The Engaged Mind

BRAD HUTCHINSON
LITERACY: AVOIDING
THE PATH OF LEAST RESISTANCE
One of the empowering threads weaving *The Engaged Mind* together is to trust your intuition and allow it to guide you. Most of us, however, undervalue our intuition. Some of us outright refuse to heed its promptings. Intuitively we know what is stopping us from being our best in life. We know when we are not as physically fit as we could be; we know when we are not giving our best to our relationships, personal and professional; we know when pseudo fears prevent us from stepping out of our comfort zones.

Intuitively we know the problems affecting our neighbourhoods and communities; in fact we even know the solutions.

Unfortunately, we do not verbalize—or take ownership—of what we really know. We don’t communicate our intuition clearly into words; therefore we are unable to convince others of what we know to be right and wrong. This disconnects us from our inner power. Instead of opening up as we attain wisdom with age, we tend to close down. And the second half of our lives becomes a reaffirmation of limiting beliefs attained from the first half.

This limitation starts early in our development. When left unchecked, it follows us through our teenage years (although we do rebel against it there without really knowing what we’re fighting); then as adults our lives have become sculpted by ‘outside’ views of what and how we should think. Often, we don’t even know why we believe what we believe.
Almost by default our identities become attached to grades in school, peer approval, parents’ beliefs, political correctness, or an unhealthy reflection of what advertisers and big budget companies consider “beautiful,” “smart,” “successful.” Little by little we renounce responsibility for our lives to some outside source. Slowly but surely our focus shifts away from our innate gifts toward our limitations. We become experts at excuses for not being our very best. This may sound negative. In fact it is not.

It is merely a verbalization of what may be resting on your greatness. Once verbalized, it can be let go. It is only a phoney cloud blocking your light.

I do not mean to suggest that you should subordinate your intellect and physical emotions to your intuition, but only to ‘let go’ and realize the harmony of them working together. Then act on what you know to be true.

The Engaged Mind was written, with literacy as its theme, to help you find your voice. Not to acquire knowledge as such, but as an impetus to ‘let go’ of what’s holding you back. Since its first printing in 2004—after two years of editing, refining, and “eliminating the unnecessary so that the necessary may speak”—I still get emails from people that are now chasing their crazy dreams; some even have their own books in print as a result of letting go of limiting beliefs. Some pointed to “Clarity, a short story” as the motivation to start living life instead of life living them; others embraced the 5 principles of mastery; still others discovered their gifts through my interpretation of Gardner’s multiple intelligences…

Of course some were excited to point out its spelling mistakes while discarding everything else. Righteously they relaxed back, safe in their shrinking comforts zones.

What will be your focus moving forward? Will you focus on your innate gifts or your ‘shortcomings’? Realize that what you focus on expands. As Henry Ford said, “Whether you think you can or you think you can’t, you’re right.”

The fact is you can do, be, or have anything you want. When you give voice to your intuition—starting by verbalizing it to yourself—
amazing things will begin to appear in your life. Read *The Engaged Mind* with an open heart and a receptive mind. Take notice of the empowering feelings and thoughts that begin surface.

Then watch for *Dynamic Balance*; a book that takes *The Engaged Mind* to a whole new level.
I owe great thanks to Brian Tracy and Colin Rose for helping me to find my own unique way of learning. Through their program *Accelerated Learning Techniques* I was introduced to the work of Howard Gardner and my life changed, forever. I hope *Your Creative Call to Action* will ignite the creative drive within you and start or keep you on the path to your most perfect life.
To Kristie
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deep in the heart of this book there is a sentence—“humanity is on the edge of a spiritual awakening.” i have read that sentence countless times since i first picked up and read brad hutchinson’s the engaged mind: your creative call to action, and each time i read it i am inspired to pursue my creative call to action. this book moves the reader in ways that are so powerful that it compels one to get off the proverbial couch and engage life.

on many levels this book provides the reader with the antidote to societal apathy, societal complacency and personal self doubt.

the spiritual awakening of which brad hutchinson speaks can be seen spreading daily in profound ways. even as i write these words, one of the largest and certainly most powerful countries in the world is on the threshold of electing a president on the platform of change and hope. as you read this book people around the world are engaging one another with ideas and visions of a better world. they are giving attention and care to the planet in ways never seen before in history.

more and more people are seeking their unique call to action on various levels; whether they may seem small or large to you, they are most profoundly and certainly experiencing their own spiritual awakenings.
Clearly and with eloquent steps Hutchinson engages you to become fully aware of your innate wisdom. You are inspired to ignite that inner fuel that can propel you toward a life of realized dreams. *The Engaged Mind* helps us to realize that our wisdom is valuable and should be shared.

Every educational and social institution has articulated mandates to educate those who move through their structures. But all too often what is moved to the side or simply disregarded altogether is the spiritual self; the dimension of self that needs to be nurtured, shared, and developed in ways that enhance the well being of the individual and the relationship the individual has with the planet. In essence this book presents ways to be an engaged planetary person.

For decades upon decades we have slowly fallen into a collective slumber of consumer imbued society, where the focus of consumption has wrought great harm to the self and the planet. But now with this book we find ways that demand of us to wake up to the call of creative action. And it is this action, your action, that will find you on the most magical journey of all; the journey of self discovery. And it is through this discovery that you will find the power to affect positive change that reverberates throughout this great community we know as the planet earth.

Arthur Lockhart
April 2008
Granted a favorable environment, the tree as Nature makes it—the cedar, the pine, the oak, the willow—assumes its proper shape as it develops itself from within. The mature tree is already implicit in the seed—in the acorn resides the grandeur of the oak.

—Writing and Thinking, Norman Foerster and J.M. Steadman, Jr.

Introduction

In your quest for understanding you discover the grail of infinite knowledge. Every answer to every question is now embedded in your mind. A group of eager students sits before you, looking for illumination. One asks you what the colour blue looks like. You explain to her that blue is one of three primary colours. “The other two are red and yellow,” you say matter-of-factly. Your mind is on fire, burning with enthusiasm, because this information must be passed on, interpreted by fresh young minds, and passed on again and again until millions of young minds have been set ablaze with the passion of learning. You must somehow muster enough energy to start a chain reaction that carries on long after your dance on this planet has finished. Animated, you tell them that by mixing primary colours together they can make secondary colours such as orange, purple, and green. You can barely contain yourself as you explain how different colours are produced by different wavelengths—then you stop. All of the students look confused. One of them asks, “Yeah, but what does blue look like?” You now realize that some heinous practical joke was played on you. Outside the iridescent sun has turned ghostly pale blanketing the sky, trees, and flowers with pallid whites and gloomy grays. The brilliant colours of the universe are now confined, trapped within the black box.
of your memory. You want to enlighten them but how do you explain blue in words? How do you express the feelings you get while looking at the sky in all its depth, majesty, wonder? Gravity pulls your chin and shoulders toward the ground. You feel like an infant without the language skills to communicate the emotions welling within. You would give anything to show these students a rainbow all woven in colour and light! But you only sigh as a dark sense of dread clouds over you. Is this your eternal burden? What if all this magnificent information is forever trapped, suffocating inside with no oxygen to fan its passionate flames...? If only you had some way to release the power of your incredible, colourful spirit...

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When we look toward the clear sky we understand the colour blue and its many shades and tones. The antiseptic odour of a hospital can bring back painful memories of an illness. We know the sweet taste of chocolate, some of us with aphrodisiac sensations. The grand finale of a crescendo in a symphony that has purposefully elevated our souls toward the gods culminates in its final phrase and we are left deeper human beings for the majesty of sound. We exhale and say “Yes!” to the artist that reached inside and opened a channel to set those feelings free.

We all reside in a cosmic storm of emotions, sensory data, and information. Words, the proverbial light of our consciousness, can shroud us with darkness when ineffable experiences rise within and around us. Now more than ever we need to interpret, shape, and transform these experiences into meaningful knowledge so that passion, creativity, and achievement fill our lives. Then we can release the unique rainbow of our inner spirit into the world.

Too often the world shown to us through the mainstream media shrouds our brilliantly colourful spirits with murky shades of acceptance, trepidation, and dismay—terrorism; the proliferation of aggressive, violent, and anti-social behaviour in our schools; corruption in high levels of government and business; technology advancing mainly for the purpose of developing evermore sophisticated weapons of war...
Even with all that, most of us have a distant sense of something special buried deep within our spirit; concealed treasures that have yet to be mined. Unearthing that great and uniquely personal part of ourselves we become more fully alive, fully human and our day to day schedules spring to life with interesting, even exotic activities. Naturally our lives become memorable, a fingerprint in time showing future generations that the world was better for our existence. But how do we find and release in peaceful ways that awesome power dwelling within each-and-every-one-of-us?

*Your Creative Call to Action* series, segmented in three parts, is the key to help you unlock and make accessible that elusive inner potential.

To get the most out of Part One find a quiet, comfortable place to read. Some relaxing music would be helpful; music without lyrics or words. Reserve judgment until the final page is turned. The information given in this part of *Your Creative Call to Action* can significantly improve your experiences on this planet. Wealth, personal power, and love will flow into your life as you discover natural ways to express and bring into the world those Great Inner Treasures.

*Life is a dance. If you are smart, you learn the steps.*

—Anon. Yiddish Proverb
Part One of Your Creative Call to Action is designed to Engage Your Mind. Literacy is the central theme as mastery of language is essential for social and economic success in today’s society. This part will help clear away any impediments that may be preventing you from traveling your perfect path in life. In Part Two you will be given tangible tools that will physically take you in a straight line toward the achievement of all goals and dreams you can conceive and believe; based around the principles of NLP (Neuro-Linguistic Programming). Part Three is designed to widen the channels opened in Part One and Two so that your life fills with learning, adventure, and discovery; trusting the wisdom of your spirit is the central theme. By fusing the mind, body, and spirit you become an unstoppable force in making your life vibrantly happy, successful, and the world a better place for your presence.

The release times of this project will be staggered over the course of the next few years. There are so many ideas in each part of Your Creative Call to Action that simply need time to properly incubate into your life. To ease the emergence of your true purpose we must plant seeds (part one), nourish the ground (part two), and promote the growth (part three). Rising to great new heights requires strong roots.
A young boy, on the eve of his adolescence, sat alone with his grandfather after dinner one evening. His grandfather had achieved great success in his life.

“Grandfather,” the young boy started, “can you tell me how to be successful like you are?”

“No,” replied the grandfather. “But I will show you. Meet me in the backyard.”

The boy hurried to the backyard. Anxiously the boy waited to be illuminated by the wisdom of his idle. When the grandfather returned he handed the boy a small shovel and a bulb.

“Dig about a foot into the ground, plant this bulb and water it everyday.” His grandfather returned to the house.

The boy complied and for a whole month he diligently watered that piece of ground. He became discouraged when nothing happened. “This isn’t working,” the boy said despairingly to his grandfather.

“Water everyday,” his grandfather replied sternly.

The boy trusted and loved his grandfather so much that he went back to the chore of watering. The boys from the neighbourhood would ridicule and laugh at the boy watering that barren piece of land in his backyard. This went on day after day, month after month…

One day he could not take it any longer and yelled angrily at his grandfather, “This is stupid! I don’t understand why I have to do this. All the other kids tease and laugh at me…”

Through an uncompromising tone his grandfather said, “Everyday.”

Distraught the boy continued this practice of watering the ground. He could not disobey his grandfather. Soon the habit of watering the ground became part of his daily routine, like brushing his teeth, making his bed, going to school… The neighbourhood boys eventually stopped making fun of him. It was strange he thought: they stopped teasing when I was no longer bothered by it. After five years of watering everyday without fail the boy noticed a tiny shoot sticking out of the ground. He was thrilled! Something incredible happened next. Before
his very eyes the sprout seemed to get bigger. It grew over two feet a day for six weeks where it stood ninety feet tall! He ran to his grandfather and bowed before him.

“Grandfather, the tree got big so fast!”

A controlled smile expanded across his grandfather’s wrinkled face. “How was that possible?”

The boy thought for a moment when he was struck by a realization. “For five years all the growth was underground!”

“Now, do you understand the essence of my success?” asked his grandfather, proudly.

“Yes,” replied the boy who bowed again before his teacher.

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“It takes twenty years to make an overnight success.”

—Eddie Cantor

Whether you did/do well in school or poorly makes no difference to actualizing your true purpose. Your past is not your potential. Even those who did/do well in school can fall into the four-word trap that proficiently extinguishes creativity. What are those words? “I already know that.”

There are five universal principles (words) strategically located throughout this manuscript that, when applied, can bring Mastery to any endeavour you choose to pursue. They are from the I Ching (The Book of Changes). We use these principles at Beyond Kung Fu to achieve excellence in the fist art, but they transcend to any area of learning. The first one is illuminated by the next story.

A ZEN STORY

A very intelligent college professor went to see a great Zen Master to learn all he could about Zen and the meaning of life. After traveling many miles to see the master, they sat down for a cup of tea. The professor discussed at length what he knew about Zen. The master sat
patiently as the tea was being prepared. When ready, the master began to pour the tea, and the professor continued on about how learned he was in Zen and the meaning of life. Silently, the master poured until the tea was overflowing.

“Stop pouring!” screamed the professor, “my cup is full!”

“Just the same as the cup is full, so is your mind. You came here to gain more knowledge, but there is no room. Empty your cup so that you may learn.”

The professor was silent for a moment. He realized that the master would not speak again until he drank his tea. Quickly, and cautiously as not to burn his mouth, he consumed the whole cup. He breathed deeply, sat back, and gave a relaxed, concentrated stare. The master spoke for hours and the professor revelled in the wisdom.

PRINCIPLE 1: RECEPTIVITY

Receptivity is a high form of control over oneself. The receptive brain is in a state of relaxation but it is not passive; it is awake, alert, ready, but not tense. Being receptive, without judgment, accelerates the learning curve, facilitates easy placement of new data with existing knowledge, and deepens understanding. A highly receptive person removes all filters and preconceptions when entering a learning environment; a clearer view of reality is its reward. In relationships the highly receptive person silently radiates energy, kindness, and joy. The receptive person understands that the ability to receive increases the capacity to give.

A brief meditation: Take a deep breath through your nose. Imagine the breath being drawn down to the base of your spine. Notice how your body expands. Slowly exhale through your mouth from the deepest part of your abdomen. Notice how your body contracts. Do that now.
Humanity is on the edge of a spiritual awakening. Can you sense it? At some level most people can. This is not some ethereal abandon-your-identity, no-boundaries cosmic-consciousness to experience the “Ultimate Reality” era. No, this real new age is a feet-on-ground, exploit-and-make-physical your natural talents to lift humanity past its most critical time. Genocidal holocaust via biological, chemical, or nuclear weapons is at hand. We hear about this daily. Beyond the clamour, however, are many people that have been quietly, but progressively, setting the foundation to transcend peacefully into this exciting, filled with opportunities, era for centuries. These diverse people do not belong to any one religion, philosophy, discipline, nor have they necessarily been working together. What they have in common is their brave, enlightened, and generous spirits that guide us toward a better world.

Many have been jailed and/or killed for peacefully expressing and defending their ideas. But they have scribed their permanence on the tablets of history so that we may learn from their lives. As one example think of Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi: aka Mahatma (or Great Soul) Gandhi. His search for truth in the last century is highly inspirational today. Armed with love and conviction he wore
down the powerful British army. In 1946 India’s long-held dream of independence came true, without one bloody battle being fought. His life is a shining example of the incredible power of the human spirit. We need to harness that same power-of-nonviolence if we are to peacefully move into the future of this ever-changing world.

“An eye for eye only ends up making the whole world blind.”
—Mohandas Gandhi

The people you see in the media butting heads with politicians, screaming for social justice, or clamouring to save-the-world are accomplishing little more than making those in power feel more powerful. Einstein said it eloquently: “Problems cannot be solved with the same level of consciousness that created them.”

More knowledge accumulated in the last century than all previous centuries, combined. Over the next ten years it is estimated that we will see more change than we did in the entire last century. This accelerated and unstoppable pace of knowledge will have a profound influence on the shape our world takes from politics to warfare to medicine to health to education to the arts and beyond. One thing for sure is that the future will look much different than anything we have seen in the past. How do we as individuals stay on top of it all? How do we find our perfect place in life and make sure useful information gets passed on to future generations? By simplifying and honing our language skills so that new ideas are easily understood, coherently communicated, and swiftly integrated into practice. Having an average grasp of language is not enough anymore.
The Freedom of Words

Noah Webster once said that if every one of his possessions were taken away and he was left with only words, he’d get all his possessions back.

February 13 of 2003 the United Nations initiated The International Decade of Literacy under the theme “Literacy as Freedom”. This is a most noble and timely goal. According to the UN Chronicle one in five adults world-wide cannot read or write and more than 113 million children have no access to books, schools, or teachers: In short, they are deprived of an education. The International Decade of Literacy marks a defining moment in world events. But why is literacy so important? Simply put: Literacy is Freedom.

“Literacy remains part of the unfinished business of the 20th century. One of the success stories of the 21st century must be the extension of literacy to include all humankind.”
—Deputy Secretary-General Louise Fréchette

Literacy gives an individual the vehicle to express discontentment through the peaceful exchange of ideas. Without adequate language skills, criticism can only find its expression in the form of physical aggression.
And violence begets violence. More importantly is that ideas, life giving and saving ideas, can only manifest through the vehicle of thoughts. And the most efficient way to drive thoughts into the world is language. Suffice to say here: *Inadequate* language skills, more than anything else, *Control* the way we think. We must understand what happened in the twentieth century if humanity is to spill less blood in this century. Or, as Pervez Hoodbhoy says, “*If the world is to be spared what future historians may call the Century of Terror*…”

*http://www.secularhumanism.org/library/fi/hoodbhoy_22_2.html*  
—Muslims and the West after September 11

In the last century the surge of material wealth exploded past all previous centuries. The growth of human knowledge changed from linear to exponential. In the world of advancing technology, why were whole nations left behind? Economic Ideology. That is, schools of thought on national economics that created dissention among nations and caused them to wage war on each other. There are four major schools today: Marxist, Keynesian, Monetarist, and Austrian.

**VERY BRIEFLY:**

**Marxist:** Based on the writings of Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels. Communism is the end result of socialism in this system. Examples of societies under this theory in the 20th century included: The Soviet Union, China, Cuba, North Korea, East Germany etc.

**Keynesian:** Based on the writings of John Maynard Keynes (*The General Theory*). Government manages the money supply and attends to issues of unemployment and inflation. Most of the “free” world adheres partly to this school of thought and partly to the next.

**Monetarist:** Represented by Milton Friedman. Follows Keynesian economics in national issues—inflation, unemployment etc.—but considers the individual as the basis for regulation, prices, advertising, trade etc.

**Austrian:** Was begun by Carl Menger in the late 1800’s and developed
by Ludwig von Mises in the early 1900’s. The emphasis is on the
individual for the basis of all economic issues. Government intervention
in economics is considered inherently counterproductive. This system
advocates a pure Capitalist system or laissez-faire capitalism.

Unfortunately, the widening economic gulfs between nations of
the world, caused in part by imperialism and colonialism, created a
divided group of “haves” and “have-nots.” The climate was perfect and
the ground set for Joseph Stalin, Adolph Hitler, and Mao Zedong to
rise and stifle the needed creative energy of their people. They were
responsible for murdering tens of millions in attempt to squeeze their
spin on economics into their ideology of Utopia. Religious wars, as
bloody as they were and are do not come close to the magnitude that
economic ideology has plundered, murdered, and exterminated the
human spirit for “social causes”.

“Economics deals with society’s fundamental problems; it concerns
everyone and belongs to all. It is the main and proper
study of every citizen.”
—Ludwig von Mises
The uneven distribution of economic growth and prosperity around the world can be bridged through literate people that are free and able to make choices of how to live and build their own life. That begins from a simple understanding: Language is primarily a tool of thought, not communication. You use language to intellectually grasp concepts then, and only then, language becomes the vehicle to clearly communicate those concepts. Language gives you the power to understand, differentiate, and then build on endless arrays of concepts and principles. As an example: Think of the four groups of economic thought mentioned above. If you wanted to better understand those theories you could start with John Maynard Keynes’ book *The General Theory*. If you’re like me you will probably start to drift very early on with talk about interest rates, inflation, consumption, necessity of central controls to bring about a free market, macroeconomic models… yawn… zzzzzzz. It is a difficult book to read without an economics background. Or you can start with a book like *Economics in One Lesson* by Henry Hazlitt.

This book is designed for the reader who is interested in grasping difficult economic topics with very little effort. The book gives you a foundation of economic thought from a free market viewpoint. From that understanding of economics you can make better choices of who to vote for and why, whether or not to start a business or try to secure a position within a company, what companies are likely to flourish in a given political climate... And if you want to delve further into economics you will have set your foundation of understanding. The key concept here is that without basic language skills, even a simple book like *Economics in One Lesson* will be impossible to read, grasp, and form an opinion on. That puts those who can read, in a position of power. That means that one in five adults worldwide (reference the UN Chronicle above) and the more than 113 million children without access to education are at a severe disadvantage. And that doesn’t even take into account the people who can read but don’t. Obviously you’re not one of those people...

A strong vocabulary driven through the mechanism of grammar can enhance thinking skills with greater clarity and, more importantly, prevent others from using language as a means of control. Without proficiency of this powerful tool, you are at the mercy of silver-tongued power seekers that often impel entire nations to the brink of disaster, or keep them stagnated in a pool of poverty. Automatically accepting sound-good slogans, aphorisms, or dictums puts you in a position of weakness and vulnerability. For example, have you heard the saying *Sticks and stones may break my bones but names can never hurt me*? That is a false aphorism. Names are words and words can penetrate more deeply than sticks and stones. They can insidiously strip self-confidence, self-esteem, and leave emotional scars. The strife a mentally abused person suffers can be more devastating and long-lasting than physical abuse.
From this side of the twentieth century it is difficult to understand how so many people were duped into unleashing unimaginable atrocities on humanity. But in the moment, at a time when the economic gap was widening and many people were looking at a bleak future, the bellicose utterances of despotic leaders manipulated the vulnerable into calculated, efficient killing machines. Simply to enforce their economic view of living in an ideal state. Those with other ideas—words grouped together—were exterminated.

Moving forward to today and terrorism. It may seem like a completely different set of circumstances, but the underling issues have not changed. Now, the bellicosity of self-appointed prophets, with political motives, persuade a group of mostly illiterate people into detonating themselves on buses and in schools filled with innocent children. These terrorists, often adolescent children themselves, are indoctrinated with hate from a young age. When the fire of adolescence burns through their veins they are ripened to be God’s vicegerent. How many of those people were given a choice of what religion to choose? How many of them had even read the Qur’an, the Torah, or the Bible? How many of these people realize how closely Judaism and Islam are related in spirituality and language? And the saddest question of all:
How many of these children realize that they are silencing their own potentially powerful voices in a moment of fury. Voices, like Gandhi’s voice of non-violence, that would go further to right the wrongs bestowed upon their people.

Language is a powerful tool that must be appreciated fully by anybody wanting to thrive and survive in this coming era.

“Ideas are more powerful than guns. We don’t let our enemies have guns, why should we let them have ideas.”
—Joseph Stalin
Fortunately there is an affordable tool available to help in any area you need to improve. While medicine, food, and housing continue to rise dramatically in price there is one commodity that continues to increase exponentially in power but decrease in price. Of course you know what that commodity is: Computer technology. There are excellent, easy to use programs available to help with reading/writing skills, math, computer, cooking, dancing, drawing, canoe building, the list is virtually endless. Computer technology continues to press its light further and further to illuminate the dark corners of the earth. The information and ideologies of the world are now readily available for your perusal with just the tap of a key. What great new power we have to command into our homes the majesty of Mozart, Beethoven, Bach while at the same time enjoying the vivid and breathtaking images of Cezanne, Picasso, Van Gogh. At no other time in history could we debate with people from around the world, in “real time”, the literary devices of Homer, Plato, the Bible, Cervantes, Hugo, Rand. At a whim and faster than the blink of an eye! The multidimensional database of ideas in the cyberspace realm is replete with life-affirming values of personal growth and benevolence.
Of course the opposite is also true of the internet as hateful rants and degrading images pour through the same channels. Technology is not a moral or immoral force, however. It is a tool that can be used for good or bad, like the tool of language. The choice is always yours.

“The internet is a reflection of our society and that mirror is going to be reflecting what we see. If we do not like what we see in the mirror the problem is not to fix the mirror, we have to fix society.”

—Vint Cerf from BBC article
http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/technology/3292043.stm

Not to mention computer technology has brought about the most historic political development of our times: the downfall of Communism in Eastern Europe. Leaders could no longer restrict the information—ideas—that made it into the public domain, and, more than anything, that is what keeps despotic regimes in power. We know that’s true because when despotic regimes come into power they immediately take control of ideas via the printing press. Control of the internet has proven unfeasible, yet. But “They” are working diligently at it. Control, for now, is back where it belongs: You! And that puts a very scary word into everybody’s vocabulary: Responsibility. Once you realize that it is your own responsibility to take control of your life, the faster you will be living the life you were born to live.

According to Ray Kurzweil (for a glimpse into the future of technology, go to KurzweilAI.net) we have embarked on the second industrial revolution. In the first one he says we “extended, multiplied, and leveraged our physical capabilities.” Natural resources and labour were the valued commodities. Now, the valued commodity is knowledge. Knowledge is simply information that has been interpreted and transformed into something new. But, unlike natural resources, information expands as you use and distribute it. It is up to you as the artist of your future to select from the growing database of information, turn it into useful knowledge, and apply that knowledge to better your life. In short, the only thing that has really changed in this second industrial revolution is that you must use these new information
machines to extend, multiply, and leverage your mental capabilities.

The ascendancy of global capitalism has the ability, like the first industrial revolution, to widen the gap between rich and poor, create a situation of personal and national insecurity, and wreak havoc on the environment. Or we can learn from our past and as individuals bestow useful, life-saving knowledge to help free countries from hunger, child labour, and early mortality rates.... We, together, can hone and extend the wealth of information available to educate people how to create personal wealth to further extend and protect our most treasured gift: Life.

Literacy is the main theme throughout this first part of Your Creative Call to Action because of its ability to bridge the widening economic gap in the world right now. But what if linguistic skills are not your strong point? No problem, we are going to explore your personal strengths which will naturally lead to proficiency in literacy and demonstrate that you have all the resources for harmonious living. That is, the resources to elevate your spirit, step by step, to the summit of your natural abilities to achieve inner and outer wealth, happiness, and love; even if English was not your thing in school. That brings us to the second principle of higher learning.

We are often encouraged to be leaders. Being or striving to be a leader is good, to be sure. Rarely are we told to be good followers, however. But how can we be effective leaders if we don’t know how to follow? A great teacher is always a better student.

A common phrase used in the corporate world illuminates this principle: “Why reinvent the wheel?”

**PRINCIPLE 2: FOLLOWING**

The wise Follower emulates healthy actions from an accomplished person in a chosen discipline and leaves behind all negative aspects of that person’s behaviour. Practicing over and over, never giving up until excellence is achieved in the smallest actions leads to the beautiful and unique outer expression of the inner spirit.

Thankfully, there are a growing number of people out there today,
in all areas that you can imagine, that have achieved excellence in their discipline. Many have paved the way and have generously provided a road map on how to do what they had done. By taking those same steps we can elevate our lives to new heights.
Avoiding the Path of Least Resistance

“An unbound imagination opens doors to the most grandiose fantasies; active visualization hones in and captures any dream.”

What you can see you can achieve. Reading stories is an excellent way to stimulate and exercise your imagination. Metaphorical prose promotes creative visualization, allows the reader to explore different depths of the self and to see patterns and interrelationships between all things. Television is a great medium but overindulgence can stunt that mental generator of visualization, leaving the brain in idle watching pictures already made. Reading shifts the mind into gear by translating a word or group of words into a concept or picture. An active imagination is a Key to realizing goals and dreams.

“Imagination is more important than knowledge. Knowledge is limited. Imagination encircles the world.”

—Albert Einstein
As human beings we have an obligation to understand the world around and in us. Fortunately nature has instilled an intrinsic drive within each and every one of us that seeks out this understanding. As children we struggle to connect words to physical forms. At about one year old, after screaming, crying, and grunting all our life we finally caress into coherent sound that thing we’d been pushing around and say, “Ball!” Or maybe our first word is Mommy, Daddy, or whomever we are pushing around. One by one more connections are made and within a year our vocabulary skyrockets to about two hundred words. What great new power we have to control our thoughts (and our parents), express feelings, understand our environment… There is inherent joy in learning and we have not set limiting beliefs on our ability yet. Fortunately “I can’t” aren’t the first words we identify with or we would all still be sitting in diapers, unable to walk. Pleasurable emotions of success drive us forward. Indeed with every new word our parents’ faces light up with joy, pride and we aim to please. Our power increases exponentially when we learn the longer neural pattern of the alphabet. This is such a natural state. There is no limit now! Our fresh growing minds are in the act of creation when we apply flawless logic to the rules of grammar and say, “eated, holded, brigned.” Of course as children we cannot yet know that English, grammatically, is not always the most logical language. Lewis Carroll’s Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland and Through the Looking Glass illustrate this concept. Playfully through stories, Carroll forces us to evaluate the words we use. Revisit these stories or read them for the first time; they’re fun, imaginative, and have the power to tweak that creative drive within you.

Your mind is and always has been an incredible tool of creativity, bringing together new patterns out of existing sensory data. Creativity is not bringing something new out of nothing; it’s about organizing
existing information into something new. This simple understanding breaks the long-held assumption that creative people are naturally endowed with special skills and a direct line to the muses. All actively creative people—whether an artist, writer, dancer, chef, craftsperson, pianist, poet, parent, athlete, entrepreneur, engineer, sales person, rock climber, whatever—work incredibly hard honing and keeping their skills fresh. Often in outward appearances these people just seem to have a knack, but this simply is not true. As we will see, all of us were drawn to our natural strengths early in life, some just refused to give them up. Many people, however, have been caught-up in the instant gratification society and are traveling further and further from their purpose. The emergence of television, fast food, and an increasingly hectic life-style where both parents work long hours have drawn many into here-and-now, short-lived gratification. When that instant pleasure is gone, another desire surfaces, then another until their lives revolve around the next quick fix.

This can be seen by the obesity epidemic many North American’s have fallen into; sadly affecting many children. And physical education for many parts of the country is considered irrelevant. But the not-so-recognized issue from the waning emphasis on physical education in the school systems is its adverse affect on learning language, math, and science. This will become clearer as we move on.

Suffice to say here that without adequate exercise of the mind and body we fall prey to Newton’s first law of motion. An object at rest tends to stay at rest and an object in motion tends to stay in motion unless acted upon by an outside force. I like to change the word outside force to inside force when dealing with the human element. The fact is: You and only You can ignite the emotional fuel that can propel you toward a life of realized dreams. A life you are proud to call your own. Reading can be the spark to set that inner fuel ablaze.

That brings us to our third principle of Mastery. You can choose, at any time, to grab a bag of chips, pop and plop yourself down in front of the television. Or you can go to the gym, take a walk, and pick up a book. Either is fine. You certainly have to have some down time, relaxing maybe taking in a movie or a fun show. Too much of anything,
including reading, exercise, and healthy food can be counter productive to a healthy life-style. It can create harmful stress to be too regimented in behaviour. In saying that, many people need not fear, just yet, of over doing it in areas such as reading, exercise, and incorporating whole foods into their diet. A simple premise: You are either taking actions that are driving you closer to your goals and life-purpose, or your actions (or inactions) are driving you further from your goals and life-purpose.

**PRINCIPLE 3: CONDUCT**

If you adhere to good conduct you behave decently toward others, respect space and property, and keep your promises. These simple behaviours lead to a surplus of good relationships, business and personal, which naturally drive you in the direction of your goals. Life is made up of small increments either raising you toward a better place or descending you toward a worse place. Small acts of kindness, generosity, and love build into a fulfilled life of realized dreams.

*Every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist once he grows up*

—Pablo Picasso
Human beings have always been highly visual. Before written words was pictographic writing called hieroglyphics and cuneiform. Ancient Egyptian writing used more than 2000 hieroglyphic characters, or conventionalized pictures, to represent meaning. About the same time in Mesopotamia the Sumerians invented and handed down to the Semites the more refined intellectual tool of cuneiform in which a simple symbol could be used to represent a concept, an object, or a sound. Over 5000 years ago. Cuneiform, which stems from the Latin words *cuneus* for wedge and *forma* for shape, was the new tool of commerce. In a thriving metropolis where not everybody could be a farmer, the marketplace needed some way to record the dealings of the people. With long reeds the intellectual elite scribed wedged shaped symbols to represent activities on wet clay tablets. When the clay hardened a permanent record was created. Not quite as efficient as the information we punch into our computers by a keyboard today. Although, the hunt and peck method some people use to type makes me wonder.

Over time cuneiform began to look simpler, more refined. Thus the evolution of the wedged shaped language went from being pictorial to abstract. Smaller units of representation grouped larger areas of
thought together for efficiency in an increasingly complex society. Still today we use a variation of cuneiform and hieroglyphics to warn, direct, and keep order in a very hectic area of society. Can you think of where? Next time you are in a car pay attention to the road signs. Many do not use any words at all but the messages are perfectly clear. Especially if you disobey one and have to sacrifice something else painfully symbolic: Cash money for the ticket. Icons on your desktop computer are another form of communication via symbols and pictures. But the most powerful form of this of historical communication comes to us via advertisements. Companies spend billions of dollars every year logging their logo into your brain.

Written Language started as pictorial representations of real things, then as society became more complex language evolved into a more efficient tool that could be spoken with increasing coherence. The Roman Alphabet refined it to 26 abstract symbols (letters), building blocks, from which by following grammatical and phonetic rules we can release an unlimited amount of thoughts, ideas, and visions. If done well our message is communicated clearly and we can inspire action. Language is a powerful tool that as we have seen can be used for good or bad. Now, in this increasingly complex age, computers have been developed for the same reason as cuneiform was for a previous era.

From the vast mental network of the world the binary system of computers uses the efficient combinations of ones and zeros to corral ideas together and then deliver them on a mass scale. In any language you choose. For the Receptive person new ideas naturally chisel away at traditional, static thinking. Personal growth is its reward. Now more than ever the principle of Conduct plays a crucial role, not only in our own development, but in the world’s future. How do we use these new powerful tools of communication? We cannot rely on governments to set standards of conduct. We must assume that responsibility ourselves and lead by example. We must be conscious of the information we are delivering over these vast channels, same as we must be conscious of the words we speak to our family, friends, business associates, and especially to those that we dislike. We must express discontentment civilly. Small confrontations are no different than large ones, except
for the amount of people that can be hurt by inappropriate actions/words.

“The ability to simplify means to eliminate the unnecessary so that the necessary may speak.”
—Hans Hoffman, Search for the Real, 1967
Stories

Stories are the most powerful way to utilize words and visions to create deep and lasting understanding. All cultures, planet wide, have used stories for thousands of years, written, pictorial, and acted out as a means of transmitting important moral and cultural lessons between generations. While I was in Switzerland I visited a small town called Stein-am-Rhein. This beautiful town is filled with breathtaking architecture from the middle ages. The walls of the buildings are adorned with paintings that tell stories filled with morality, love, and deception. As the town's people walked down the cobble stone roads these paintings constantly reminded them of the consequences of their actions. Back then, about 100 AD, visual images were the only effective tools to relay lessons because most could not read words. Visual art, like metaphorical prose, is a powerful means of communicating to your inner self. There are places within the soul that cannot be reached any other way.

GREAT TEACHERS

As stated earlier, nobody can tell you how to see the world or how to feel inside. Great thinkers of the past knew this. Socrates’ lessons,
delivered verbally, were replete with questions to engage the student. He didn’t tell as much as ask. The student was responsible for his own understanding. Socrates put it well: “Action equals knowledge.” It takes mental action to interpret, shape, and transform information into knowledge.

“You cannot teach a man anything. You can only help him discover it within himself.”

—Galileo

Philosophies like Tibetan Buddhism and Confucianism use language in a way that disentangles habitual mental patterns so that the student becomes enlightened to new and better ways of thinking. Incisive words cut into the heart and the mind forcing the individual to think for herself. Take an example from the Tao Te Ching:

*The space between heaven and Earth is like a bellows. The shape changes but not the form; The more it moves, the more it yields. More words count less. Hold fast to the center.*

—Lao Tzu

These philosophies (word usages) shake the listener/reader out of the hypnosis of authoritative-language (the way someone in power wants a person to think) and jolts her awake to the truth within. These principles are based on the assumption that life on earth is connected with the universal (God if you like) process and you, a human being, are an integral part that system. Jesus Christ spoke in parables to shake free the minds of the downtrodden from under the mind-body-spirit controlling Pharisees. Because the Pharisees were educated, which meant they could read *The Old Testament*, they “sat on Moses’ seat” and thought they had the right to consider themselves morally superior. Jesus knew that the real power dwelled within every single person, and was accessible for all those that searched. The concept
of power dwelling within is universal and applies always, regardless of belief. Notice how the advocates of these universal principles were admonished, and/or killed, by the elite that had everything to gain by keeping the masses under their word spells, and everything to lose by independent thinking and action.

Being a diligent reader of the world—historically, politically, economically—and your inner self will help to unearth that inherent power from which you can control the direction of your life. To that end, stories are the Great Teachers. Take for example Paulo Coelho’s The Alchemist. It is a story that shows the concept of power dwelling within. I was inspired and empowered by this story years ago. The philosophy is simple, affecting, and delivered through the character of Santiago, a boy with a dream and the courage to follow it. Some great words of wisdom from The Alchemist: “when you really want something to happen, the whole universe conspires so that your wish comes true”. I recommend that you read this book. It is an excellent example of how life-affirming lessons are interwoven through the vehicle of a story. The story keeps the mind busy following the plot-line while planting seeds of wisdom into the soul. Once those seeds are imbedded, they can grow personal knowledge. Soon and with further nourishment (reading more!) they will flower into every area of your life.

Be Receptive while reading my short story “Clarity”. Will there be any seeds of wisdom in there for you? Following the story we will discuss some ideas that will help you to bring the best and most creative parts of yourself into the world.
“Opportunities abound in Canada!” Ida’s father said as he moved the family from Norway to Toronto in September 1983. She was nine years old. Following him to that new country was like moving toward the end of the rainbow. His hearty laughter and expressive eyes were reflections of his colourful spirit. Ida and her mother loved him deeply and wholly. “We are so fortunate to have each other!” he often said.

Their humble home resonated with energy. After only one year in Canada he had opened his own jewellery store. It thrived!

One evening Ida and her mother were watching the evening news, eagerly awaiting her father to get home after closing the store. They had prepared his favourite dinner and set the small rectangular table just how he liked it, Ida on one side her mother on the other. “Now I can hold both of your hands while giving thanks!” he boasted every night.

Ida and her mother waited patiently, sitting closely together on the couch, elevated by the sweet, pungent aroma coming from the vegetables cooking in the oven.

Suddenly, Breaking News! scrolled across the television screen. Ida watched the ominous black-and-white images from the security
camera of her father’s store. Three hooded men busted through the door just as her father went to lock it. They shoved him aside and smashed the glass of the very display cases that Ida had helped arrange. Ida’s father grabbed one of the robbers by the arm. With his free arm, and without hesitation, the assailant pulled out a long butcher’s knife and stabbed her father in the stomach. He fell to his knees. Horrified, Ida looked to her mother for reassurance. It wasn’t real, it could not be real. Her mother’s face was ghostly white as she stared fixedly at the screen. After one last heroic effort to clutch at one of the robber’s heals as he ran out of the store, Ida’s father’s head crashed onto the hard ceramic tiles. His strong body contorted with a violently shiver before going completely lifeless. A dark pool of blood emptied around him.

“… and if anybody has information pertaining to this crime, call Crime Stoppers at—”

Ida and her mother were startled by the loud knock at the door.

…Ida couldn’t remember anything about the rest of that night except the disconnected images of the police officer’s unusually large hands, the white wedge of light reflected on the ceiling from the polished cutlery on the table, and, of course, the fire in the oven.

It was all over.

After the funeral (which was a foggy memory) Ida became a recluse, burying her head in books, writing for hours in her journal and avoiding her mother’s emotional malaise.

A few years later, as a teenager, Ida would scream angrily at her mother, “It’s so depressing around here! Get over it and move on with your life!” Her melancholic mien drove Ida crazy. She reproached her constantly: “Why don’t you fix that mop of hair of yours? At least pretend to show some interest in what I’m doing!” Not once, after that day, did they sit together at the dinner table. Her mother would serve, Ida would eat… sometimes.

Expression, other than violent bursts of invective, slowly left her mother’s face altogether. On her deathbed, ten years later, Ida’s mother said with her last breath, “I hate those goddamn bastards!”

The doctor called it a form of bacterial pneumonia, but Ida knew the diagnosis was only a manifestation of a different disease. Rancour
had steadily, relentlessly infested her mother’s spirit until squeezing that
last stertorous breath from her lungs. Ida’s father fought courageously
for his life until his final breath, her mother breathed for ten years
after she died. Watching her mother die Ida couldn’t help but think of
a movie she had seen where a horse had to be shot because of a broken
leg.

Ida promised herself that she would never let a negative emotion
ruin her life, like her mother had.

Focusing forward, never back, Ida laboured to become a teacher,
a great teacher! Her father had always said that she was “Destined
to Teach!” She studied everything from philosophy to psychology to
linguistics. Linguistics became her primary discipline. Through words
she would teach people not to hate. That would be her martyrdom.
At the age of twenty-eight she was offered her first position. She
excelled.

At thirty-eight she received the Canadian Professor of the Year
Award. The next year she won a different one for philosophy, some
Alumni Award for excellence or something. She couldn’t quite
remember. Then it was time to move on. Her peers said she was crazy
to leave. Her erudition had certainly become esteemed among higher
educational circles. “Grade six is more important than money, prestige,”
Ida told them. “Especially these days!” They countered that she would
be of far greater service to more children across the province, even the
country, than teaching in a classroom of twenty-five students. Their
impassioned arguments were sound, convincing. And Ida did consider
herself to be quite pragmatic. But she was determined to teach public
school in the roughest, most dangerous neighbourhood in Toronto.
She was called obstinate (although with an affectionate tone) because
of her resolve. Ida knew, however, that these were the children that
needed help to understand this world of enmity. Through the vehicle
of linguistics, math, science, and art she would sculpt these young
minds in a form impenetrable to hate. She could think of no greater or
worthy challenge.

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Bells rang signalling the end of the school day. The students lifted their heads in unison.

“Yes you may leave,” Ida answered to their inquisitive eyes.

Joy lifted their faces; today they could leave right on time. It wasn’t that Ida wanted to detain them for something they had done wrong. It’s just that she didn’t want them to become conditioned to the sound of a bell. Like Pavlov’s dog. Many times Ida let them leave earlier than the bell. Rarely, like today, did she let them leave right on time. Some of her proudest moments were when the kids were so enthralled with their work that the afternoon bell did not concern them at all. After almost two years teaching public school those times were becoming more frequent, she mused proudly. All the children happily scooted out of the classroom for the day. Except for Lisa.

There is something special in Lisa, Ida thought. She was bright, studious but did not induce criticism from those that did not do well in class. Actually many came to Lisa instead of Ida for help. And there was something about her eyes, something captivating, intriguing...

“Lisa, is there something you need of me?” Ida asked as Lisa sat humming a quiet tune to herself, her head and body flowing to the rhythm.

“No, Mama’s picking me up today.” She looked toward the door. “Should I wait in the library?”

“I’m happy to stay with you, Lisa.” This would a good opportunity to find out more about her. Ida had known her for the better part of a school year but there was something about her that made it feel longer. Twice on Parent-Teacher night she had met Lisa’s mother but not her father. Ida approached her desk. Lisa’s face was innocent, pure, her hair shiny black, skin dark brown, and although her clothes were timeworn (likely second-hand), they were clean and pressed.

“May I?” Ida gestured toward the folder on her desk.

“Sure,” she replied.

Ida picked up the folder and leafed through her work. “This is good, Lisa.” She pulled out a picture titled, “A Friend with Friends”. “Thank you.” There was a star in the top left-hand corner beside two lightly shaded faces. Below there was a scene of two black girls with short
hair standing by a lake. A tall broad-shouldered man with red hair was smiling, his hand rested easily against a boat named “Mayflower”. The exquisite clarity, simple but deep expressions, and colour lured Ida deeply into these images...

“I started sketching the characters while reading *Underground to Canada* by Barbara Smucker, a book we bought at the library for twenty-five cents! Mama says it was the deal of the century. The cover is all scratched up, the spine is broken, and the pages are kind of yellow. But it’s still easy to read.” Lisa shrugged her shoulders like it didn’t make sense to be so cheap. She pointed to her picture. “There’s Jullily and Liza comforting each other. Liza was whipped and hurt badly, that’s why she’s hunched over like that. And that’s Mr. Ross. He was the nice man who helped them escape from the Riley Plantation.”

“Who’s this?” Ida pointed beside the flickering star.

“That’s Jesus. He said to Liza, ‘You ain’t meant to be beaten. You is a woman same as Missy Riley.’ I think when Jesus talks he says it in a way that the person understands because I’m sure He can speak properly.” Lisa’s big brown eyes were vibrantly alive.

A mild shiver tingled up Ida’s spine. “Who is this then?”

“That’s Adam.” A sad expression passed over her face. “He died ’cause when they were running to Canada the bad men caught him and they chained his legs too tight and he got blood poisoning.” Lisa tilted her head empathetically as she studied the picture. “It was sad so I put him with Jesus and now they both smile on Canada. They came here because Queen Victoria didn’t allow people to have slaves. She made a law saying that all people are free and equal.”

Ida had to turn away from Lisa’s picture before tears filled her eyes. She was normally very good at controlling her emotions. “Are you happy at home, Lisa?” Ida could feel her eyes narrow as her right hand automatically clutched at her own leg.

“Yeah, Mama and I have lots of fun.”

“What about your father?” She breathed deeply, exhaled slowly, and relaxed her right hand.

“Papa too, but he’s away a lot.”

“Because of work?” Ida remembered the long hours her own father
had worked at the Jewellery store. But he always came home for dinner; even if he had to go back afterward...

“He’s a truck driver. That’s a real important job Mama says. Sometimes, in the summer, I get to travel with him. ‘Let’s give your Mama a break,’ Papa says, but I know she’s sad to see me go.” Her ebullient eyes widened naturally. Ida was momentarily stunned as Lisa’s unabashed spirit stood before her. ... The wedge of light on the ceiling the night her father was murdered flashed in her mind’s eye. “We go all over the place, here and even into the United States. Someone fills the back of the truck with all kinds of different things. He makes sure the stuff gets to where they want it to go. I get to read the map and navigate! In August we went all the way down to Mississippi. I thought of Jullily and how much she missed her Mama.”

Memories of Ida’s parents—happy, painful, sad—pressed into her consciousness.

“Lisa, you’ve made great progress this year.” Ida changed the subject to academia in hope to push her emotions back.

“Mama says it’s because you’re my teacher and that I should try extra hard and really pay attention in class ’cause who knows when I’ll get somebody as good again. ‘Ya have to take your opportunities in life,’ Mama says.”

“Does your mother help you study?” Ida asked diverting attention away from herself.

“No, not really. Mama can’t read very well, she didn’t learn very well how to when she was young. When I get home she teaches me how to cook and we sing. Everybody at church compliments Mama on her voice. Some even say she sings better than Whitney Houston! Mama doesn’t believe that though... When we’re done the dishes I teach her how to read. Her favourite is Underground To Canada. She says that you must teach me real good to be so smart. I say, ‘no, Mama, Ms. Larsen teaches me well. But she’s a good teacher!’ Then she hugs and kisses me and we talk about Papa. We put thumbtacks on the map where he is every night. There’s a big heart where our home is.” Lisa sat with her shoulders rolled forward naturally, arms crossed over her waistline, her chin raised slightly.
She expressed her affectionate feelings openly; feelings Ida had to bury many years ago. Lisa didn’t realize that it wasn’t safe to be so open!

“What television shows do you watch?” That question was sure to save her.

“None. Mama says maybe one day we’ll be able to afford a television and cable. She’s always apologizing because she and Papa can’t buy me more things, like toys and stuff. I say, ‘that’s okay, Mama, I don’t need anything’ ’cause I know she’s sad. I got a brand new dictionary and thesaurus for Christmas last year!”

“Your mother sounds like a wonderful person.” Ida’s body tensed in attempt to impede some frightening and intangible feeling from surfacing. She could not be sure, after all this time, what ugly demons would break free.

“Yeah, everybody is always telling her how good she is.” Lisa sighed expressively.

“What do you want to be when you grow up, Lisa?” Ida relaxed, involuntarily.

“I want to be a writer. Then become a teacher like you!”

Turning away from her eyes might have stopped those rising feelings but she couldn’t look away. Lisa lifted Ida above herself and into a vision of hope. That was it! From this perspective Ida could see that she was wrong all this time. She had been adding layers, blankets of rationalizations to shroud her grief-stricken soul. She had been preparing children for a future of cynical resignation, not one of hope and possibilities.

“Ms. Larsen, do you think I’ll be a successful writer?”

“What kind of books do you want to write?” Ida asked as an admiring friend.

“Stories, I love stories!”

It was strange but Ida was feeling strong, stronger than she had in years. “Yes, Lisa, you will be highly successful!” Ida encouraged.

“That’s what Mama says. She tells me when I’m a well-known author I can marry any man I choose and that I’ll have lots to choose from. I want to marry a man like Papa. Whenever we talk about that,
Papa gets this upset look on his face and says I’m not allowed to leave the apartment alone until I’m twenty-five. Mama laughs like it’s a joke, but I think somewhere deep down he really means it.”

A charge of vivid emotions broke past years of suppressions within Ida. Colourful, disjointed pictures flashed in her mind’s eye: A cork discharging from a bottle of champagne... bubbles pouring out all over... faces laughing... glasses clinking... her mother’s jubilant face; Ida’s small hand meticulously placing the last piece of shimmering jewellery in the display case: *Daddy’s beautiful gentle eyes*. It was the Grand Opening of her father’s store. Tiny bumps formed all over her skin. She’d been suffocating for too long. She was so incredibly lonely. Ida thought she was there to help children become a part of society, but no, that wasn’t really it at all. She had been trying to fill the emptiness in her soul that her father’s death had left behind, to ignore the lancing pain in her heart from her mother’s bitterness and silence.

“I really like the boy down the hall, Baldev. He’s nice. He doesn’t speak English very well, but he’s really smart. We play together a lot. He came from India. He’s not Christian he’s Buddhist and says people are supposed to take special care and respect all life, even ants! Jesus said all kinds of stuff like that, I tell him. We also play with Daanish. He lives on the eighth floor. His name means wisdom, learning, and science in Muslim. He helps me with math. Sometimes I just don’t understand how to make the numbers do what they’re supposed to. He’s a pretty good teacher ’cause I’m starting to understand it better. His father is an Aero... naut... ical Engineer.” Lisa sounded it out the word perfectly, as though the exact pronunciation was important. “But right now he’s a taxi cab driver until he finds a job he likes. Daanish says that everybody can understand numbers, no matter what language they speak. I like words better, I tell him. Sometimes I don’t even realize that I’m speaking in one of their languages when we play together! They laugh when they notice, then help me to fit the words together so that they make sense. I help them with English, too.”

Lisa’s soft words, like the fluttering wings of a butterfly from a distant land, whirled into a cyclone sweeping away all negative emotions in the deepest, most remote part of Ida’s spirit. Lisa’s openness for her friends
inspired feelings of togetherness that used to burn so brightly in Ida’s youth. All the things that Lisa was, Ida used to be. The dark cloud of inhibition cleared and for the first time since she was nine years old she could see herself, her true colourful self. She was alive, awake, free. With a deep breath in she realized her inner self was completely exposed for the whole world to see, but for some reason she was not afraid.

“Lisa, are you ready?” A voice broke into her euphoria.
Lisa’s mother was standing at the door.
“Hi, Mama!”
“Thank Ms. Larsen for staying with you.”
“Yes, Mama.” Lisa stood, proper, chin raised. “Thank you, Ms. Larsen.”
“You’re welcome, Lisa.”
“I thought Lisa wuz gonna wait in the library for me,” Mrs. Jackson said. Her eyes were downcast, only once shifting up and into Ida’s eyes. “I wanna thank ya again for teachen her so good.” She shook her head, embarrassed. “I mean well.” Her ingenuous demeanour showed that she felt beneath Ida. Mrs. Jackson didn’t realize that she had more to do with Lisa’s elucidation than Ida.

Lisa walked over to her mother.
“Whad’ ya learn today, Baby Girl?”
“Lots of stuff, I’ll show you everything! Is Papa home yet?” Lisa looked up at her mother, hopefully.
“Soon, Baby Girl, soon. We’ll make ’im a nice homemade dinner. How’s that sound?”
“Fun! Can we sing in the car on the way home, Mama?”
“We hav da, the radio’s busted.”
“Let’s sing the one that everybody in church loves so much.” Lisa glowed. “Mama,” Something came over Lisa as she said, “I hope one day people say good things about me like they do about you.”

Mrs. Jackson stopped, crouched down, gently brushed the back of her hand across Lisa’s left cheek, and then kissed her directly on the lips. “They already do, Baby Girl, they already do…” She rose, grabbed Lisa’s hand and directed her out of the classroom.
The door closed behind them. Ida sat down at her desk feeling wondrously alleviated, like a huge weight had been lifted from her spirit. She shrank in her chair as the whole room enlarged before her teary eyes. She was that child of nine again. A mild breeze from outside brushed softly over her skin. She could hear Lisa and her mother as they passed by the open window. Her senses were fully engaged as the sweet sound of Mrs. Jackson’s singing voice caressed her ears:

*Come let us siiiiiiiiing*

Then Lisa’s tiny voice followed:

‘*cause I’m here on business for the King*

Mrs. Jackson’s deep and resonating voice:

*Let me spread Yooooouuuur light and do my thiiiiiiiiiing*

Lisa:

‘*cause I’m here on business for the Kiiiiiiiiiiing…*

Her mother’s voice was beautiful, angelic, Lisa’s was higher with less range, but it was beautiful too. Ida fondly remembered playing rhyming word games with her own mother. Some words were so easy, but others were really hard to get past four or five rhymes! Every time it ended in laughter, hugs, and warm loving feelings. Ida had completely forgotten about those times...

The subtle but suppressive error was so clear to Ida. She was teaching children how to push hate away instead of how to let love in; it wasn’t her martyrdom, it was her cocoon. She had woven a web of self-deception around her true purpose. All those years of being so brilliant and she was simply afraid to feel love.

Ida sat in the classroom pondering, reflecting, crying, laughing… She was divinely intoxicated. Her heart opened and she was empowered. As daylight faded her reflected image on the window appeared. She was startled! There she was, an innocent child of nine-years-old looking at her own saddened face thirty-one years later. All those wasted years...

From then on, everything changed about her teaching. She understood that any system built on a foundation of hate, even though well intentioned, was organically flawed. What a revelation that was to her life! Within a year she stepped off the ledge of prudence and fell in love for the first time. It was then that she had a real appreciation for
her mother’s deep pain. Ida had lost her father on that dark day, but her mother had lost her soul mate. Losing her husband now would mean unimaginable pain and sorrow to Ida. She finally had the capacity and safety to properly mourn for her parents and move on with her own life…. Showers of tears, suppressed messengers from her heavy heart, flooded over her face while her lover held her in his strong arms. As her misty eyes cleared translucent blue spheres emerged exposing the depth and colour of her natural spirit.

Corresponding through letters and emails (from a computer that she had personally purchased for Lisa), Ida followed Lisa’s progress through school. She was completely intrigued with this young person that had saved her from a passionless life. Lisa became like a daughter to Ida. Before even finishing university Lisa won The Marian Engal Award for the most Outstanding Prose for a Canadian Female Author, then four years after that the Gillar Prize for her novel *Locution*. What a great piece of literature that was! Due to the lack of reliable postal and internet service in the places she was teaching, Ida lost track of Lisa in Africa. Five years later Ida found her as she was awarded The Caine Prize followed almost immediately by UNESCO’s Prize for Peace Education. They named a school after her there. Following that, her work in India and Afghanistan had a positive impact on modernizing teaching techniques and facilities for those without financial means.

Ida left teaching public school and continued her linguistic studies, much to her peers’ approval. She had put her name forward to The Language Committee of the Swedish Academy knowing that she would meet Lisa there some day… Ida was appointed not long thereafter and in what seemed like a single moment, thirty years had passed. Approaching the grand age of seventy Ida did not feel old; she was vibrant, passionate and looked forward to tomorrow as a child looks forward to a day at the amusement park.

•    •    •

The long awaited day had arrived! Sitting at her desk, Ida couldn’t
stop flipping the pages of Lisa’s latest novel, *In a Word*, fanning it again and again across her face. *Ah yes, the smell of newness…* No, not her novel! Her magnum opus! The blurring black marks in her perception created a vivid story in her imagination, like the picture-story books of her youth where the scene appeared to move as the pages turned. She could hardly contain her excitement that after all these years she was going to see Lisa again. What would she say?

“Ida!” Eva Johansson, Ida’s dear friend, poked her head through the door, “come on let’s go!” She tapped the face of her wristwatch.

Together they hurried up the creaky wooden steps to the second floor, through the Nobel Library, and into the Grand Hall to listen to Lisa’s Nobel Lecture of the 2045 Nobel Prize in Literature.

“…who with lyrical beauty and poetic force has unshackled oppressed human potential and broke nations free from their disposition to violent confrontation.”

Everybody stood and applauded as Lisa made her way to the podium. She had grown into a beautiful, self-assured woman but her eyes had the same look of honesty, openness and love as that eleven-year old girl.

Before starting with her speech, Lisa took inventory of who was there, her gaze slowly passing over the audience, pausing briefly at everybody. “In grade six I was given an assignment that would engage me in a life-long pursuit: Write two stories, one of war and one of peace. To my great surprise, the one of war flowed more easily from my thoughts. I was not an angry child, my home was filled with love; so why was it more natural to write about catastrophe and suffering? In my youthful consternation, I asked my teacher why this was and she replied, ‘As a writer you must pay attention to the words people use to defend their ideas, express emotions, and convey knowledge. Then you must understand what is behind those words.’ Of course I didn't really understand her then. But in my first year in University I got it. Deeply involved in my writing and studying, it dawned on me that the social and cultural history of humanity had been built from the language
structure. I called her immediately and we talked until wee hours of the morning.” Lisa stopped speaking for a moment’s reflection. “I gained incredible insight from that conversation.

“In the Bible we are taught, ‘don’t diminish a word. It may be they will listen and turn every man from his evil way’ but we commonly used more words and phrases for the forces of catastrophe, evil, human misery than for peace, love, goodness. Indeed in the dictionaries and thesauruses of the world there were far more references to depict the word destroy than to depict the word build; more avenues of expression for the forces hostile toward mankind. Our natural disposition was to encourage the ills of humanity not the spirits of love and freedom. The media exploited the negative for ratings and to take a political stand, and the leaders of the world fought each other in calamitous innuendos to defend and enforce their ideals. Of course this type of expression could only end in war. I discovered that the fight for peace was a battle over language; that is, carving our conceptual pathways to make the expression of love the one of least resistance… Where love lives hate cannot grow. My novel In A Word uses words as windows that reflect a world of peace, love, and tolerance. Tolerance for differing ideas and beliefs, not initiated force. We must act and think boldly, persuade by example, and as Julliza in my novel says, ‘… sublimate those moribund regimes of oppressive human destruction into proliferating spirits of mass production: production of knowledge, production of surplus resources and affordable services, production of love…’

“How could I make my fictional heroes and heroines into real life stories? I asked myself this question daily. The answer was so simple. Teach people to read and write and their heroic spirit would naturally emerge. Given the proper tools of expression I believe that the spirit of the good will always triumph. After University I set off on my journey that in a roundabout way brought me before you here today.

“In 2003 the International Decade of Literacy commenced. I was born in January of that year. Forty-two years later we have made incredible headway to empowering human life through the vehicle of language. Back then one out of every five adults world-wide could not read or write. Now it is one out of every one thousand! This is great
head-way, but still unacceptable. The momentum will continue... I will not stop with my work!” Lisa clenched her fist beside her face.

She continued her speech with a modesty that only she could make believable after all she had accomplished:

“The credit for this does not belong to me alone.” She held up her novel. “Behind every successful person there is a support team that without, success would not have been possible. Without my loving parents who inspired a strong work ethic and gave me all the resources and confidence to follow my passion, I would not be known by so many today.” Lisa looked toward her mother, who was wiping tears from her face, and her father whose posture showed the undeniable shape of pride; shoulders pulled back, chin raised, lips pursed tightly. A single tear rolled down his dark wrinkled cheek. “It was both of my parents that showed me by example how to learn, teach, and love effectively.

“Without all the courageous people who, with honesty of purpose, broke out from under the weight of oppression and pioneered new paths toward human welfare and prosperity, my work would be meaningless. Many were beaten and killed for their new found power of expression.” Lisa’s chin tilted down. Was that tear that dropped? She lifted her head slowly, sadness of a lost battle etched across her beautiful face.“They are the real life heroes that future generations will look toward; they are the people that history will remember!”

Her face brightened naturally as she turned Ida’s way. What depth of expression and resilience of spirit Lisa showed in her countenance and posture. She was truly unafraid to feel and show any emotion that came over her.

“Without my grade six teacher who taught me how to write life-changing stories, I may have been just another novelist working at low paying jobs to support my passion. The years of effort she put into me and my writing has been central to my successes. She taught me that the story teller builds rising tension through the struggle of opposing forces until, somehow, the hero succeeds. She demonstrated the importance of understanding the nature of the conflict. From good verses evil, rich over poor, strong against weak... But one lesson filled pages upon pages of my work. She taught me that hate is not
the opposite of love: *Fear* is the opposite of love. For that, I am deeply indebted to you.” Lisa continued to look directly at Ida with her chin held high, respectful.

Ida fought back her tears, unsuccessfully. *No, Lisa, I am indebted to you.*
Noble Prize winning Richard Feynman’s mother asked him at dinner every night, “Richard, what did you ask at school today?”

Lisa’s character was inspired, in part, by Howard Gardner’s multiple intelligences. In the early nineteen nineties I discovered these intelligences and how to access the power of my whole brain. Indeed, at the time, I was using only a miniscule part of my potential and my life reflected that. When I discovered Accelerated Learning Techniques by Brian Tracy and Colin Rose I went to work. Within ten years I started, finished, and published my first novel; I met my soul mate; After receiving two promotions at my job I ventured out on my own and achieved my dream of being successfully self-employed, writing and teaching; achieved my level one teaching certification in kung fu; and I have achieved my black belt in kung fu. Those are the tangible aspects of my growth. The spiritual breadth of my growth is vast and incalculable. Accelerated Learning Techniques introduced me to Howard Gardner and my whole life changed, forever. I found the tools to propel my actions into accomplished goals and realized dreams. Most importantly I understood who I was and what goals and dreams to pursue. In 1983 Howard Gardner, a cognitive psychologist at Harvard University, published a book on human intelligences
called *Frames of Mind*.

Gardner defined intelligence as having three components:

1: The aptitude to solve real-life problems.
2: The ability to create useful products or offer services of value for the culture one lives in.
3: The potential to discover problems or ask questions that allow the individual to acquire new knowledge.

He initially put forward that there are actually seven intelligences that we all have. We use them to different degrees but are naturally more proficient, or drawn toward one or two. As you are reading through them, intuit the ones that most attract, define, and/or compliment you. The first two are predominant in our school system and are essential in the technological world we live in.

Note: The following intelligences are not hierarchal. No one is more or less important than the other.

**LINGUISTIC:**

This is your ability to use words, spoken or written, to persuade, bestow information, understand the structure of language and so on. Obviously you have this intelligence because you are to some level comprehending these little black marks on the paper (screen) before you. If you have a high level of Linguistic Intelligence you may be a writer, lawyer, public speaker, politician or any occupation where clarity and coherence in communication using language is vital to success. My predominant intelligence is not linguistics, which is partly why I did not do well in school. But, as I learned, intelligence is not fixed. Words give me the avenue to explore and market my dominant intelligences: Intrapersonal and Interpersonal (see below).

In this fast paced changing social environment that we live in, the need to communicate effectively and efficiently is paramount. You must organize, create, speak, and write to the outside world. Your inside world should not be forgotten. You must have the language to discover and define your own unique personality. One of the saddest indications
of this intelligence declining can be seen by school children conversing over the Internet. The following is an excerpt from an actual message:

“My smmr hols wr CWOT. B4, we usd 2go2 NY 2C my bro, his GF & thr 3 :- kds FTF. ILNY, it`s a gr8 plc”

This kind of communication is not uncommon in young adults. How well would that form of communication go over in a place of business? It is not clear. This shortcut on language (which comes from laziness disguised as creativity) can only result in truncated thinking skills and leave the student unarmed in this increasing complex and competitive world. Reading fiction is a good way to enhance this intelligence. It helps you to intellectually grasp concepts through metaphors that are difficult in direct language.

I like to use the metaphor of static electricity to show how to leap to the next level of understanding. Static electricity jumps from your body to a metal handle. The shock will not occur if you (the electrons attached to you) are not close enough to transfer to the positively charged door handle. Learning, or elucidation, will not occur if you are not intellectually close enough to the idea being presented. The gap will be too great to cross. A good metaphor (and/or story) jumps like electricity to facilitate enlightenment. It flips the intellectual darkness switch to illuminating clarity, mysteriously at times...

LOGICAL/MATHEMATICAL:

This is your ability to use numbers and reason effectively. If this is your predominant intelligence you may be a mathematician, statistician, accountant, computer programmer, scientist, financial planner… Your sound reasoning allows you to see logical patterns of cause and effect. You could easily see that if you put $100 A Month away in a savings plan and achieved an average of 12% interest over the course of twenty-five to thirty years (through dollar cost averaging) you would be a millionaire by the time of retirement. You understand the principles of compound interest. You also understand that with the rate of inflation, you will
need to be a millionaire to live out your golden years in comfort. This is a very important point. Anybody who has seen an elderly person who did not understand this concept, who worked all her or his life to receive a promised pension from the government that now hovers around the poverty line, knows the importance of this mathematical concept. If you don’t know anybody like that, the next time you walk into Wal-Mart say hello to the greeter, be receptive to his or her story. For further clarification on this most important point, you are encouraged to read *The Wealthy Barber* by David Chilton and the *Pig and the Python* by David Cork. Both are best selling Canadian books on personal finance and market awareness. They are best selling books because they have turned the mundane subject of personal finance into fast-paced *stories* that demonstrate key elements to financial success. After reading these books you will know *what questions to ask* your bank to achieve the best rate and how to properly plan for your future. It is best to start while you are young! A little goes a long way when you have twenty to thirty years to work with. Seek free advice on your finances by licensed people. There are reputable companies out there that will come to your home and educate you on how to achieve financial independence in your golden years. I cannot stress enough the need to develop this intelligence. It is definitely far from my dominant intelligence but with my writing and publishing business, you can bet I am working hard at it. You’ve probably heard stories of creative people being swindled by their accountants or business managers. As one example singer/songwriter Billy Joel’s business manager, Frank Weber, had been embezzling millions away from Joel’s profits for years until he found out. He only recovered a portion of the loss.

“He who does not open his eyes must open his purse.”
—German Proverb

Take the time to learn about money. Teaching children about how money works is paramount to achieving a happy life-style as an adult. A good equation to start with is the Rule of 72. Type in “Rule of 72” into any search engine on the internet and discover how a little goes a
long way. Remember, it takes twenty years to become an overnight success. This is the concept of watering the ground everyday until one day years down the road a money tree sprouts up and grows very quickly. Money is the energy that allows you to give to the issues that affect you. I have a goal to direct one million dollars toward Toronto’s Hospital for Sick Children. I owe them my life... A few times a year I visit Toronto’s Hospital for Sick Children and watch. It’s funny how life comes into perspective...

One possible profession for somebody with strong mathematical/logical intelligence leads us directly to our next intelligence: A Musician. Notice the strong tie between the two intelligences.

“Pythagoras knew it, but Bach demonstrated it: without mathematics there is no music.”
—Noralv Pedersen
http://www.ntnu.no/gemini/2000-06c/32-34.htm

MUSICAL INTELLIGENCE:

“Music is a more potent instrument than any other for education, and children should be taught music before anything else.”
—Plato

If you have a high musical intelligence you likely have a large, varied music collection. You’re a discerning judge of music and you might play an instrument. You are sensitive to melody, rhythm, pitch and tone of a piece of music. You have excellent listening skills. Of course people with high musical intelligence, and express it, are some of the most respected and well-paid people in the world. Mozart had an incredible musical intelligence. Starting at the age of four until his death at age thirty-five Mozart produced a massive amount of music: 626 works according to the Köchel listing....Incredible. It is highly advisable, no matter what type of music you like or even what discipline you choose to follow, that you become well acquainted with his music. A good
way to enhance your intelligence and creativity in any area is to have relaxing classical music playing in the background at home. Listening to Mozart’s music while involved in other intelligence enhancing activities such as reading, writing, exercising provides an invigorating mental boost.

“Clearly, the rhythms, melodies, and high frequencies of Mozart’s music stimulate and charge the creative and motivational regions of the brain.”
—Don Campbell, The Mozart Effect

Music is not mere sound; it is a form of language that transcends time, geography, and cultural ideologies. Like metaphorical prose and visual art, there are parts of the spirit that can be reached in no other way. The ability to manipulate sound that evokes cognitive, emotional, and spiritual responses is a sign of high intelligence and provides great value to society.

For more information on how this can benefit you do a search on the Internet labelled Musical Intelligence or The Nature of Classical Music and/or read The Mozart Effect, by Don Campbell. Let us not forget Johan Sebastian Bach! An absolute genius… Some of the newer music that I like to play while writing and/or reading is Narada, founded in 1983.

Narada music brings a vast swath of divergent music together harmoniously from some of the most creative, imaginative artists worldwide. It will touch a chord in your spirit and awaken your own creative nature. Two double CDs to get you started are: “Narada Decade, The Anniversary Collection” and “Narada World, A Global Vision”. Another great relaxing Narada CD is “Renaissance” by William Ellwood. It celebrates the sounds of the natural world around us; it captivates the mind, relaxes the body, and opens the spirit.

Notice how music and linguistic intelligence compliment each other. Great poetry and metaphorical prose are replete with lyrical beauty.
INTRAPERSONAL:

This is one the most important and neglected intelligences. If you have a high intrapersonal intelligence you have and accurate view of yourself, you are aware of your motivations, desires, strengths and weaknesses, you have a high level of self-esteem and show discipline to set and achieve goals. You understand that intelligence is not fixed and work hard to improve the areas you need to improve to get to where you want to go. Have you ever stopped yourself from trying something really great because that pesky voice in your head said, “You can’t do that! What makes you think you could become a best selling author?”…or whatever unrealized dream is lurking within your spirit. Reading books by Nathaniel Branden will give you practical tools to raise this intelligence. In the introduction of the Six Pillars Of Self-Esteem Dr. Branden says, “The turbulence of our times demands strong selves with a clear sense of identity, competence, and worth.” A little later he continues, “To face life with low self-esteem is to be at a severe disadvantage.” How many of us were thrown out into the world without the confidence to chase down our life’s purpose? Are you experiencing all that you hoped to as a child? The imminent need for the development of this intelligence in school can be seen with the proliferation of violence and antisocial behaviour in young people. These children are struggling to find and express their power. Without the proper channels to release the great power that resides in every-single-one-of-us one becomes frustrated and resorts through the only channel available: physical violence. In the mind of the aggressor there is always a rational and justified reason for every malicious action; whether its school children settling a score or it’s the leader of a nation doing “what’s good for the people”.

“No man knowingly does evil.”

—Socrates

Dr. Branden illustrates that in this ever changing, and demanding society, self-esteem is not only an important psychological need; it is
an important economic need. Self-esteem gives you the ability, or more accurately courage, to look at yourself honestly and change what needs to be changed to achieve all your goals.

**INTERPERSONAL:**

If you have a high interpersonal intelligence you read other people’s emotions easily. You are empathetic, have sensitivity to face and body expressions, can sense fluctuations in voice tonality and have a natural ability to comfort those that need emotional support. People with high interpersonal intelligence become therapists, psychologists, daycare workers, nurses, councillors, martial arts instructors, writers, coaches etc. You can easily see that people bare their souls in the way they behave. You notice the rigidity or flow in the way people walk, the slight nuances in their tonality of speech, and body motions. Without a word being spoken you can discern whether a person is happy or sad.

Through study and observation you can market a variety of things to large groups of people by understanding their wants. As Will Bower in my novel *On The Fringes* says, “People are open books if you take the time to read.” As this intelligence increases you will have the ability to create useful products or offer services of value to your community, city, country, even the world! Boarders are falling and there are increasing groups of people that are being freed from under the thumbs of oppression. They need our help to build their lives. Think of the feelings you would have by showing human beings how to live their lives in dignity, freedom, and prosperity. Breaking free from the chains of totalitarianism the world will turn into a huge market of advancing technology, cultural diversity, human longevity, and everybody will benefit from the unique skills and services of everybody. People with high levels of this intelligence will be the most respected and well paid people in this century. This world needs leaders at the helm with high levels of Interpersonal Intelligence if we are to solve the differences between cultural ideologies and live in a world community of peace, love, and tolerance.
BODY KINAESTHETIC-TACTILE:

If you have a high Body Kinaesthetic intelligence then you probably played a wide range of sports in school, you are drawn toward occupations that use your body to express ideas and emotions, such as an actor, athlete, dancer, tradesman, martial artist, or mime. You have coordination of your muscles and have a good sense of balance. Artists, mechanics, and surgeons have a strong Bodily-Kinaesthetic intelligence. This intelligence is well-paid in the market place. Think of professional athletes and the exorbitant salaries they command. How about the Blue Collar trades? The trades have become very lucrative. In the early 1990’s students were told to go into the computer field. That was not necessarily the right approach. Sure there was a shortage of computer literate people, and computer skills are as important today as linguistic and mathematical skills, but there are fewer and fewer competent trade’s people as a result. And going back to our increasing Mathematical/Logical intelligence, what does that mean? That’s right, the principle of supply and demand comes into play. Trades people are commanding huge prices for their services because of the depleted well of competent people, able and licensed to install your furnace, build an addition onto your house, fix your plumbing, wire a light switch. And computer apt people are lined up at unemployment offices as a result of the market crash in that area.

According to Brain Gym, a system that grew out of clinical studies in 1969 by Paul Dennison, Ph. D.:

“simple physical movements can bring about fast and automatic improvements in such skill as memory, reading, concentration and communication. There are noticeable gains in creativity, energy levels, performance and interpersonal relationships.”

If you have a strong spatial intelligence you perceive the visual-spatial world accurately and are able guide yourself through that world, such as a captain of a ship, a pioneer of new lands, a scout, a truck driver. You see colours, lines, forms, and space well, therefore you could be a graphic designer. You are a navigator, have the ability to represent visual or spatial ideas such a making maps. You can visualize. Mozart also had a high spatial intelligence.

“He could imagine one piece as he wrote down another; he seemed to see a whole composition before he committed it to paper. In a letter to his father, he explained, ‘Everything has been composed but not yet written down.’”

If you are strong in this intelligence you can see the whole then break it down into necessary parts. Einstein was also strong in this intelligence. He summed up the entire universe in a single thought in his famous equation $E=MC^2$. That’s spatial indeed! Take the interdisciplinary approach to practice this skill by writing down your life story replete with the people you want to meet, the incredible details of your dream home, your perfect occupation with fine points of duties and responsibilities. This is an important exercise to engage your mind’s eye. Why? Everything happens twice, first in the mind, then in the world. Napoleon Hill’s *Think And Grow Rich* persuasively illustrates this point. If you have only a vague idea of what you want to achieve, you will achieve nothing. Don’t just write, “I want a nice car.” Write:

“I was ecstatic to receive my personally customized XK8 Convertible Jaguar in Phoenix Red. I reclined the soft cashmere seats and relaxed into my journey. The day was perfectly clear, not a cloud in the sky. As I glided onto the highway I turned on my Alpine Audio System. I felt as though I were riding on a cloud as David Arkenstone’s ‘Papillon (On the Wings of the Butterfly)’ resounded through the 320 watts surround sound system. There
was only one thing missing, but barring traffic, my calculations estimated that I would be pulling into her driveway in six and a half minutes."

Later Howard Gardner recognized an eighth and eighth-and-a-half intelligence:

**NATURALIST:**

If you have a high Naturalist intelligence you can easily recognize and classify plants, minerals, and animals, including rocks, grass and all variety of flora and fauna. You are attracted to the outdoors and feel akin to mountains, trees, lakes, oceans, animals... Darwin is a famous example of a naturalist. In our evolutionary past people who possessed this intelligence were good as hunters, gatherers, and farmers. I would include some artists in this intelligence because of their ability to depict clearly and expressively the world around us. Those of us (not me!...but I’m working on it...) with a green-thumb demonstrate high levels of this intelligence.

.5 EXISTENTIAL INTELLIGENCE

This is your sensitivity and capacity to tackle deep questions about human existence, such as the meaning of life, why we die, and how did we get here. What is our purpose in life? Gardner really only considers this half an intelligence because he hasn't found the part of the brain responsible for this one. Gardner, rightly, relies on empirical evidence to support his hypothesis. But as a martial artist, I sense that this one is definitely worthy of being paired with any one of the first eight intelligences. Maybe even, I dare say, worthy of being a one-point-five intelligence! But then again I’m a novelist, not a scientist...
The Magic of Multiple Intelligences

The real power of these intelligences comes to life when you use two or more toward a goal. Take for instance the success of pairing musical and linguistic intelligences. By adding simple melodies to rhythm-language (poetry), beliefs, thoughts, and emotions flooded the cultural mainstream in the 20th century. Marrying these two intelligences spawned the popular music explosion and made thousands of people rich and famous.

In Think and Grow Rich Napoleon Hill talks about forming a Master Mind group. Hill defined Mastermind as:

“Coordination of knowledge, in a spirit of harmony, between two or more people for the attainment of a definite purpose.” Pg 168

It is not likely, if at all possible, to be expert in two or more of Gardner’s intelligences. Yes you can raise them all to a certain degree but high achievement is unlikely in more than two. But the accomplishment of the most magnificent goal is achieved by creating a team of like-minded people with different intellectual strengths. You should gravitate toward people strong in the intelligences that you’re not. Let’s look toward a four person musical band for further clarification.
Chances are there will be somebody better at writing lyrics, another better at playing an instrument or singing, still another at choreographing a live performance... Oftentimes the band needs to hire a manager to look after promotions, legal problems, and money. The key is to organize a Mastermind group to serve your greater purpose, whatever you chose that to be. A successful band has many intelligences working for it in different ways from different people. Successful organizations utilize Gardner’s intelligences to further their goals; unwittingly or not.

The school system’s back-to-basics mantra in the 1990's has focused solely on the three R’s while dispensing with frills, such as physical education, music, drama, home economics. I fully agree, proficiency in reading, ’riting, and ’rithmetic are essential for success, but these areas are often taught in a way that snuffs out the student’s natural creative energy and instead of freeing the student, as language and numbers should, they chain her or him to a life of mediocrity. With the arts being systematically removed from schools many students become bored or threatened by learning. Slowly but surely pessimism and dysfunction erode any chance of a vibrant, happy life filled with opening doors of opportunity.

My point here is that once you realize your true motivations and desires, your natural intelligences will serve you. These intelligences should be considered servants of you destiny, not masters of your mediocrity. An incredible disservice happens when a student comes through school and is fearful of approaching any learning environment because of previous “failures”. Remember your past is not your potential.
A brief exercise: Sit comfortably and do each of the following exercises without moving your head or body. Let only your eyes move in their sockets:

- Look up to the left; hold for fifteen seconds.
- Look directly sideways to the left; hold for fifteen seconds.
- Look down to the left; hold for fifteen seconds.
- Look up to the right; hold for fifteen seconds.
- Look directly sideways to the right; hold for fifteen seconds.
- Look down to the right; hold for fifteen seconds.

Do the above now. Remember to breathe.

Relax now and let the following words move past the thin layer that separates your conscious and subconscious. Let everything you’ve read so far go and open your mind to the new. Let the images invoke your spirit in this visualization. Take a deep breath and exhale slowly, three times. Are you comfortable? Okay let’s begin:

On all the paths you could have journeyed that lead to some other place you find yourself standing before a beautiful mahogany door. About waist level an iridescent luminous light escapes though a keyhole transferring the perfect sparkling image of itself onto your leg.
Automatically, your knees bend, your back curls, and you feel you head lowering until your left eye meets the glow from the key hole. The light shining into your left eye sends warm flowing sensations through the right side of your body. After a few moments you switch to the right eye and that same warmth flows through the left side of your body.

Inside you clearly see that all your dreams, goals, and passions are vibrantly alive, playfully interacting together. All your life you tried to adapt, fit in, but now as your free spirit unfurls before your vision, you get a deep sense of your natural purpose. You were not born to fit into some societal mould; you were meant to expand in a universe of infinite possibilities, to harvest the treasures of your heart’s desires.

Pulling your face away from the keyhole the shadowed images of your true spirit slowly disappear and your heart sinks. There is no door handle. How do you get in to claim those inner treasures? The light continues to flicker through the keyhole, vibrant images dancing on your leg. You hear the sound of spontaneous, joyful laughter. It is your own laughter coming from the other side of the door. You look up in search for an answer. You remember in school a teacher reproaching you: “I don’t think you’re going to find the answer on the ceiling!” Embarrassed you look down to the floor as your shoulders curl forward. Exasperation and depression set in as your shoulders get heavier and heavier. You turn to walk away from the door, the jubilant sounds of laughter all but faded. Maybe you weren’t meant for those treasures anyway. Then some inner voice, the Sage in the Temple, whispers “Turn Back, you will never be any closer.”

Your shoulders and chin rise in stern defiance of that negative feeling. You look up toward the ceiling, unembarrassed. Light from the keyhole reflects, like a laser beam, off your belt buckle onto a large golden key on the top ledge of the door. You grab it and shove it in the hole, frantically turning to claim your treasures. Nothing, the key will not even budge! Your vision tunnels and you almost break the key off in the hole from the force of your ambition. Taking a deep breath in you pull the key out and notice that the large handle on the key has a symbol etched on it. It is the letter B with a larger arrow pointing toward the end of the key. Your eyes follow the direction of the arrow.
along the cylindrical shaft. They stop at a B at the end of the shaft. The secret is in the B. What could it mean? Break the door down and Bust your way in. After pushing, heaving, and throwing your body against the door you realize there is no way. For a long time you rack your brain to understand what the B means. Every word you know starting with a B runs through your mind, over and over. Taking a deep breath in, you step back to look at the situation more objectively.

Exhaling slowly you think, What do I know about achieving goals? The first, obviously, is to have a definite goal. Curling your back and bending knees you look through the keyhole, toward the life you were meant to live... You definitely have a goal. What else? With that question a word pops into your mind with such clarity and certainty that you know that the B stands for Belief. You can almost taste the riches meant for you on the other side. What else...? Ah yes! To back that goal you must put in all your energy. Rubbing your painful shoulder you realize that the effort here must be mental. Seemingly out of nowhere a simple question enters your mind: What if it’s not only a B on the end of the key?

You pinch the top part and pull. It elongates and now it looks more like two P’s. The arrow is pointing beyond what is visible to the eyes. What could the first P stand for? Again by asking the question the answer is clearly given: Passion. Of course, without Passion you could not achieve anything! You put the key into the hole and it makes a half turn. You are half way there! The symbol etched on the handle is now turned up toward you. A soft light from inside the door reflects off the arrow into both of your eyes creating holistic warmth that spreads throughout your body. You continue to work the key like a safecracker works the dial of an unknown combination, looking for that fine space where the full turn is made. You understand that the solid door before you is only a physical representation of the intangible barrier that has been keeping you from your natural path in life. Laughing to your self you continue with full energy. This may take hours, days, months, even years to find the perfect fit that turns the key that lets you into your most perfect dance of life. But you continue because you understand what the second P stands for.
Belief + Passion + Perseverance unlocks a universe of infinite possibilities and opens paths toward the physical world of probabilities

Rediscovering Your Passion

I'm happy right now that you are reading these words! I hope it's because you're getting a lot of value from this first part of Your Creative Call to Action and have been drawn through it. Of course I know I have a lot of competition with television, video games, hopefully exercise, and hopefully an occupation that challenges you. For finding the time and energy to make it this far, Congratulations! I'm sure now you will finish this first part of Your Creative Call to Action. That brings us to the next principle of Mastery.

One of the greatest pieces of advice I garnered from my creative writing teacher is that when you start writing a story, whether short or long, finish it! She explained that the hard work of bringing an idea into completion takes discipline, and Persistence. This I can attest to. A funny thing happens when putting a story together. You outline it, do the research, and start writing. Not long into it another great idea appears, better than the one you’re working on. How can you possibly work on this boring mundane idea when you have a grandiose one waiting in the wings? You shove the one you’re working on in your drawer and get to work on the next. What do you think happens next? That’s right a new even more grandiose idea appears. This continues to happen until you have nothing to show for your efforts but half
done manuscripts lining your drawers. The same phenomena happen when reading books as well. How many books have you started and never finished? Practice working straight through to the end of any endeavour before moving on to the next. If that means buying shorter, easier to read books like *The Alchemist*, then do that. Committing to a book like *War and Peace* by Leo Tolstoy when you’re not an avid reader is committing finishing suicide. Make your goals achievable and stick it out to the end.

**PRINCIPLE 4: DURATION**

Okay now you’re ready to get started. But you still don’t know what you were meant to be. There are a few methods that will help. First you must **Believe** you have a purpose and that you innately know what it is, even if your mind tries to trick you with negative reinforcements of how mediocre you really are. Inside of you the acorn is patiently waiting for the proper care and nourishment to break out of its shell and rise into a fruitful tree. You must **Persevere** through the long-term to find your purpose. Your life is too great not to. If you could fully understand the sequence of events that brought you into this world you could not be anything but astounded by the beauty of your spirit. Here are some ideas to find the most natural expression of your unique self.

**1:** Take a look at pictures or videos of when you were between the ages of 7 and 14. Be Sherlock Holmes and look for clues. What activities were you engaged in that made you most happy? What birthday presents did you ask for? Take into consideration Howard Gardner’s multiple intelligences.

**2:** Make a practice of breaking habitual patterns. Start small and work your way to bigger things. Drive a different way to work, stand in the longest line at the grocery store (if have any doubt about how your mind reproaches you, try this exercise and listen to that voice in your head tell you how stupid you are for standing in the longest line), listen to self-improvement tapes instead of music in the car…
Of course not all patterns are negative and should be respected: brushing your teeth, washing your hands before eating, exercising, reading, breathing. The key is to be conscious of your habits and keep the ones that serve your greater purpose and discard the rest. Even the pattern of reading can be counterproductive if you don’t change the types of material you read. For example if you are an atheist, read the Bible, if you are Christian, key in Secular Humanism on any search engine on the internet. Often opposing ideals are saying the same things in different ways. Be receptive to new information. Being trapped in patterns can be self destructive in this ever-changing society. The way it has always been lasts only days now...

3: Engage you imagination. Even if you know that writing is not an ambition of yours, write something. Write a story, your story. Start with something like, I was a clerk at a retail store. Then get crazy:

One day a man walked in and asked me if I wanted to change my life. Of course I resisted. “No, I’m quite happy now,” I lied. He smiled derisively, passed me an envelope and left the store. I never saw him again but my life was about to change. Drastically! Who could have predicted that four lines on the piece of paper could have made me President In Charge of Colonizing the Moon?

You must exercise your imagination like you exercise your muscles. As children we naturally worked our imaginations everyday. All too often as adults it continues to constrict until we find no value in walking bare foot through puddles in the rain, doodling, colouring, drawing, playing board games, putting puzzles together. Find the clarity of that inner child that has been suffocated with rules, regulations, and “proper behaviour for someone your age”. Within your being there is a deep wisdom that links your existence with the ingenious ways of the universe. Get out of your own way and discover the synergy that brings endless riches, harmony, and love into your life.
4: Once a month take your family, your partner, your friends or just go alone and do something out of the norm. In every city there are ample opportunities to watch young actors, dancers, singers, poets, and competitive athletes perform. There are some incredibly talented people paying their dues that are on the verge of stardom. You can see them for only a few dollars (sometimes for free!) per ticket. Absorb the energy of people striving toward their goals. Make a day or evening of it and experience the culture of where you live.

5: Actively raise your intelligence by diligently practicing any or all of the following:
Reading novels, short stories, poems, and current scientific articles. If you’re like me and can’t always comprehend complex scientific equations, go to the children’s section of the bookstore or library, and read those books. I understand the equation $E=MC^2$ much better as a result of doing that—Linguistic
Studying how money works, starting with your personal finances—Math
Listening to Narada, Mozart, Bach, or anything from the Baroque era. Learn to play an instrument or dust the one in your closet off. Do an internet search on Georg Friederich Händel. Notice how his father wanted him to be a lawyer. What if he had given in to that wish? Do you think we would know him today?—Music
Asking your self constantly, “Who am I? What am I naturally good at? If I could choose any profession at all, what would I choose?” These are key questions to engage your mind and bring out your spirit.—Intrapersonal
Taking the time to observe other people. Go to a busy part of town and watch people hurry through their lives. Notice the expressions they wear. Guess what their occupations might be. Imagine what their occupations should be? Notice how people in the food court in shopping malls appear to be happy while people parking their cars seem anxious and irritable. While in conversation, listen twice as much as you speak (this is a real challenge for some people).
Remember your capacity to receive increases your capacity to give. If you’re speaking, you’re not learning. While reading novels, figure out what Intelligences the characters are strongest and weakest in.—Interpersonal

Participating in martial arts, yoga, Tai Chi, or hiring a personal trainer to build strength, endurance, and intelligence in your body.—Physical

Practicing visualizing techniques. Do a jig-saw puzzle. Notice the similarity to success: The complete picture requires assembling many different pieces. Imagine your perfect life down to the tiniest of details then start putting them together.—Spatial

Walking in the park, camping, swimming in mountain or lake water. In large cities people can go years without their bare feet touching the ground. There is positive energy emanating from the earth. Many of us have lost that powerful connection. Get in touch with nature and revel in its beauty; you are a part of that beauty.—Naturalist

Looking at the big picture of your life and why you’re here. Why are you here?—Existential

6: Go to Nightingale.com on the internet. Read about the self-improvement programs offered. Hone in on five that most pique your interest. Read about the authors and speakers of those programs. What is their story? Do they have their own website? How did they achieve financial or personal success? Then, discerningly, choose the one that most interests you and order it! A good practice for people (like me!) that like to listen to music in the car is to listen to motivational tapes/CDs while on their way to work and music on their way home. Even reading about the programs will engage the deeper part of you that knows your purpose.

7: Sit alone in a quiet room, breathe deeply (a little longer on the exhale), and resist the urge to get up. Watch your thoughts without judgment. This is in line with our next principle of Mastery.
**PRINCIPLE 5: KEEPING STILL**

In the business world this is one of the highest paid activities, or, more correctly, non-activities. “Keeping Still?” you might query thinking that the business world is moving faster than ever and demands the same of all its’ people. Behind closed doors, however, **Stillness** is the key to negotiating the big deals that keeps the company cost efficient and profitable. Silence and stillness together is one of the most powerful tactics in the art of negotiations. But the skill of **Stillness** does not confine itself to the boardroom. Personal relationships prosper from this competence. To listen effectively/empathetically one must be still in mind *in spite* of its natural tendency to judge and jump in with the solution before really understanding the problem. That brings us back to Principle 1: Receptivity.

Try right now to stay completely still for ten minutes. No fingers or toes moving, no stretching your back, no rolling your neck or shifting your head or eyes. Yes you may breathe and blink, but that’s it. If you are not practiced at doing this your whole concept of time shifts; ten minutes seems like hours. This is a very powerful exercise. When your mind says, “This is stupid” and coaxes you to get up and “get busy chasing your dream!” Say, “Thank you for sharing” and continue with the exercise, knowing that this is bringing you closer to your dreams. Watch all your thoughts, without judgment, as clouds drifting through the clear blue sky; then let them go. Those who can still the mind and focus solely on the task at hand can achieve any goal, small or large. Those who allow the flood of erratic and chaotic thoughts clutter the mind float around in a sea of unrealized dreams. Beyond the incessant clatter of your brain The Sage in Temple is quietly telling you who you are. Listen for it.

“All of man’s troubles stem from his inability to sit alone in a quiet room.”
—Blaise Pascal
At twenty-nine years old Michelangelo was considered the greatest sculptor in Italy because of his Masterpiece “David”. But as a child he suffered many reprimands and even beatings for spending most of his time drawing and sketching. His father thought the Fine Arts were a waste of time bringing no honour (or money!) to the family name. But Michelangelo’s connection between his presence in the world and his purpose could not be severed. He Persevered and endured the reproach and physical punishment until his father acquiesced and enrolled him as an apprentice of the then famous Master Domineco Ghirlandaio. Michelangelo’s continuous expression of who he was wore his father down. The following year he was sent to “The Medici Gardens Art School” where he excelled. Michelangelo—the sculpture, painter, architect, poet—is still, over four hundred years later, a guiding influence in the world. What made Michelangelo so brilliant?

Let’s look to his Biblical “David” for some answers. Before “David” there was an eighteen foot block of marble that had been hacked and cut by other sculptures, but that’s not how Michelangelo had seen it. No! There was a figure trapped inside. As he carved he felt as though he was releasing David from a prison (maybe how his spirit felt when he could finally be an artist without reprimand from his father).
From out of that block emerged an expressive young man at the peak of physical strength and ingenuity. Unlike other representations of David and Goliath, Michelangelo imagined David before the fight, not after with the dead Goliath's head at his feet as did Donatello and Verrocchio. This was strike of genius for the fathers of Florence who commissioned Michelangelo. Michelangelo’s Biblical David was not only a work of art, it was a warning. Through David's anatomy and severe concentrated gaze this Greek-god-like statue exerted a defiant moral power and energy that said, “Back off or else!” In other words, “We may not be big but Florence has courage, creative energy and we are ready to fend off large armies, so don’t even think about it!” The power of art… Why this story?

Like Michelangelo had seen David before he emerged from the block of marble, you have to visualize your perfect form before you start chiselling away at negative beliefs and behaviours. You can do, be, or achieve anything on which you focus your mind. Let the brave, expressive, and admirable person you were meant to be arise, then set a course to the realization of your perfect life.
Conclusion of Part One

The best way to predict the future is to invent it.
—Alan Kay, Xerox 1971

To recap: Your past is not your potential. The future will look vastly different from anything we have seen in the past and we must continue to hone our skills in language and the arts if we are to be positive guiding lights toward a benevolent future. It is up to us to do our part in shaping the future. We must understand at least the basics of global and personal economics to take back the power that rightfully belongs to us. Visualization is a key to realized dreams. The principles of great teachers over the ages have not changed: Real power is within. It’s our own job to find and carve channels to release that power. Great people like Howard Gardner and Brian Tracy have given us tools to bring out our unique and interesting spirit and turn it toward realized dreams. Belief Passion and Perseverance will drive us toward the peaks of our destiny. From that great height you can look back and stand in awe of nature around you, of your beautiful nature.

MASTERY

We’ve discovered five principles of Mastery.
Receptivity: If we are not receptive to new information we become the professor in the emptying your cup Zen parable; talking more than we listen.

Following: Why reinvent the wheel? Take the same steps to success that others have proven to work.

Conduct: In every activity ask your self, “Is this taking me closer to or further from my goals?”

Duration: Become a good finisher.

Keeping Still: let the energy resonate within you and allow new dreams and goals to surface through the vehicle of meditation.

In any new endeavour you must be open to the information available. Then you must follow the leaders, do what they did, and stick it out through the hard times of learning. Be in the moment of your greatness at every level. The future and past do not exist: Your Life is happening Now! Accept and enjoy where you are and strive for more clarity through reading. Nourish the world with your growing wisdom. One of my teachers says, “In the future, when you look back on your life, you will realize that the only thing you really have is what you gave.”

A TEACHER’S LESSON

One day after I finished teaching a class at Beyond Kung Fu a young student came up to me and said, “Thank you, Mr. Hutchinson, I learned a lot today!” I was expressing this experience (boasting no doubt) to one of my teachers. I said to her that I know that I’ve taught a good class when students go out of their way to tell me that they learned a lot. She replied to me, “I know that I’ve had a good class when the children come up to me after I’ve taught the lesson and say, ‘That was fun! When are you going to teach us the lesson?’”

“It is the supreme art of the teacher to awaken joy in creative expression and knowledge.”
—Albert Einstein
The following is a synopsis of my novel On The Fringes. On The Fringes drives Gardner’s eight-and-a-half intelligences into a page-turning story replete with memorable characters, scenes, and explores the important question: What kind of future will we create? It can be purchased through the internet on Barnes & Noble, Amazon.com, or personally through me at highercreativity.com

ON THE FRINGES

(Suspense/Drama)

When Charlie, a 19 year old scientific prodigy, realizes that the men in power are using his intelligence to build and use weapons of mass destruction his beautiful visions turn into horrifying nightmares. August 30th 1945 he disappears without a trace.

55 years later an aristocratic young artist, Melissa, is on a mission to save the homeless. She discovers that an old man named Charlie has information on a 15-year-old girl that died on the streets. After an explosive beginning, Melissa finally convinces Charlie to come forward and bring justice to the man that killed the girl he loved.
Completely intrigued by this intelligent homeless man, Melissa’s personal life begins to crumble. Her obsession impels her into the peril of an abandoned complex where Charlie flees after testifying. There she encourages him to hide out in the safety of her apartment. As Charlie’s life-story unravels before Melissa, she is driven to the brink of despair by the futility of her ambition. The power structure will never allow the life-saving gifts of creative geniuses to enter their tightly controlled world. Time is catching up with Charlie, Melissa, and humanity as American authorities hone in on their position.

In this thought-provoking social novel about loss and awakening a story unfolds with vibrant imagery and ideology that shows how the atom first became the ultimate tool of destruction instead of the definitive power of medicine and longevity.

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Summing this piece up I will leave you with a quote from Thomas Edison that depicts my character Charlie perfectly. I don’t remember reading this quote while writing my novel but I very well could have. There’s a mountain of influence in On The Fringes and Charlie certainly shares some of Edison’s ideals.

“The United States, and other advanced nations, will someday be able to produce instruments of death so terrible the world will be in abject terror of itself and its ability to end civilization… Such war-making weapons should be developed - but only for purposes of discovery and experimentation… They should never be manufactured in quantity. The dove is my emblem… “I want to save and advance human life, not destroy it… I am proud of the fact that I never invented weapons to kill…”

—Thomas Edison from website: http://www.thomasedison.com/edquote.htm

What will be your emblem?
If you have any questions you may contact me at: www.highercreativity.com
Not just for Children!

The Eye of the Storm is filled with universal principles for children and adults alike. Exercise your imagination with a page-turning story that you will want to share with all the children in your life.

The Eye of the Storm
by
Brad Hutchinson
Illustrated by Duncan Seaton

A class camping trip in Algonquin Park turns into a horrible nightmare when five students are flung deep into the forest by a violent storm. Separated from the group an insecure boy, Johnny, must lead the lost classmates to safety. He must fight his fears as wolves, bears, and other wild animals threaten their lives.

Through tremendous trials and tribulations the five classmates learn about teamwork, loyalty, and perseverance. If they survive, they will share a strong bond of friendship and a deep appreciation for the natural world of Algonquin Park.

The Eye of the Storm is a thrilling adventure featuring five extraordinary characters that must find courage in face of adversity. Easy reading and full of suspense each chapter ends leaving the reader wondering what will happen next.

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In this insightful and inspiring book Arthur Biffis and Arthur Lockhart demonstrate the importance of Human Touch in the quest for personal achievement and positive relationships in our schools. Biffis and Lockhart introduce seven Human Touch principles to inspire optimism, goodwill, and a highly respectful classroom.

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