/view>

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**Ben Jonson's The New Inn: A Retelling**

<https://www.smashwords.com/books/view/1081049>

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**Ben Jonson's Sejanus' Fall: A Retelling**

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**Ben Jonson's The Staple of News: A Retelling**

<https://www.smashwords.com/books/view/1088627>

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**Ben Jonson's A Tale of a Tub: A Retelling**

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

<https://www.smashwords.com/books/view/745087>

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**BEN JONSON: (HARDCOVER FOR SALE)**

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Christopher Marlowe's Complete Plays: Retellings

<https://www.smashwords.com/books/view/911460>

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

<https://www.smashwords.com/books/view/871108>

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1WqCOjMsMUZMxvrIkJZQXLSC-T0ZiGaaeP/view?usp=sharing>

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

<https://www.smashwords.com/books/view/824058>

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Christopher Marlowe's Edward II: A Retelling

<https://www.smashwords.com/books/view/904128>

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Christopher Marlowe's The Massacre at Paris: A Retelling

<https://www.smashwords.com/books/view/880308>

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

<https://www.smashwords.com/books/view/909794>

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

<https://www.smashwords.com/books/view/890081>

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Dante's Divine Comedy: A Retelling in Prose

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Dante's Inferno: A Retelling in Prose

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Dante's Purgatory: A Retelling in Prose

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Dante's Paradise: A Retelling in Prose

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



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George Chapman, Ben Jonson, and John Marston's Eastward Ho!  
A Retelling

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George Peele's The Arraignment of Paris: A Retelling

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George Peele's The Battle of Alcazar: A Retelling

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George Peele's David and Bathsheba, and the Tragedy of Absalom:  
A Retelling

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George Peele's Edward I: A Retelling

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

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George-A-Greene, The Pinner of Wakefield: A Retelling

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Homer's Iliad: A Retelling in Prose

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Homer's Odyssey: A Retelling in Prose

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J.W. Gent's The Valiant Scot: A Retelling

<https://www.smashwords.com/books/view/1163699>

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1J4Kr3XePpMc8EEXENGUw-BLP6jzOnZE/view?usp=sharing>

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

<https://www.smashwords.com/books/view/337653>

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John Ford: Eight Plays Translated into Modern English

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John Ford's The Broken Heart: A Retelling

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John Ford's The Fancies, Chaste and Noble: A Retelling

<https://www.smashwords.com/books/view/989291>

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

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

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**Candide's Two Girlfriends (Adult)**

<https://www.smashwords.com/books/view/247531>

**The Erotic Adventures of Candide (Adult)**

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**Mark Twain Anecdotes**

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**David Bruce Autobiography: My Life and Hard Times, or Down and Out in Athens, Ohio**

<https://www.smashwords.com/books/view/1151084>

<https://davidbruceblog429065578.wordpress.com/david-bruce-autobiography/>

**Problem-Solving 101: Can You Solve the Problem?**

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**Why I Support Same-Sex Civil Marriage**

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<https://davidbruceblog429065578.wordpress.com/composition-projects/>

**How Can I Write My Own Anecdote Books?**

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**Writing Tips: How to Write Easier and Better**

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**250 Anecdotes About Religion**

<https://www.smashwords.com/books/view/106782>

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**250 Anecdotes About Religion: Volume 2**

<https://www.smashwords.com/books/view/106861>

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**250 Music Anecdotes**

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**Be a Work of Art: 250 Anecdotes and Stories**

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**Boredom is Anti-Life: 250 Anecdotes and Stories**

<https://www.smashwords.com/books/view/156495>

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**The Coolest People in Art: 250 Anecdotes**

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**The Coolest People in the Arts: 250 Anecdotes**

<https://www.smashwords.com/books/view/159914>

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**The Coolest People in Books: 250 Anecdotes**

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**The Coolest People in Comedy: 250 Anecdotes**

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**Create, Then Take a Break: 250 Anecdotes**

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**Don't Fear the Reaper: 250 Anecdotes**

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**The Funniest People in Art: 250 Anecdotes**

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**The Funniest People in Books: 250 Anecdotes**

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**The Funniest People in Books, Volume 2: 250 Anecdotes**

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**The Funniest People in Books, Volume 3: 250 Anecdotes**

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The Funniest People in Comedy: 250 Anecdotes

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The Funniest People in Dance: 250 Anecdotes

<https://www.smashwords.com/books/view/98588>

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The Funniest People in Families: 250 Anecdotes

<https://www.smashwords.com/books/view/108542>

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The Funniest People in Families, Volume 2: 250 Anecdotes

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The Funniest People in Families, Volume 3: 250 Anecdotes

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The Funniest People in Families, Volume 4: 250 Anecdotes

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The Funniest People in Families, Volume 5: 250 Anecdotes

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**The Funniest People in Families, Volume 6: 250 Anecdotes**

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**The Funniest People in Music: 250 Anecdotes**

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**The Funniest People in Music, Volume 2: 250 Anecdotes**

<https://www.smashwords.com/books/view/100473>

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**The Funniest People in Music, Volume 3: 250 Anecdotes**

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**The Funniest People in Neighborhoods: 250 Anecdotes**

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**The Funniest People in Sports: 250 Anecdotes**

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**The Funniest People in Theater: 250 Anecdotes**

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**The Funniest People Who Live Life: 250 Anecdotes**

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

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**Maximum Cool: 250 Anecdotes**

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**The Most Interesting People in Movies: 250 Anecdotes**

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**The Most Interesting People in Politics and History: 250 Anecdotes**

<https://www.smashwords.com/books/view/108392>

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

<https://www.smashwords.com/books/view/108398>

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

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**The Most Interesting People in Religion: 250 Anecdotes**

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**The Most Interesting People in Sports: 250 Anecdotes**

<https://www.smashwords.com/books/view/107857>

**The Most Interesting People Who Live Life: 250 Anecdotes**

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

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**Reality is Fabulous: 250 Anecdotes and Stories**

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**Resist Psychic Death: 250 Anecdotes**

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Philosophy for the Masses: Ethics

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Dante's Inferno: A Discussion Guide

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Dante's Paradise: A Discussion Guide

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**Jane Austen's Pride and Prejudice: A Discussion Guide**

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Lloyd Alexander's The Castle of Llyr: A Discussion Guide

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Lois Lowry's Number the Stars: A Discussion Guide

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Mark Twain's Adventures of Huckleberry Finn: A Discussion Guide

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Mark Twain's The Adventures of Tom Sawyer: A Discussion Guide

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Mark Twain's The Prince and the Pauper: A Discussion Guide

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Nancy Garden's Annie on My Mind: A Discussion Guide

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Nicholas Sparks' A Walk to Remember: A Discussion Guide

<https://www.smashwords.com/books/view/356224>

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Virgil, "The Fall of Troy": A Discussion Guide

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Virgil's Aeneid: A Discussion Guide

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Voltaire's Candide: A Discussion Guide

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William Shakespeare's 1 Henry IV: A Discussion Guide

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**William Shakespeare's Macbeth: A Discussion Guide**

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**William Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream: A Discussion Guide**

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**William Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet: A Discussion Guide**

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**William Sleator's Oddballs: A Discussion Guide**

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**The Kindest People Who Do Good Deeds: Volume 1**

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**The Kindest People Who Do Good Deeds: Volume 2**

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1h1ZaZEixmzjGLHI5\\_57AwTFuQ02g8lL3/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1h1ZaZEixmzjGLHI5_57AwTFuQ02g8lL3/view?usp=sharing)

<https://www.smashwords.com/books/view/35011>

The Kindest People Who Do Good Deeds: Volume 3

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The Kindest People Who Do Good Deeds: Volume 4

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The Kindest People Who Do Good Deeds: Volume 5

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The Kindest People Who Do Good Deeds: Volume 6

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The Kindest People Who Do Good Deeds: Volume 7

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You've Got to Be Kind: Volume 1

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You've Got to Be Kind: Volume 3

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1XZCFIAWhtXPnf35OGIUoh991i05D0Bs0/view?usp=sharing>

You've Got to Be Kind: Volume 4

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Cj8vIDLmFFG6dGzLpoVE3RrQ3-LhKV0d/view?usp=sharing>

You've Got to Be Kind: Volume 5

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