

Inspection #8909 by: A & K Tylevich

Büro: Friend & Colleague

This has never happened before.

[adapted from the educational film.]

Manual for enrichment.

The less you say today, the less you will regret tomorrow. Greeting:

Hello. You have reached the voice mailbox of someone who once would have answered. I am present, but not currently here.

Please do not disturb me with questions about the future. Such questions have no answers and serve no purpose.

Am I at a spiritual retreat? Unlikely I would call it that. Am I at a symposium for intellectual enrichment? Am I listening to a single voice telling me an excellent thing?

I cannot answer that right now, because I am not here. You may choose to leave a message, and I may choose to ignore it.

Don't break your neck looking at the past. Entertainment:

Scorpio: Reaching the embassy is half the journey. It is much harder to defect from yourself.

Sagittarius: Public opinion is a matter of what's played on the radio that day.

Capricorn: Would a closed society have an open bar?

Aquarius: Every speakeasy has its last call.

Pisces: In a landlocked country, do not order fish.

Aries: Flexibility within our range of motion.

Taurus: In romance, it is better to be State than dissident.

Gemini: Every visa has its thorn.

Cancer: The grass is always greener right where you are.

Leo: Instead of searching for the right words, consider keeping your mouth shut.

Virgo: The cult of the body is recruiting members.

Libra: When awarded a great honor, it is impolite to question its origins.

Scorpio: With society in retrograde, move forward with personal achievement.

Rat: At least the skeletons in your closet have good bone structure.

Poodle: A broken leg is worse than a broken heart.

Sagittarius: Repeat: I am betrayed only as many times as I befriend.

Capricorn: Those who love their art, never miss their family.

Suppress evidence of degenerate health.

Valerian root.

Sleepytime tea.

Energizing tea.

Body oil.

CBD oil.

Flax seed oil.

Extra virgin.

Life aversion.

Sensitivity.

Chicory extract.

Fair-trade coffee.

Probiotics.

Prebiotics.

Aroma therapy.

Breathing exercise.

Inhale.

Sauerkraut.

Autumn leaves.

Leave of absence.

Basil.

Dill.

Cilantro.

[clear search results]

Is this healthy?

Am I healthy?

Is this normal?

Am I boring?

Am I unique?

How to sleep better?

How to eat better?

How to feel better?

How to think better?

What is Valerian root?

What is side effect?

Green tea.

Ceylon tea.

Mint tea.

Sleepytime.

Turmeric root.

Essential oil.

Paraben-free.

Cruelty-free.

Tea, for rest and relaxation.

Inspire our youth!

[ages 7-9]

Before the children are allowed a pet, they must first respond correctly to the following question.

Children, where is a safe place to walk a dog?

- a) Our neighborhood, within view of Mama, Papa, or a trusted adult.
- b) The park, where the drunks sleep with their pants around their ankles and piss on our war monuments.
- c) The banks of the river, where the perverts squat in bushes and further remove themselves from society.

[The children answer with a resounding 'a!']

No, children, it isn't fair to deprive a dog of its ability to be a wolf. No pet this year. We'll try again when you are older.

[ages 3-12]

Instructions: Recite together aloud.

You are a model citizen — of country and of city!

To be a selfish misanthrope would be a silly pity!

You measure wealth as use of time —

Your currency is the sublime —

When mired by bureaucracy

You rail against hypocrisy!

You are a model citizen — of verity and truth!

When asked what you would like to be — You say: ‘an active youth!’

When asked what you would like to do — You say: ‘To go down fighting!’

‘I’ll empty every ink cartridge toward history’s re-writing!’

alt. for the child who does not meet military medical requirements

You are a model citizen — of verity and fact!

When asked what you would like to be — You say: ‘an architect!’

When asked what you would like to build — You say: ‘I’ll build it all!’

‘A site-specific paradise buttressed by a glass wall!’

The aggressor also procreates. He has wealth. His children have questions.

[ages 15 and up]

Instructions: For distribution abroad.

Dear mother, why are we bourgeois?

Why am I soft and fluent in French?

Why can’t I operate a tank?

Or turn a proper worker’s wrench?

Why did you hire me an au pair

When all I’ve known and understood

Are lessons learned from common folk

Whose common tongue is common good —

Good lord, our pockets are so big

I would prefer they were petit!

And I don’t like what Grandpa did

Around, like, 1943.

And I've denounced my father's name
His D-N-A spells E-M-barrassment
I will not be —
— gene-tically
Accomplice to his *harassment*!

Dear mother, I have taken ill.
I'm sickened by society.
My doctor has prescribed a pill
To dull my class anxiety —

But I will not be silenced so
Lobotomy is not for me
The only way I will get well
Is when all shackled are set free.

Stop calling me a militant
It's not a cult — I've joined a faction
We're doing all of this because
Your peers took no redemptive action

My generation is ashamed
Your past clogs our esophagus
We're choking on the lives you lived
We've finally had enough of this.
I hope this helps you light a fuse
Ignites your sense of right and fair

I hope you'll help us fund our cause

I hope — in perfect French: *J'espère.*

National Poem, titled: We have enough 'theoreticians.'

Two roads diverged on the factory floor

As a technician, there I stood

Aware that one road led to steel

The other led to processed wood.

The time we have on earth is swift

So a decision must be made:

Shall I continue to mend steel?

Or take to craft my wife forbade?

The working life is for us fools

Us fools who hunger to hone skill

With accident rates at work so high

The toll of toil is deadly thrill.

My wife, she worries for my limbs

But work is paramount to love

So, I must do what I adore

And work by hand, or lack thereof.

Available in audiobook form. Voiced by national treasures.

Stills from *This has never happened before*, a film by Friend and Colleague. Used with permission.









Friend & Colleague is a platform for editions, fiction, and special projects, founded by siblings Katya & Alexei Tylevich. Their work has exhibited at The Storefront for Art and Architecture, The Neutra VDL House, the DMV, baggage claim, and the white curb used for immediate loading or unloading only. Their film, *This has never happened before*, considers recurring impulses in the modern search for Utopia.