Dr. Ed Meyer

The Importance of Wondering

By Ed Meyer

Infants and toddlers spend a lot of their time wondering.

"What is that noise?"

"What is that smell?"

"Is that coming from me?"

"Who is this person?"

"Am I safe?"

"Why can everyone else move around and I can only just lie here; why am I so different?"

Although many of us are very busy, it is a good idea to reserve part of your day for wondering. Daydreaming. Wandering around your mind palace. Trying to figure out who you are and what you want to do with your time on the planet Earth.

Unfortunately, school-aged children are investing less and less time wondering. In school, students are supposed to pay attention to the teacher. This might be good for learning but paying attention to what someone else is saying will not develop an individual's critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

A major part of critical thinking and problem solving is wondering.

- "I wonder why this process used."
- "I wonder why we don't do it like this."

"I wonder what other paths there are to the solution."

"I wonder what would happen if we did this."

"I wonder why this person is behaving like this."

"I wonder why this person thinks this is a good idea."

"I wonder what I can do to accomplish my goals."

Here is a poem about wondering by Richard Feynman, a Nobel Prize winning physicist.

I wonder why. I wonder why. I wonder why I wonder. I wonder *why* I wonder why I wonder why I wonder!

Often, wondering starts when you have nothing to do. Perhaps you are waiting in the doctor's office or on a long plane or bus ride.

These days, however, the opportunities to wonder deeply for a long time are reduced because of the access to smart phones.

Many young people don't take advantage of the opportunity to wonder because any time that they are free to wonder is often used by mindlessly scrolling social media sites to watch content that don't inspire wonder.

To develop the ability to wonder, look for opportunities to do so and inspire others to do the same. Wondering is especially important for young people, as they are the future and we need people wondering about the future.

Answers to: Some Opportunities to Get Smart!

The answer to the first question is 19 cents. The answer to the second question is 7,412,080,755,407,364. The answer to the third question is 17.

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Instructions: Fill in the words at the bottom from the clues. Then write those letters in the grid at the top to reveal a quote. Black squares indicate the end of a word and punctuation has been removed. When you're done the first letters of the answers to the clues will be the author and subject of the quote.

This quote is from 1999, which makes it especially prescient.

11		2D	зн	4K	5L	6P		7E	8A	9P	10N		11M	120	13C					
140	15Q	16V	17J	18E	19B	20U	21X		22U	235		24H	25A	26R	27W	28J		29Y	30N	
31E	32W		33Q	34B	35J		36W	37L		38D	39F	40X		41L	42U	43R	44S	45N		
46G	47V	48A	49R	50D	51Q		52L	53S	54D		55H	56B	57Y	58D	59K	60L	61X	62T		
630	64P	65U		66K	67G	68W	691		70T	711										
72J	73K	74B	75R	76M	77S	78A	79T	801	81U		82R	830	84K		85X	86R	87V			
88B	89X	90G	91F	920		93H	94N	95C	96A	971		98U	99B	100P	101D	102E	103Y	104T		
105C	106L	1071		108U	109P	110M	111T		112P	113H	114C	115G		116V	117M	118Y	119N		120G	121
	122J	123Q	124K	125G	126C	127E	128V	129Y	130K		131P	132U		133M						
134V	135A	136X	137F	138J	139W	140T	141S		142D	143F	144X	145K	146J							

PHY-102 – Quantitative Problem Solving SP2025 Follow Along on Twitter - @Gedanken_Inst

All Quizzes, Exams and Worksheets from the class will be available on Dr Edwin F. Meyer's Twitter feed @Gedanken_Inst.

The course, which starts January 14th, will provide the opportunity for you to develop critical thinking and problem solving skills by providing challenging problems. The textbook is available here:

https://www.amazon.com/Probably-Good-Book-Kaylee-Yuhas/dp/0988588900

CLUES

CLUES								
A. Father's partner	78	25	96	8	135	48		
B. Concoct	99	19		56		88		
C. You can peel it off a beer bottle	126	95	105	13	114			
D. Member of a board			58				142	
E. Planet's path	127	18	31	102				
F. Specialized segment of the market		137	143		121			
G. Shortcoming	46	67		120	115	125		
H. Word before angle, whale, or wing	55	113		3	93			
I. Invade in an unwelcome manner	1	80		69	97	107		
J. Intellectual	17			146	35	138	122	
K. Mastercard competitor	130		145			124	84	66
L. English, Blueberry, or Banana Nut	41	106			60	5		
M. The body's main artery	110	117			133			
N. Upper designation for Carolina and Dakota	119		45		94			
O. Item in a bucket from the Colonel	63	83		92				
P. Advocating an aggressive foreign policy	64	9	112	6	131	100	109	
Q. A long, long time	123		15	51				
R. Deliver medication	26	86	43	75	49	82		
S. Slipknot		44		23	141			
T. Switch from one option to the other	111	70	62	104	140	79		
U. First guess for the cost of a repair or remodel	20	132	108	22	98	42	81	65
V. Share someone's content on social media	134	87	128	47	116	16		
W. Like some causes	27	- 36	139	68				
X. The alcohol in beer, wine, and spirits	40					85	136	
Y. Physically fit	-29	118	103	129				