**Girls Things For Show**

My sister likes to go shopping for accessories.

My sister has a huge collection of Barbie® dolls and all of her clothes and shoes.

My sister likes chocolate candy and likes to choose different pieces at the store.

My sister likes to walk in fields to pick up wild daisies.

My sister likes to wear different earrings that match her clothes.

My sister has pictures of fairies on the walls of her room.

My sister likes to use glitter and glue on her paintings.

My sister likes different hairstyles on different days.

My sister likes ice cream, but her favorite flavor is vanilla.

My sister likes jewelry and has a whole drawer of those things in her room.

My sister likes knitting and practices knitting with her friends at home.

My sister likes lace on dresses and gowns.

My sister likes musicals on TV and sings along.

My sister likes necklaces and wears them for church and parties.

My sister likes ocean beaches so she can walk bare foot and listen to the sea.

My sister likes phones and keeps one in her purse all the time.

My sister likes quarreling with her friends.

My sister likes rings and has lots of them.

My sister likes sunglasses and wears them when she is with her friends.

My sister likes to go tanning at the beach in the summer.

My sister likes unicorns and has pictures of them on the walls of her room.

My sister likes vacations and makes lots of plans when she goes on vacations.

My sister likes wondering and thinking about things.

My sister likes Xeroxing® so she can make copies of her words and ideas and pictures.

My sister likes yoga because she likes the way it feels.

My sister likes zodiacs and all of the signs that go with them.

THE END

**Boy Things Expanded**

My brother likes the Air Force that now operates on land as well as on the sea and in the air.

My brother likes baseball that is played on a diamond and in a field and lasts for 9 innings each game.

My brother likes cars that have been made for over 100 years in many makes and models.

My brother likes darts that have a cork- board and 3 metal and plastic darts thrown from 7 feet 9 1/4 inches feet away.

My brother likes engines that can be either electric or petroleum driven.

My brother likes forts that can be made of wood, metal, cardboard, grass, snow, or plastic.

My brother likes games that are as old as mankind and as different as people and languages.

My brother likes hamburgers that may have been invented in 1885 at a fair in Wisconsin.

My brother likes ice hockey that was first played in Canada on frozen ponds and was introduced to Montreal by James Creighton in 1872.

My brother likes jeeps that were first made from requests by the army in 1940 during World War 2.

My brother likes Klingons® who are a fictional alien race of warlike beings from the TV and movie series called Star Trek.

My brother likes Legos® that are a toy block building material made by the Lego Company from Denmark and were first made in 1932 out of wood.

My brother likes monster trucks that are pickup trucks that are modified with larger wheels and suspensions.

My brother likes Nascar® which is the National Stock Car Racing Association which holds and sponsors races in the USA.

My brother likes the outdoors where all kinds of adventures can take place.

My brother likes pizza that is an American invention and is a food with lots of variety.

My brother likes the quarry-swimming hole that used to be a place for mining rocks but is now filled up with water.

My brother likes river rafting, which is a dangerous sport that is also fun and exciting.

My brother likes sports, which are contests and competitions with rules.

My brother likes tools, which are instruments that help people build things or that are needed to fix things that are broken or need to be repaired.

My brother likes the US Army, which was designated by Congress in 1775 and has been the land-based part of the military.

My brother likes vacations, which are breaks from school and work and routine for the purpose of relaxation and recovery.

My brother likes weights, which are tools for making a person’s body stronger and healthier.

My brother likes the X-Men® who are comic book make believe characters that are fun to imagine and think about.

My brother likes yard work, which can be fun and hard work: raking, mowing, weeding, gardening, trimming, etc.

My brother likes zoning out, which is stopping and doing nothing for a long relaxing period of time.

THE END

**Train Parts**

Train axles are attached to the train wheels.

Train brakes are for stopping the train.

Train cars are very heavy and run on rails.

Train dining cars are on passenger trains.

Train engines work with coal or electricity.

Train freight cars carry coal, cars, oil, and machine parts.

Train workers have gages to measure the track widths.

Train horns warn car drivers of oncoming trains.

Train station island platforms help passengers on and off trains.

Train station jacks move trains on and off rails.

Train coupling knuckles help cars connect to each other.

Train passengers have luggage with them when they travel.

Train motors are electric or diesel or coal or steam.

Train engines have Notch-8 throttle controls for adjusting the speed.

Train tracks have over bridges for car roads or other train tracks when they cross.

Train passengers sometimes sleep on trains when traveling all the way across the country.

Some train tracks have quiet zones where whistles are not blown.

All trains have rail cars.

Some old trains have engines that operate with steam.

All trains run on tracks called rails.

Train tracks have under bridges for car roads and other train tracks when they cross.

Train engines have valves for fuel and exhaust.

Train engines have whistles to alert cars and pedestrians to stop at the track crossings.

Train track crossings have “X-ing” signs to let people know about trains passing.

Train yards are train depots for fixing and changing trains for new routes and pick-ups and repairs.

Train track zig-zags are when there are steep hills and the trains need to go back and forth in order to climb the hills.

THE END

**School Work**

Art projects have paint and brushes, glue and scissors, and markers and glitter.

Boys like sports and cars and building things.

Copiers have lots of things they can do: copy, fax, email, and get stuff from the Internet.

Desks sometimes have drawers, and sometimes they have tops that can fold down and out of the way.

Exams have questions, problems, and sometimes have multiple-choice answers.

Girls like fashions, top forty radio songs, parties, and talking for hours on the phone.

Homework papers have to fit in a back-pack along with the books. They must be done at home so that they can be handed in on time.

Ink pens are carried in shirt pockets, hand- bags, pen cases, or pouches, or in zipped pockets in back packs, and they are good for all schoolwork.

Jars of glue (or paste, as it is sometimes called) are used for art projects. They come with sticks in the lids so the glue can be spread where it needs to be placed, and then the stick can be returned to the jar along with the lid.

Kindergarten teachers have to know everything. They teach reading and math and writing and spelling and art and music and recess and everything.

Lunchtime is sitting with friends and talking about favorite TV shows and games and it is a special time for eating favorite foods and sharing.

Musical Instruments are fun to use to make happy noise. They are good for singing and dancing and group games for the whole class.

New friends are great to meet and to get to know and to visit with after school and on weekends and holidays and to trade things with and to call on the phone.

Old dictionaries are kept at school because they are too big and heavy. They are good for looking up big or difficult words.

Pencils make funny scratching noises on school paper. They break easily. The sharpener works to sharpen broken pencils. Having a box of sharpened pencils as spares is always a good idea.

Quizzes are usually on one page and have just a few questions. They do not take long to finish. They can be a surprise.

Recess is a great time to get out of the classroom and the school building, for kids to run around and do playground games, and to forget about school, for a few minutes. It never lasts long enough.

Scissors are sometimes right-handed and sometimes left-handed. They need to be sharp enough to cut paper, but not sharp enough to be dangerous.

Textbooks have lots of ideas and pictures and ways of saying things so we can learn about the world and the people and animals that live on it and in it.

Under the desk lid is where we keep our school things, or maybe under the seat of the desk.

Vases, for plants and flowers, are set up by the teacher so that children can learn and study how things grow.

Workstations are done on big tables where group projects can be worked on. Three or four or five students all help together to make the project work.

Xylophones make music by using a wooden hammer or mallet and hitting wooden of metal planks that have different tones of the scale.

“Yes” is one of many words or terms we use in school. The others are “No,” “May I,”

“Please,” and “Thank you.” We are being polite when we use the word “Yes” and these other words.

Zoo trips on the school bus are a blast. We get to go out of the school for the whole day and see lots of different animals and exhibits while learning about mammals, birds, insects, and reptiles.

THE END

**Games Expanded**

The game of Authors® is like “Go Fish,” but instead of matching numbers you match famous authors.

The game of Battleship® is a strategy and guessing game where two players try to guess where the other’s ships are and sink them.

The game of Checkers is played on a black and white game board with 12 colored pieces per side, each moving diagonally to try to jump over and take the other’s pieces.

The game of Dominoes is played with 28 black tiles that have a set number of various white spots on them that need to be matched for other tiles to be placed beside them.

The game of Euchre is played with 24 or 32 cards that are mostly face cards. The object is to bet your hand of cards and play out the bet to win or lose points.

The game of Finance® was very similar in design to Monopoly, on a board with properties and money exchanged for rent from having landed on the outside squares.

The game of Go is played on a 19 by 19 grid board with black and white stones. The purpose is to surround the other’s stones so that they cannot move.

The game of Horseshoes is played by two persons, or two sets of two people, who throw horseshoes from a distance at metal stakes in sand pits.

The game of “I Doubt It” is a card game with a 52-card deck where players place cards face down and state what those cards are, even if they are not. Doubting them, or not, is the point of the game.

The game of Jenga® is played by each player attempting to remove a single block from a tower of 54 blocks without knocking over the rest of the tower of blocks.

The game of Kalah is played with a long rectangular board with 6 pits on each side and a large pit at each end.

The game of Life® was first made in 1860 and was the first real family board game. The original version had a strong moral purpose and tried to teach the pitfalls of bad choices.

The game of Monopoly® is considered by many to be “The Game.” It is a board game where properties are acquired and rent is gathered and the one who ends up with the most money wins.

The game of Niagara® is a board game where players acquire gems as they travel by canoe closer towards Niagara Falls.

The game of Old Maid is played with a regular deck of 52 cards plus a joker or with a special deck that contains matching pairs plus a single old maid card.

The game of Parcheesi is a board game from India for 2 to 4 players with counters and dice to see how the counters can go around the board and enter the middle section to win.

The game of Qwirkle® comes with 108 tiles of 6 different shapes and six different colors. The object is to place six matching tiles on the board in a row.

The game of Risk® is a military strategy game based on a world map with two to four players trying to control countries and positions of power.

The game of Scrabble® is a word creation game for two to four players making words on a 15 by 15 grid in cross word fashion.

The game of Tic-Tac-Toe is a two- person game where players place Xs or Os in a 9 space square box trying to get three across or down or diagonally in a row to win.

The game of Upwords® is a board game like scrabble, but words can be built on top of one another and not just side-by-side.

The game of Voltage® is a two-player card and board game with 56 cards and a board that has 4 voltage terminals with either positive or negative polarities.

The game of War is a two to four player card game where each player places one card at a time in the center and the one with the highest card wins for that round and gets to keep the rest of the cards played that time.

The game of Xiangqi is a Chinese game like Chess where two armies try to capture the other’s king.

The game of Yahtzee® is a dice game where two to eight players throw five dice up to three times a turn to try to get patterns of dice for recorded scores equaling certain points.

The game of Zombies® is a two to six player board game where players try to get to a helipad or fight off the zombies trying to get them.

THE END

**Train Things Expanded**

Train axels support the wheels on a railcar. They are made of steel. They have to be able to bend and move, as trains have to be very flexible on the rails.

Every car on the train has a braking system that can be operated manually.

The cars on a train weigh between 44 and 500 tons each, which is 88,000 pounds to 1,000,000 pounds.

Dining cars are equipped with food, stoves, refrigerators, tables, sinks, shelves, cooking utensils, and eating utensils, just like a restaurant.

Train engines that are diesel engines can now produce over 1,200-horse power, and are strong enough to pull a large number of train rail cars.

There are over 40 different types of freight cars that are standard cars for being pulled by train engines.

There are gages in the freight train yards to help measure the track widths to make sure that the trains do not ever derail and fall off the tracks.

The horns on a train engine car are operated by compressed air at 125-140 pounds per square inch. The air comes from a main reservoir in the engine car.

Island platforms are passenger rest areas between sets of tracks.

A railroad jack is a hoist for lifting the heaviest of train cars.

Train knuckles are the universal coupling devices that connect one car to another.

Luggage in trunks and suitcases from passengers is designated, when marked, and loaded into luggage cars or compartments.

Train motors, that are electric, are operated by external electric power lines that run above the trains. That is their power source for creating the mobility and energy source for the engines.

A Notch-8 Throttle has eight positions for the throttle to be placed, in order to produce power and energy for the engine: position one being the lowest output and 8 being the highest.

Over bridges are crossing tracks or highways that go over an existing track so that uninterrupted traffic can be maintained with another system.

Passengers are human beings who travel by train from one destination to another by rail.

Quiet zones are places along a track where citizens have requested that the trains cease for a time to use their horns, as long as safety is always considered as not being obstructed.

Rail cars are those cars that have wheels that fit into rails and run on tracks. They would never be able to run on streets.

Stream was a very old method of fuel for old trains during the 1800s. Steam was generated by burning coal and heating compressed water to drive the pistons turning over in the engine car to move the wheels.

Train tracks between the rails are set at a distance of 4 ft 81⁄2 inches, or 1,435 millimeters. Although these standards do not apply to all countries, they apply to the following: Europe, Argentina, United States, Canada, China, Korea (South), Australia, India, Indonesia, the Middle East, North Africa, Mexico, Cuba, Panama, Venezuela, Peru, Uruguay, and the Philippines.

Under bridges are those tracks or roads that cross under existing tracks so that uninterrupted traffic can be maintained with another system.

Valves are the built-in controls that help operate the flow of fuel and exhaust from an engine when it is operating, to maximize input and output at differing states of operation.

Train whistles are the warning systems that trains use to alert cars and pedestrians of oncoming trains approaching intersections, as trains are unable to stop in time to avoid collisions due to their extreme weight.

Train crossing signs are marked with the “X-ing” insignia, and these signs let cars and trucks and pedestrians know that a train crossing is immanent.

Train yards are where trains are taken apart and reassembled for future missions. They have huge facilities and equipment for re-arranging the engines and the cars.

Zig-zag tracks are what trains need to use when there are very steep hills to get over. They are actually built right into the hills to make it easier for heavy trains, as tracks straight up hills would never work for the trains trying to get the power to accomplish getting over them.

THE END

**Alphabet Rhymes 6**

Springtime awake

Bulbs alive displacing\* dirt

Greenness agreeing

Armor with bright swords

In castles brave and secure

Better than stone mounds

Classy runway clothes

Dressed up thousands cover clean

Clever pipe cleaners

Dashing mailbox run,

Different letters. Dear me,

Difficult closures

\*Displacing: means—pushed aside

Sunday, excited

Child in easy hand at zoo,

Eager animals

Fair ring, bell, and ropes

Fine dancers in gloves and shorts

Friendly pit bulls

Gracious teachers dig

Through rocks and bones for great and gifted student flints

Happy tornados

Plowing healthy farmland strips

Handy with a cloud

Not so important

Never interesting now

Intelligent codes

Joyous pianos

Waiting for jazzy fingers

Jolly interludes

Keen Mount Monadnock

The climbing kind for hours

Pathways knowing feet

Lively chips and cards

Tables loving empty hands

Lucky casinos

Momentous parties

Post prom mighty drunken kids

Merciful sirens

Nice binoculars

Watch normal behavior

Neighborly windows

Storm rains outstanding

Surged rivulets outgoing

Observant mudslides

Peaceful wet beach sand

Polite crabs and jellyfish

Pleasant undertows

Quaint mosquitoes buzz

Quick as fleas on a dog’s tail

Quizzical\* as crows

Receptive\* echoes

Grand Canyon playground at dawn Righteous new sunrise

Skillful fox squirrels

Smart houses of woven leaves

Serious winters

\*Quizzical: means—confusing \*Receptive: means—understanding, interested, receiving

Talented spider

Terrific pig down below

Thoughtful child on stool

Unusual spring

Late but unequaled to date

Unique dreams blooming

Ants victorious

Exchanging sidewalk home for

Valiant tree stump

Wonderful daydreams

Seeded with whimsical fears

Wise fertilizer

Xenial\* parents

Xenophobes\* teaching mercy

Like sweet Xanthippe\*

\*Xenial: means—gracious, as a host to guests. \*Xenophobes: means—fear of things foreign \*Xanthippe: means— an ill-tempered woman

Yielding swinging elms,

Too young to miss Orioles

Yearning for what’s gone

Zealous\* clocks ticking

Zippy seconds and minutes

Zesty time for now

THE END

\*Zealous: means-- enthusiastic

**Alphabet Rhymes 5**

They are awake, alive, agreeing, and will say, “Let’s go.”

They do decide to stay together when they see a show.

They’re bright, and brave, and better than their foes would ever know.

They’re never stopped by problems, for they’re seldom saying “No.”

They’re classy, clean, and clever when they spend a day at school.

They can answer teacher’s questions and they state math’s every rule.

They’re dashing, dear, and different, and so difficult to fool.

They will make your day terrific. They are more than likely cool.

They’re excited, easy, eager and they even like their work.

They are open to suggestions and are never labeled “jerk.”

They are fair and fine and friendly and are fast to get a perk.

They are willing to play harder, for their duties they won’t shirk.

They are gracious, great, and gifted and respond to those in need.

They continue to help those who are determined to succeed.

They are happy, healthy, handy, for they learn from what they read.

They know that reading leads to growth, and every word’s a seed.

They are important, interesting, intelligent at best.

They know that helping others just confirms what’s on life’s test.

They’re joyous, jazzy, jolly when it comes to being dressed.

They are never too judgmental when it comes to all the rest.

They are keen and kind and knowing when it comes to sharing hearts.

They are ever so creative when they’re off promoting arts.

They are lively, loving, lucky when they choose to share their smarts.

They are ever so successful, placing learning up the charts.

They’re momentous, mighty, merciful. Forgiveness is their spiel\*.

They understand that errors are

\*Schpiel: means—a speech or statement, in Yiddish.

what help make humans real.

They’re nice and normal, neighborly, bring fairness to a deal.

They’d set you up a special seat to share a family meal.

They’re outstanding and outgoing and observant to a “T.”

They regard each one’s opinion as a right for you and me.

They are peaceful and polite, perhaps as pleasant as can be.

They understand that freedom means we all can disagree.

They’re quaint and quick and quizzical\* and rely on thought to lead.

They are open to suggestions so that those informed can plead.

\*Quizzical: means—Difficult to decipher or understand

They’re receptive, righteous always, and remarkably succeed.

They can laugh at human frailty\* as if tears could make hearts heed.

They are skillful, smart, and serious when life kicks like a boot.

They are kindly and responsive never seeming like a brute.

They are talented, terrific, and so thoughtful at their root.

They’re never ever hurtful, so you know they give a hoot.

They’re unusual, unequaled, and unique and undiseased\*.

They’re true to their directions so they’re never unappeased\*.

They’re victorious and valiant, so aren’t likely to be teased.

\*frailty: means—weakness \*undiseased: means—healthy \*Unappeased: means—not at peace

They are pleasantly vivacious when all victories are seized\*

They are wonderful and whimsical\* and wise as if they’re old.

They’re absolutely tops on lists when voting strengths are polled.

They’re xenial\*, not xenophobes\*, nor Xanthippe\* who’d scold.

They’re way too social to be feared, their luster’s polished gold.

They’re yielding, young, and yearning when one needs to have a view.

They’re curious, past furious, for knowledge through and through.

They’re zealous\*, zippy, zesty, when it comes to knowing who….

\*Seized: means-- grabbed \*whimsical: means—unusual, creative \*Xenial: means—gracious, as a host to guests. \*Xenophobes: means—fear of things foreign \*Xanthippe: means— an ill-tempered woman \*Zealous: means-- enthusiastic

That “THEY,” who is still reading this is definitely “YOU.”

THE END

**Alphabet Rhymes 8**

Across this fair land and after the falls,

Along the swift creek against whatever calls

Below the green hills and beside the wide farms,

Between the thick trees beyond whatever harms,

Concerning few deeds and considering fears,

Despite all that’s known, depending what steers,

Excepting our youth excluding our age,

Following births from first cage to last sage,

Including all learning in addition to thought,

In favor of truths and in view of what’s bought,

Like many fine manners but minus the strain

So near story telling notwithstanding the rain

Near to wheat in a field and now next to a horse

Of a thousand wild stallions, off a canyon, of course,

Past any occasion pending times that are gone,

Regarding what’s natural, respecting the dawn,

Save for all of our troubles, throughout all of time,

Under eyes that are watchful, underneath a fair clime,

Within make believe stories, with reference to rhyme. THE END

**More Food Things**

Apples that come from seeds that produce trees are hardly ever good. Most of the time they taste terrible. But every once in a long while they are great. Then cuttings and splices from that one great apple tree are taken and are put onto roots of good shoots so that the same variety of good apple can be reproduced over and over again.

Bananas are grown in very large groves in the tropics and are picked when they are green and shipped north to us in boxes. By the time they get here they are beginning to get ripe and turning from green to yellow. When they are very ripe they turn brown. They can be used to make good banana bread.

Carrots grow in the ground. Their tops are green and carry the seed for next year’s crop. The carrot roots can be eaten raw or cooked. They go great with stews and roasts and as separate dishes, and also in carrot cake. They are especially great when raw and shredded into salads.

Doughnuts can be made in many different ways. Some are made with yeast and are called raised doughnuts. Some are made with baking powder and are called cake doughnuts. They are always fried in deep fat. Some are filled with custard or cream filling and some are filled with jelly after they are cooked.

Eggs are obtained from chickens, most of the time. They can be fried, scrambled, boiled, poached, used in baking, casseroles, tuna salad, egg salad, and as extra ingredients in vegetable salads. They are high in protein and iron.

French fries are a main staple food for restaurants and fast food joints. They are easy to make and are very filling and tasty. They go very well with ketchup or a variety of dressings. They are a great finger food and do well at ball games, fairs, and picnics.

Greens, or collard greens, are considered a serious “soul” food. One way to cook them is to use cooked turkey neck meat boiled until the meat falls off the bones and is then added to boiling cut greens with pepper, garlic, and salt until very tender.

Hot dogs can be boiled or grilled and then placed into buns. Then ketchup, mustard, relish, mayonnaise, onions and/or sauerkraut can be added on top to add to the flavor. Hotdogs go great with baked beans, macaroni salad or potato salad, and chips, as well as anything cold to drink.

Ice cream can be home made in a hand crank ice cream freezer, or can be store bought. It comes in lots of different flavors, but chocolate, vanilla, and strawberry are the most common. It can be topped with caramel, chocolate sauce, butterscotch, whipped cream, and cherries.

Jam is made by boiling fruit down on a stove so that it gets thicker and thicker, while stirring the mixture constantly so that it does not burn. Sugars and pectin are added to make it thicker. Once it is cooled slightly, it is stored in sealed jars.

Ketchup is called a condiment. It is an added item to foods. It is made from tomatoes, vinegar, sugar, salt, allspice, cloves, cinnamon, onions, celery, and other vegetables. It goes great on hamburgers, hotdogs, baked beans, French fries, and meat loaf.

Lemons are a citrus fruit grown in the tropics. They can be used in drinks, and as additions in salads, dressings, in pies, on fish, and as flavorings in all sorts of main dishes at restaurants. They are naturally sour, so eaten straight they can be a bit tart.

Mustard is a condiment like ketchup and is used on hamburgers, hotdogs, and other foods as flavoring. Mustard can be made from water, mustard flour, sugar, salt, wheat flour, turmeric, and citric acid. It is generally yellow in color and is used as an extra at picnics and social gatherings.

Nectarines are very much like peaches but have smooth skins. They can be used in pies, cobblers, and cakes. They can be used as an addition in the making of ice cream. They are a great addition to fruit salads. They can also be added to morning cereal combinations as a topping.

Oranges are also a citrus fruit like lemons but are much sweeter. They are used primarily in juice as a morning drink. They are also used in the making of ice cream called orange sherbet. They are also used in fruit salads. They can also be sliced, pealed, and eaten fresh.

Pears grow on trees and can be picked in late summer and early fall. They become soft when ripe and can be eaten fresh and raw, or cooked and eaten with other fruit or they can be canned. They are very sweet and have a lot of natural sugars.

Quince Jelly is made by boiling quinces, which come from trees, boiling them down and down, and then straining off the excess fiber and skin to get a clear processed sample of jelly. At this point boiling is done again with a good quantity of sugar to make a syrup so that it thickens. When it slightly cools it is then placed in jars and sealed.

Relish is made from chopped cucumbers, onions, peppers, salt, sugar, vinegar, celery seed, and mustard seed. The process is to take all of the ingredients and mix them into a cooking pot and boiling them on the stove until they are boiled down and thick. When they are cooled slightly they are put into jars and sealed.

Spaghetti is originally from the orient but has been popularized in Italy. Spaghetti is made from flour, eggs, olive oil, and water. It is pretty easy to make. If you have a spaghetti machine, after the dough is made and prepared, you can cut the rolled dough into spaghetti strips. All kinds of other ingredients like tomato sauce, cheese, meats, and vegetables can be used to mix into the spaghetti sauce when it is made.

Tacos are a traditional Mexican food made with hard or soft shell corn tortillas, ground meat, tomatoes, lettuce, onions, cheese, and sauces and spices. They have become an American food favorite that so many enjoy on a regular basis. They are fun to put together and better to eat.

Upside down cake is made from a cake mix and pineapples and a sugary sauce. The cake mix is added on top of the pineapple slices and the sauce that is placed in the bottom of the bake pan. The whole thing is placed into an oven and baked until the cake mix is solid and raised. When the entire pan is cooled the cake is turned upside down and dumped out onto a tray so that the pineapple slices are on top.

Vanilla wafers are a great snack food. They go really well with milk. They are very portable and go well on picnics, at games, on outings, and on camping trips. They can be a simple dessert addition, and go with puddings, and ice cream, and fruit mixtures.

Watermelon can be sliced and eaten plain or mixed into fruit cocktails. It is a perfect dessert after a picnic meal in the park. Watermelon grows in gardens on vines and is ready to be picked in late summer and early fall. Watermelon normally has seeds, but some new varieties now have no seeds.

Ximenia fruits come from Africa and are used to make jams and jellies. They taste a bit like almonds and are now found to have a lot of good and healthy nutrients and vitamins and proteins.

Yams are very good to eat. They can be baked like potatoes, or cooked and fixed with brown sugar and marshmallows in a casserole. They have good carbohydrates and proteins, and are high in vitamin C, Potassium, Manganese, and copper.

Zucchini grows on a vine and is a very good food. It is actually mostly water, but has good balance, though low, nutritional values. It is great shredded and added to bread. It can be baked in casseroles, added raw and fresh to salads, and eaten like cucumbers.

THE END

**More House Things**

We picked up the armchairs for our living when we went shopping at River City Furniture Company. We tried to match them up with the colors of our couch and the wallpaper. We took a measuring tape with us to make sure they would fit in the places we needed them.

The upstairs bedrooms have beds and chests of drawers and desks and closets for clothes. The windows have curtains. One of the rooms has a window air conditioner. They all have ceiling lamps.

We have a few old carpets on some of the floors in the house. Some have oriental designs and some have Native American designs. They were either given to us by friends and neighbors or picked up at garage sales.

The doors in our house were painted by someone who owned the house before we did. One day we will try to strip the white paint off of the doors to show off the old natural wood. We think it will look better when we do that.

The front entrance to the house has a small set of four glass panels that have carvings on the glass. The door is very heavy. There is a screen door attached to the frame outside of the large wooden door. The screen door is made of aluminum.

The furnace in the basement is over 25 years old. There are metal air ducts attached to the furnace that spread hot air to all of the rooms and floors of the house. The furnace runs from late October all the way through to late April to keep the house warm in the colder weather.

The garage is in back of the house and has the same colored aluminum siding as the house. The garage has a leaky roof and needs to be repaired. The dogs like to race around it and chase each other.

The house was built in 1896. It is a wooden house that has been covered by aluminum siding. The hedge in front shades the front porch. The rose bushes and the Mountain Laurel bloom together in early June every year, at the same time that the midges and lightning bugs come out.

The ice box, our refrigerator, has a good supply of cheese, and sliced meat, and butter, and salad stuff, eggs, milk, and chicken, and hamburger. The loaves of homemade bread are in the freezer along with the frozen corn, green beans, peas, and packaged meals.

The kitchen is always a busy place. Everyone in the house eats different things so there are never two people sitting down at a table and eating the same things. And meals happen simply when people get hungry.

The laundry room has clothes that need to be washed and dried. The laundry baskets are carried throughout the house for collecting clothes that need to be washed from the hampers in the various rooms. Laundry is done whenever people demand that certain items of clothing really need to be done.

We try to put all the movies on the shelves in alphabetical order so that they can be found when we want to see them. Those people who leave movies out without putting them away get yelled at.

The nightstand by the bed has an alarm clock and Kleenex on its top. It has a phone book in the drawer. It has magazines and newspapers and novels stacked on its top. There are also some puzzle books under the novels and some pens in a tall plastic cup.

The oven to the stove has two metal racks inside it and can hold 12 loaf pans for bread in it all at once. The bread cooks at 350º degrees for 52 minutes, and the loaves of bread need to be switched from the top shelf to the bottom shelf and from the bottom to the top, half way through the 52 minutes so that the bottoms of the loaves do not burn.

The porch is the best place in the house because in the summer time you can sit outside in the shade and feel the warm breeze for hours and listen to the sounds of the city and read and think, and be lazy for no reason, and listen to ball games on the radio.

The quilts that we have are all handmade and are very thick and warm. The designs indicate what swatches of cloth were left over from other homemade clothing so that the leftover scraps were saved for the quilting projects.

The rest rooms have sinks, shelves, toilets, bathtubs, showers, and towel racks. The shelves have towels and washcloths, cleaning supplies, soaps, shampoos, conditioners, razors, scrub brushes, make-up, toothbrushes, and toothpaste. The room also has mirrors, a ceiling fan, and frosted windows.

The stairways have art work on the walls, banisters, book shelves on the landings, knick knacks on the small wall shelves, wall lamps on the landings, and very creaky steps that make weird noises when you walk up and down the stairs because the house is so old.

We have old-fashioned television sets that have the huge backs with the tube screens. We have cable so that there are hundreds and hundreds of stations. You can record and pause and play back and do everything with a remote. It’s not at all like the old days.

The upstairs is where everyone sleeps at night. The downstairs is where we all live during the day. The cat likes to sleep on the windowsill landing between the first and the second floor to watch everything on both floors. It might be the perfect lookout point.

The vanity is where the women of the house sit to try to make themselves look great before they go out of the house. They can spend a very long time doing things with hair and makeup and jewelry, and then stop, and then redo it all over again because it was not just right.

The washer seems to run all day long during mud season in the spring and during sports seasons. It really gets a work out after vacations or camping trips. I’m surprised that some clothes do not get thrown in a bon fire rather than getting cleaned.

The exits to the house, especially the ones connected to the fenced back yard, are used more by the cats and the dogs than by the people. Dogs seem to think that the other side of the door, when they are inside or outside, is where they need to be right now. They have trained us to respond to their barking which is a cue that they need to be either out or in, depending on where they are now.

The back yard is fenced so that the dogs can go out unattended in the back yard, except for the one that knows how to climb the chain linked fence like a monkey and escape. It doesn’t seem to think that it’s a dog for some reason. The back yard is full of shrubs and trees and rose bushes. The front yard is full of tulips, crocuses, and violets and a large hedge.

The Z-Bar flashing on the roof was installed the last time the roof was re-shingled. It helps keep the rain and snow and ice from leaking into the attic.

THE END

**More Girl Things**

My sister says that it is very important to have the right matching accessories: the shoes, the jewelry, the clothes, and the purses, so that everything is color coordinated. You have to be able to remember everything you own so that when you are out shopping and you see something you need you can get it.

My sister likes Barbies® and has the dollhouse and the trailer and all of the various dolls and shoes and outfits. And she plays with them with her friends and they talk about what they will wear for hours and hours.

My sister likes chocolate and likes to go to the local chocolate store down the street and sit there in the booth with her friends and eat sundaes with all the different types of candy toppings. But mostly it’s for the chocolate.

My sister likes collecting daisies when she is out walking in the fields in the country and bringing them back to the cottage to make daisy chains for her hair. She takes some of them and puts them in vases with water so they can last.

My sister likes to go shopping for earrings and trying them on by holding them up in the packages to her ears and looking at herself in the mirror on the store counter to see how they look. Sometimes she does not buy any at all, and sometimes she buys a lot of them.

My sister likes to read stories about the fairies and the world so long ago with castles and knights and wizards and the little people. She stares at the pictures in the books and wonders what it would be like to live in such times.

My sister has a box in her closet in her room that has little bottles of different colors of glitter in it, and it also has some bottles of glue that she uses to make art pictures. Some glitter always gets out onto the floor and is hard to sweep up.

My sister likes different hairstyles and is always looking at magazines to see what types of hairstyles would look good on her. When she was little she once made the mistake of using scissors on her hair to try to make a new hairstyle. She did not know that it would take some time to grow back. She made that mistake only once.

My sister likes ice cream. Actually she loves ice cream. She could eat it every day. She likes to try different flavors, and different toppings, but her all-time favorite is vanilla. Sometimes she likes it in a cup and sometimes she likes it in a cone. She likes the waffle cones better than the cup cones. She says they taste better, but they are crunchier.

My sister likes jewelry. She has separate tiny drawers in her small cabinet on her desk in her room for the rings, the necklaces, the hair ties, the pins, and the earrings. She asks me to please take apart the tangle of necklaces when they get tangled, but to be very careful when separating them. She doesn’t have the patience for doing it.

My sister is trying to learn how to knit. She really likes knitting. It is an easy skill to learn, but a very difficult skill to do well. Our mother and grandmother are teaching her. She practices with her friends. She has done a scarf and is now working on a blanket.

My sister really likes lace. She likes to pick out dresses and gowns that have lace on them when she goes out shopping. She likes to study the patterns and she wonders how they are made.

My sister really likes musicals. She has a collection of them and likes to watch them on the TV using the DVD player over and over again. She likes to sing along with them and act out the parts. She has some of them completely memorized.

My sister likes necklaces. She prefers the gold ones to the silver ones, but she also likes the ones with the different colored stones. She wants to learn how to make them some time in the future.

My sister likes to walk on the ocean beach, and walk barefoot in the sand, and collect shells and smooth rocks and pretty drift wood, and watch the crabs and the snails and sandpipers crawl on the sand, and watch the waves as they crash on the beach, and listen to the seagulls cry and float in the air looking for food.

My sister has a phone that she likes very much. She carries it with her all the time. She is always calling and texting and looking things up on the internet and doing Facebook and twitter and following all of her friends and whatever they are doing, or whatever they say they are doing.

My sister seems to really like quarreling with her friends. They argue over everything they can discuss. It’s like a discussion cannot be a discussion unless there is arguing and quarreling. Maybe that is the real point of a discussion for her, that there must be serious controversy in order for it to be meaningful.

My sister likes rings of all kinds and colors. She has ones of gold and silver and stone and wood and jade and bone. She has rings for most of her fingers and also her thumbs. She changes them to match her clothes. Sometimes she puts more than one ring on each finger.

My sister takes her sunglasses with her wherever she goes. She wears them when the sun is out and when it is cloudy. She says it makes her look older. She carries a sunglasses case in her purse but she does not ever put them away it seems.

My sister likes to go tanning on the beach in the summertime. She has lots of different bathing suits and a favorite beach towel. She goes with her friends and takes a book so she can read as she bakes in the sun. She takes sun tan lotion with her and applies it regularly when she is there. She says it helps so she won’t burn too much.

My sister has always liked unicorns, even if they are not real. She has a lot of pictures of them on the walls in her room. Some are modern and some are very old. Some of them she has drawn herself. She also has a picture of Pegasus the winged horse.

My sister likes it when our family goes on vacation. She packs so much stuff to take with her. She plans everything she is going to do before we get to the lake. She even writes all of it down beforehand. She has a diary and a notebook for all of her writings, and she spends a lot of time writing in them.

My sister spends a lot of time wondering about things and then she writes about the things she wonders about. Sometimes she writes prose and sometimes she writes poetry. And sometimes she just doodles and scribbles in the margins. She has lots of different colored pens she uses to write and scribble with, depending on her mood, she says.

My sister loves to Xerox® her writings and her pictures and give the copies away to her friends or save them in her scrapbook. She has boxes and boxes of her copies of things. She tries to keep them all in order from the time when she started to collect them.

My sister does yoga. She has several books that show the positions and she tries to copy the moves and the positions. She has a floor mat that she keeps under her bed and she tries to do the positions every day at the same time. She says that it all makes her feel really good.

My sister really likes the zodiac and she reads her horoscope in the paper every day. Sometimes she says it is really accurate and sometimes it is really off. It’s like the weather forecasts I guess.

THE END

**Countries for Animals**

Army ants are from Africa and South America. They eat everything that gets in their way: birds, snakes, insects, mice, etc. They travel all the time in huge numbers. Even people get out of their way when they are traveling. They talk by feeling.

Black bears are not as dangerous as grizzly bears, but they can be. They eat berries, fish, insects, honey, mushrooms, roots, and nuts. They hoot like owls when they talk to each other. They are from North America.

Crocodiles are extremely dangerous and very quick in water. They can and will eat anything that comes into their water territory. They can grow to be over 15 feet in length and weigh over 800 pounds. They are from Africa.

Dogfish are small sharks and live in shallow seawater. They eat small fish and snails and crabs. They have spines on their backs that are poisonous and they can sting quite badly. They sometimes get in the way of fishermen with nets when the fishermen are trying to get small fish.

Electric eels can give a jolt of electricity equal to 800 volts. They use their shocks to stun and capture other fish to eat. They live in the ocean.

Flying squirrels can glide through the air from one tree to another for a distance of up to 100 feet. They live in holes in trees and eat plant matter and insects. They also are awake at night and sleep during the day. They are from North America.

Giraffes can grow up to 19 feet tall. They love to eat the leaves of Acacia trees, but will also eat grass. They are from Africa. They mostly live in open grasslands.

Hawks, like the red tailed hawk, live all over the Americas. They eat small mice and other rodents. They also eat rabbits. They fly very high up in the sky and watch for any movement of small animals on the ground.

The Ibis is a water bird that has very long legs. It stands about 28 inches tall when it is full grown. It wades through shallow water and eats fish and crayfish and snails and crabs.

The Jaguar lives in Central America and as far south as Argentina, in South America. It can grow to 6 feet in length and can weigh as much as 250 pounds. It eats monkeys, armadillos, river turtles, otters, and domestic livestock.

Kangaroos are from Australia. They live in large groups and eat grasses, shrubs, tree leaves, and shoots. They hop in order to travel and can jump as high as 10 feet in the air and go as far as forty feet from hop to hop and travel as fast as forty miles an hour.

Llamas are members of the camel family. They are from South America. They can weigh as much as 450 pounds. They eat hay and drink water. Their fur can be sheered and used as wool like a sheep. They are very smart and are easily trained.

Moose generally prefer northern woodland regions of Canada and the most northern states of the USA. They eat tree shoots and twigs and water plants like lily pads. They get to be about 6 feet tall and weigh more than 1,500 pounds.

Newts are types of small salamanders. They eat small bugs and water insects. They also eat fish, worms, snails, and slugs. They are found all over North America in dense moist woodlands. Some live totally in water, some half in water and half out, and some live entirely out of water.

An Octopus has eight tentacles with suction cups on each arm to grab hold of anything and everything. The octopus does not have bones. But it has a sharp beak that it uses to open shellfish. They can weigh from as little as 11 pounds to as much as 165 pounds, and live anywhere from 2 to 15 years. They are very intelligent.

A Panther is a very large cat that lives in Africa, Asia, and the Americas. They can weigh between 50 and 350 pounds. Their length can be from 43 to 75 inches. They will eat deer, warthogs, wild boar, tapir, antelope, birds, and rabbits. They have very long strong teeth and very sharp and powerful claws. They can climb trees and large rocks very easily, and they can jump and leap great distances. They can run at speeds of up to more than 70 miles per hour.

Quail are small game birds of the partridge family. There are many different varieties of Quail. Quail will eat seeds, berries, leaves, roots, and insects. They have about 12 eggs with each laying season and both parents will look after the growing young. Adult quail can get to weigh up to about one pound. They can fly but prefer to walk and stay mostly on the ground. Because of their feather colors they are able to hide very well.

Rats are rodents and can live almost anywhere. They burrow and make tunnels for keeping well hidden. They prefer grains to eat, but will eat things like [scrambled eggs](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scrambled_eggs), macaroni and cheese, and cooked corn kernels. They may weigh up to a pound and be about 8 to 9 inches in length when full grown.

Sperm Whales can grow to be 50-60 feet long and weigh about 35 to 45 tons. They eat squid, octopus, and fish. Although they do have to breathe air on the surface of the ocean, they can dive to a depth of 3,000 feet in search of food. They need to eat about a ton of food per day. That’s about 2,000 pounds of food a day.

Tarantulas will eat insects, frogs, mice, and even birds. They do not spin webs but can produce silk. They are members of the wolf spider family and prefer to pounce on their food. They can have legs as long as seven inches. They have eight eyes and eight legs. They live in the southern parts of the United States. They can live for twenty years.

Upland Gorillas will eat leaves, fruit, seeds, tree bark, plant bulbs, tender plant shoots, and flowers. They consume up to 50 pounds of food a day. The male gorillas can grow to weigh about 400 pounds and the females can weigh up to 200 pounds. They live in very secluded areas in Eastern and Western Africa.

Voles grow to be about 3 to 7 inches in length. They will eat clover, plantains, grasses, flowers, bulbs, seeds, roots, tree bark, carrots, celery, tomatoes, and lettuce. They can live and survive all over the Americas. They live in meadows and fields and hide in tall grasses. They can have multiple families in just one summer.

Walruses eat clams and mussels. They live beside the ocean in both the Atlantic and Pacific basins. They live in herds. They have huge tusks to defend themselves. They live in the far north in the polar waters. Their tusks can be more than three feet long. Walruses can be as large as 7 to 11 feet in length and weigh as much as 3,700 pounds.

Xemes are a type of Arctic Gull. They are about 11 to 13 inches in length and weigh a little more than half a pound. They will eat any type of animal food and small prey. They are called scavengers. Xemes migrate every fall and spring to the opposite poles. They winter in the Antarctic and summer in the Arctic.

Yaks are from the Tibetan region of Asia. Most of them are domesticated. They stand almost 5 to 7 feet tall and weigh 670 to 2,200 pounds. They eat grasses, sedges, herbs, shrubs, mosses, and lichen. Yaks have been kept by people for their milk, their shaggy coats, turned into wool, and their meat, as well as being beasts of burden.

Zebras have single rather than cloven hooves, like horses, donkeys, and mules. Zebras stand between four and five feet tall. They weigh about 380 to 850 pounds. They eat grass and leaves and they can run at about 35 miles per hour. Because of their need for water, a herd of zebras is never very far from a water hole. Zebras are from Africa.

THE END

**More Boy things**

My brother likes the Air Force which is responsible for taking care of peace and security and defending the United States, supporting US policies, and implementing national objectives, and defending the country against attacks from other countries.

My brother likes baseball, which is a sport that was adapted from an English game called “Rounders.” It was a game that was played by neighborhood kids and in schools in New England in the mid-1800s and slowly gained in popularity across the United States. The first professional team was started in 1845 in New York. There are now teams in all high schools, colleges, and in the professional American and National leagues. The rules have been standardized.

My brother likes cars, or automobiles, which were first built in 1886 by the Benz Company. The first Ford Model T was built in 1908. The first steam-operated car was built in China in 1672. Many different companies began car production all over the world when gasoline motors were beginning to be mass-produced. Today the auto industry is a mainstay in the American economy.

My brother likes darts, which is a game that is often played in British pubs. There are rules to the game and it involves throwing 3 darts at a corkboard on a wall from a distance of about seven feet. The object is to score the highest number of points of all the contestants based on where the darts land on the board.

My brother likes engines, which are motors that are driven by electric power of gasoline power. The object of an engine is to turn force (energy) into motion (movement) so that travel or movement or production is accomplished. Factory work depends on engines and motors for making, building, and producing things.

My brother likes forts, which have walls and are built for defense of a position in games that kids play even today. They can be built with snow, wood, metal, stone, sand, or plastic. They are fun activities for young kids trying their hand at building things.

My brother likes games, which are as old as peoples and civilizations. Archeologists have discovered games in all dig sites where there have been people. Dice, tiles, cards, and board games have been in existence for as long as civilizations have existed.

My brother likes hamburgers, which were first made in 1900 in New Haven Connecticut when a vendor named Louis Lassen with a lunch wagon, who sold steak sandwiches, ran out of steak and cooked up some steak scraps and placed them between two slices of toasted bread. They can now be served with lettuce, tomato, onions, pickles, cheese, and things like ketchup, mustard, and relish.

My brother likes ice hockey which is a team sport where skaters with hockey sticks push a hard rubber puck across the ice with a stick and shoot the puck into the opposing team’s net or goal to score points. The game now has 3 periods of 20 minutes each. Players wear pads and helmets and gloves for protection. Each team has 5 players at a time on the ice. High schools, colleges, and professionals play the game, outdoors on frozen ponds and lakes, as well as indoors on artificial ice.

My brother likes jeeps which were first developed in 1941 when the defense department asked over 100 car builders to come up with a design for an all-terrain off road vehicle which could be used in war time over fields, and hills, and through woods. They were given a deadline of 49 days to come up with the design and build it. Only two companies responded and built models for the government to review. Out of these trials came the jeep and it has been a big seller for wartime and for persons who like to drive overland ever since.

My brother likes Klingons® which are alien characters from the TV and movie series called Star Trek. They were developed by the writers of Star Trek and now have their own very distinct language, customs, foods, habits, history, clothes, and behaviors. Their language has now over 3,000 words and has a dictionary with a guide on how to pronounce the words. There are at least 10 speakers of the language and many others who have learned many of the words for greetings and commands.

My brother likes Legos® which were first developed in Denmark as toy building blocks in 1916. The blocks were designed to be put together, and taken apart, with ease so that there would be stability in the buildings and the things that were built. These “post and hole” adaptations on each block were done in the 1960s. Although they were originally made out of wood, they have been so successful that they are now made out of plastic and are sold worldwide. They have even been made to correspond with many movie titles and characters in the last few years and now have their own movie using their figures and shapes.

My brother likes monster trucks which were first developed by independent builders of adapted trucks when they were trying to make their vehicles look bigger than others; and when these trucks were built to be so big with large tires and higher suspensions, it was discovered that they could drive over other parked cars and trucks crushing them. In 1988 the Monster Truck Racing Association was formed to market the trucks as entertainment. Huge crowds come to arenas across the USA to watch the monster trucks race and crush other parked vehicles.

My brother likes Nascar® which was started as an organization to support and promote car racing at the end of 1947 in Daytona Florida by Bill France Sr. who was a racer and a car enthusiast all of his life. When the organization was started, they decided to have 3 distinct groups for racing: stock cars, modified stock cars, and Roadsters. In 1950 the first 500-mile Southern Stock car race was held on a newly built paved track. Several other national races on paved tracks came about as a result of this race; and continued growth in popularity made these common events with money for prizes and seats for growing numbers of spectators.

My brother likes the outdoors, with experiences like hiking, exploring, picnicking, climbing, camping, canoeing, boating, swimming, and rafting. These are recreational activities that have been part of human existence forever. It is in the nature of human beings to seek out adventure, to have fun, to risk, to explore, to undertake new skills and directions, and to partake in nature and what it has to offer.

My brother likes pizzas, which were first developed in Rome in 997 AD and were flat breads. There are records that indicate that flat breads are more than 5,000 years old. The first pizzas, as flat breads with toppings, were from the 1600s in Naples. There is a story that the queen consort of Italy asked a baker to make something for her on June 11th 1889 and a pizza was made with tomatoes, mozzarella, and basil in honor of the colors of Italy. Pizzas in the United States were first served as items on menus in 1904. The pizzas were popularized after World War 2 when soldiers returning from Italy wanted to have foods that they had eaten over there and so pizza restaurants were opened all over America as a result.

My brother likes quarry swimming holes, which are popular swimming places all over the USA, where abandoned rock quarries that have been filled up with water are a lure to kids and adults who enjoy the idea of swimming in an isolated pool that is somewhat natural and exciting to be in. The high rock faces make for good diving and jumping heights. The clear water that is usually spring fed makes the water clean and cold. With the quarries being small, there are seldom boaters who could get in the way of the swimmers. It is an ideal place for swimming, as long as all safety precautions are considered.

My brother likes river rafting which is considered an “extreme sport” and therefore is considered very dangerous. Rafting on very easy small rivers with small rapids is encouraged for beginners. Having spotters, guides, experienced lifeguards, and wearing life preservers, as well as having instruction before beginning is extremely important. If all goes very well, it is a very exciting and fun sport to be involved in.

My brother likes sports, which are as various as cultures, countries, and world places. Evidence of sport (wrestling and racing) in cave paintings goes back as far as 17,000 years. Ancient Sumer shows evidence of Boxing and angling (fishing). Hieroglyphics from Egypt indicate pictures depicting wrestling, weightlifting, long jumps, swimming, rowing, shooting, fishing, and ball games. Also portrayed in the Egyptian pictures are javelin throwing and the high jump. In the USA today American Football, Baseball, Basketball, Ice Hockey, Soccer, Race Car Driving, and Golf are the biggest sports.

My brother likes tools, which are as old as the development and achievements of human beings. There are geological and archeological sites in Ethiopia that show evidence of tool making and tool use as far back as 2.6 million years ago. The first known tools uncovered were hand axes. Common tools found at these sites showed tools for hunting as well as for making and preparing food. Early evidence of spear points and bow and arrow points has been collected from around the world at various sites. Tools for farming and growing things have also been found more recently. With the discovery of using and making metals, tool production, with the variety of tools being made, has expanded dramatically. Today there are thousands of different types and varieties of tools.

My brother likes the US Army, which was created in 1775. Their work on American expansion, with fighting in many declared and undeclared wars and skirmishes has transpired over the years, with initial volunteers to conscripted and drafted soldiers. Advancements in technology and industrialization have brought about tremendous and unusual changes in the military’s power and abilities. Infantry soldiers began on foot and on horseback. Today the army travels by ship, by air, and by tank, while the weaponry now is very advanced. Originally soldiers had cannons and flintlock rifles. Today there are mortars, grenades, machine guns, and many other support systems way beyond the initial army’s conceptions.

My brother likes vacations, which are relaxing times away from work and school. Traveling to remote or distant spots like ranches, or lakes, or mountains, or nature parks, or theme parks, or other countries is very typical of vacations. Planning the trips is very important and requires lots of lists for food, and money, and hotel fees, and reservations to specific places, and clothes, and vehicles, and accessories, etc. Being very prepared when away from home demands that all of the necessary pieces and parts, that are taken for granted, are packed for the trip.

My brother likes weights, which are used for building up muscles and for strengthening and endurance. He likes to participate in sports and keeping in shape by using weights to do bench presses, curls, leg lifts, leg presses, and squats. These are all part of the routine of using weights. The weights come with bar bells in different sizes, from 1 pound to 5 pounds to 10 pounds to 25 pounds. He uses a bench to lie down on for his bench presses.

My brother likes the X-Men® who are unusual mutant super heroes in movies based on comic book stories. Professor Xavier started a school at his mansion to train young mutants to learn how to use their special talents for the good of all mankind. He was always in conflict with his archenemy Magneto with Magneto’s group of mutants who were not interested in ever doing good work for mankind. There are lots of movies that have been made on the X-Men and there will be many more. With the abilities of computer animation, these films are able to resemble the fantasies of the comic books and are able to create the illusion of the powers that these characters supposedly have.

My brother likes yard work. He enjoys mowing the lawn, raking the leaves, shoveling the walks, weeding the garden, and trimming the hedges, as long as he gets paid for all the work. There is always work to be done regardless of the season because the wind and the rain and the sun and the changes to the seasons always provide for changes everywhere in the yard.

My brother likes zoning out when he is finished doing work so that he can relax and do nothing but sit and watch the world go by. He might just want a nice chair on the porch and a tall glass of something cold to sip on, but other than that, he does not like to be bothered when he zones out.

THE END

**More Game Things**

The Author’s® card game is very similar to Go Fish with the matching sets of cards being famous authors. Dickens, Shakespeare, Longfellow, and Twain are just some of the authors in the special deck. There are two to four players who are given 7 cards to begin with and they ask someone else if that person has a card that matches what they have in their hands.

The Battleship® game takes place on a ten by ten square tiled board with spaces marked off for where one person puts their ships, occupying spaces of 2 to 5 tiles in any direction, but not overlapping. Then they each take turns choosing spaces on their opponent’s board where their ships would fire at an unknown space to see if they can hit the other’s ships and sink them.

The game of Checkers is played on a 64 square-tiled board of alternating black and white squares. Each player has a set of 12 colored disks, either entirely red or black, placed on the black spaces in three rows. The object is to move diagonally on the black spaces and jump and take your opponent’s pieces. Whoever ends up with no pieces left at the end of the game loses.

The game of Dominoes has 28 tiles, each tile with two sets of a different number of dots on each same side of the tile. A few tiles have the same number of dots on both sides. The object is to place a domino tile next to the one in the middle of the table so that the dots of the tile placed down equal those beside the tile already on the table. The person who gets rid of all of his or her tiles first wins.

The game of Euchre is generally played with four people, where two pairs of partners play across from one another. The deck is mostly face cards and the object is to win as many “tricks,” or groups of four cards played by each person in turn, to win each round played.

The game of Finance®, when it was created back in 1932, was what the game Monopoly was originally based on. The playing board had properties that went from very cheap to very expensive as you went around the board to collect them. At the start of the game each player was given the same certain amount of money to purchase properties. The goal was to end up with the most money at the end of the game.

The game of Go is a very simple game regarding directions, but very complex in strategy. It is played on a 19 by 19 grid board where each of two players places white or black stones into empty squares so that each one tries to control the board by enclosing the other player in a contained space.

The game of Horseshoes is an outdoor game where 2 or 4 players throw horse shoes at a metal stake in a sand pit trying to get as close to the stake as possible to score points. If the thrown horseshoe encircles the stake it is called a “ringer.” A horseshoe that is 6 inches from the stake gets 1 point. A ringer gets 3 points.

The game of “I Doubt It” is played with a normal deck of 52 playing cards. All of the cards are dealt to the four players, and the object is to get rid of all of your cards first. Each player starts by laying a card face down in the center of the table stating that the card placed is an Ace, then a two with each player laying a card down going in order from Ace to King. If the card is not the one that is stated, and it is challenged by stating “I doubt it,” then the player of the wrong card down has to pick up the entire pile underneath. If it is the right card stated and challenged the challenger has to pick up all of the cards underneath.

The game of Jenga® is a stacked set of 54 blocks in 18 rows of three. The purpose is to remove any block with one hand from the lower levels of the tower and replace it on the top level of the blocks, without knocking over any of the other blocks from the tower of 54.

The game of Kalah is played using a long wooden board with six pits on each side and a large pit at each end. The 6 pits are filled with 4 seeds each and the first player gets to pick up any of the four seeds and begin placing them in the next pits to the left one at a time until the last seed is dropped. When the last seed that is dropped goes into the large pit at the left the player gets another turn. The game ends when there are no longer any seeds in your 6 pits on your side or the other person’s seeds in the pits on his or her side.

The game of Life® is a board game for all ages and is a way to explore possibilities for one’s own existence. The game takes the player on a journey through all the regular possibilities that one may encounter in a normal routine life with some odd exceptions and circumstances. The game is for 2 to 6 players.

The game of Monopoly® is one of properties, railroads, and utilities and attempting to get ownership of as much of these as possible. Each player starts off with a certain amount of money and by throwing dice gets to see where they are to move their token on the board. By buying houses and hotels and placing them on the properties that one has purchased, one gets to increase the rent that one can charge others who land on those properties.

The game of Niagara® was designed to be like Niagara Falls, and players can move their canoes towards the fall’s edge gathering gems of different colors as they approach the falls. The one to get 4 of the same colored gems, or 5 or different colored gems, or seven gems wins the game.

The game of Old Maid is a card game with a 52-card deck with an added joker as the old maid, or with an old maid deck. All of the cards are dealt out. The person to the left of the dealer draws first. That person selects a card from the person to their left. If the person picking cards finds a pair in their hand, that person removes the pair from their hand and places it on the table. The person to the left of that person then picks a card from the person to their left and does the same. When one person is left holding only the old maid alone in their hand, the game is over.

The game of Parcheesi is played with each of the four players selecting 4 similar colored pieces. Dice are thrown to know how many spaces are to be moved on the board to get from the starting point and moving all the way around the board and going into the center to win. All four pieces have to make it to the center of the board at the end in order to win the game.

The game of Qwirkle® is played with 108 wooden tiles that have a variety of six shapes and six colors. The purpose is to form lines of 6 tiles that have the same color with different shapes or the same shape with different colors. Each tile placed is worth a point. Each finished line is also worth 6 points.

The game of Risk® is a board game of world domination using military might and strategy to gain control over the 6 continents and eliminating the rest of the opponents and competition. The game is equipped with cards and dice to determine play and outcomes of play. The game is played by 2 to 6 players.

The game of Scrabble® is a board game where 2 to 4 players construct words using a total of 7 tiles in their possession and also using the tiles that are on the board at any time in the game. All words constructed must be able to be placed in crossword fashion onto the current words of the game board making words that fit with all of the current words on the board. Points are scored by the places on the board where the letters are put and also by the numbers with each tile of each letter.

The game of Tic-Tac-Toe is a two- person game where each player places an X or an O in one of 9 available places in a 3 by 3 square. The first one to get a line horizontally, vertically, of diagonally of 3 in a row wins the game.

The game of Upwords® is played much like Scrabble but words can also be made by placing letter tiles onto already existing letters on the board to create new words. Each player must have seven letters at all times so placing letters on the board requires that the tiles used be replaced by new letters up to seven letters from the box.

The game of Voltage® is a two- person card and board game where players can place cards beside one of four different colored voltage terminals on a board. The Voltage terminals can be either positive or negative and can switch at times during the play. There are 56 cards to the Voltage deck.

The game of War is a card game with a standard 52 card playing deck. All of the cards are dealt to the 2 to 6 players and when all the cards are sorted, each player simultaneously puts a card face up on the table. The highest card wins the round and that player collects all of the cards at the time and they are placed to the side. If the highest cards match, those two players play 3 cards down and then turn over the next card. The highest card then wins all of the cards won. Play continues until one person has all of the cards in the deck. When a person runs out of cards held, that person picks up the cards they’ve won and starts playing with those cards.

The game of Xiangqi is like two armies attacking each other to capture the opponent’s king while also trying to defend against the opponent trying to capture the other king. It is a game of intense strategy. A single game may last for half an hour to several hours. The game of Yahtzee is a dice game. 2 – 6 Players **try**, when rolling 5 dice (with 3 chances each turn), to make as many ones, then as many twos, then threes, then fours, then fives, then sixes, then (if possible) 4 of a kind, then 3 of a kind, then large straights, then small straights, then a full house, and then a Yahtzee (5 of a kind). Each play is given a score. The player with the highest score at the end of the rounds wins.

The game of Zombies® is a 2 to 6 player board game. There are lots of spin offs from this game and lots of varieties in the spin offs. Games with zombies are very popular today. There are Zombie TV shows and movies to go along with the games as well as video games beside the board games.

THE END

**More Train Things**

Train axels are called straight axels. A straight axel is a single rigid shaft of steel that connects the wheel on the right side directly with the wheel on the left side. This means that the axis of rotation is identical in both wheels all the time. The fixed positions of the wheels allow for the vehicle involved to carry great amounts of weight, which is what a train is designed to do.

Train brakes are generally air brake systems where compressed air pushes on pistons that apply pressure to the wheel pads for braking. There are new modifications to this system, which make newer models completely failsafe. These measures are to protect trains from becoming runaway trains.

Train cars are vehicles for the transporting of people or cargo. When these cars are coupled or hooked together they become trains. Some passenger trains have many seats with a tiny aisle in the middle. Some commuter trains have few seats thus allowing for more passengers who stand during the short trips.

Dining Cars on trains, or restaurant carriages, serve meals just like a full service sit down restaurant. Many Long Distance Amtrak Train dining cars have full menus and can offer full course meals in their dining cars for hungry customers, serving breakfast, lunch, and dinner at set times during the trip.

Train engines or locomotives are rail-transporting vehicles that provide the power and energy to power a train. Most trains still operate with an engine as the front car, but some trains have both a front and rear engine (or more than one in front and one in back depending on the size of the train), one pulling and one pushing. A front-end engine may have more than an 18,000 horsepower engine, while a rear end engine may have only a 9,000 horsepower engine.

Train freight cars or box cars are enclosed and are very versatile and are used for carrying regular freight. They have side doors and can carry almost any kind of load or cargo. They used to be hand loaded but today railway work hands use forklifts. Today there are many types of freight cars designed for specific types of materials to be carried.

Train gages, or gauges, are the measurements between the inner distances between the rails on routine railroad tracks. In the United States the distance is 4 feet 81⁄2 inches or 1,435 millimeters. The gages are to make sure that the rails are evenly spaced so that trains do not derail and fall off the tracks. Often too much rain in any area can undermine the ground under the tracks and change the gages making accidents happen.

Train horns generally have 3 tones and are driven by compressed air. They are very loud deliberately so that they act as a successful warning to cars and drivers and pedestrians that a train is quickly approaching an intersection. Train whistles (horns, bells) were first used in 1832. Trains whistles (horns) may measure a decibel reading of somewhere between 110 and 118 decibels.

Train island platforms are very useful when there are duel tracks, as the island platform can have restrooms, escalators for entrances and exits, shops, restaurants, and information stations that serve both sets of tracks and are therefore not duplicated.

Train jacks are used in train terminals and depots where railroad workers need to fix or repair cars or change cars and engines when they set up new rail deliveries or cargo routes. Jacks are for lifting car wheels off of the tracks so that they can be moved to another set, or work can be done under the trains once they are up in the air.

Train knuckles are coupling devices for connecting one car to another. Because they are to be used interchangeably, the knuckles or coupling devices must be universal and the same everywhere for all train cars and makes and models, so that all connections are possible.

Passenger luggage is delivered from the terminal and ticket office to the train, once it is properly tagged with name, address, and destination, as well as starting point of the journey. After it is tagged, the luggage is then shipped by cart to the platforms to be placed in the appropriate luggage car or allowed on as extra baggage for the passengers to carry with them.

Train motors have been made to use steam, coal, gasoline, diesel fuel, and electricity in their lengthy history. The first Electric cargo train was built in 1837. The first electric passenger train was started in 1879. The first train powered by an overhead electric line was started in 1883 in Austria. In 1888 electric trolleys were started in Richmond Virginia. The last transcontinental lines to be built were made in 1915 and had electrified lines.

The notch-8 throttles used in diesel engines for turning up the speed of a train were developed so that the speed could not be turned up too fast while powering up a train. Starting from notch 1, the train would have to get to that top speed before going to notch 2. Then in notch 2 the train would have to reach that top speed before going to notch 3, and so on, all the way up to notch 8 which was considered full throttle.

An over bridge is a crossing bridge over an existing operating rail track so that trains could simultaneously cross each other without interruption. The architecture involved in making such bridges has to be done very carefully as trains are so monstrously heavy. Supports in building structures have to be extra supportive in order for safety in all areas to be taken care of.

Passengers on train cars are travelers from one place to another who choose to ride trains rather than drive or fly or take a bus. They must make reservations with the train line companies and get tickets before they board the trains. When they get on, they must show their tickets to the conductor who will punch their tickets and register them as passengers for the trip. At each stop along the way, the conductor checks new passengers in and out, letting people know the names of each stop along the way.

Quiet zones are those places along a rail road track where private and corporate citizens have requested that the trains do not blow their whistles and horns when passing through as long as keeping quiet does not endanger any crossing drivers, pedestrians, or others in intersections present or near these quiet zones.

Railcars for trains come in many different varieties. Passenger cars can be dining cars, disco cars, parlor cars, movie theater cars, observation cars, and dome cars for allowing passengers to view the outside passing scenery. There are over 40 different types of specially made cargo cars for different types of freight that are being hauled by train, such as animals, cars, coal, oil, machine parts, etc.

Steam was the first type of fuel used for operating trains. It was heated by burning coal under contained water chambers to propel steam through turbines generating motion and power to pistons that propelled rods that turned the wheels. It was not as efficient or proficient as later diesel fuel was, so the steam engines were retired.

Tracks as rails have always been used for trains as the trains were so incredibly heavy that there was no way for trains to operate on any other man made surface. Tracks were originally made out of wrought iron but these soon shattered under the weight of the trains. It was not until steel, an alloy of iron and carbon and other metals, was developed that tracks were able to be made that lasted under the weight of the trains.

Under bridges are crossing bridges over an existing operating rail track so that trains can simultaneously cross each other without interruption. The architecture involved in making such bridges has to be done very carefully as trains are so monstrously heavy. Supports in building structures have to be extra supportive in order for safety in all areas to be taken care of.

Valve gears are the connecting linkages between an engine’s pistons, the steam valves, and the driving rods that transfer the steam’s energy to the wheels that move the train.

Train whistles or horns have always been associated with sadness, as the three wavering tones and their sounds, with the Doppler effect of changing tones when the train goes through the town as it passes, sounds so lonesome and desperate and mournful and melancholy. The sadness might also be because people, when they were leaving their loved ones, took trains to travel to far distances.

The “X-ing” signs at railroad crossings are there to let drivers of cars and trucks, and also walking pedestrians, know that there is an intersection with passing trains coming by at any time. Federal and state and city laws require that these signs be at every intersection.

Railroad yards are storage areas for unused train engines and freight cars that are being sorted for future excursions. They generally are comprised of many parallel tracks off to the side of the main lines so that they do not interfere with the flow of traveling trains. Large railroad yards may have a tower that controls the flow and movement of the stored cars.

Zig-zag tracks are built into the sides of steep hills and mountains to help trains in climbing over the steep parts, as the weights of trains and the cars is too much for a track to be built straight up and over a hill or mountain, and the train would never be able to get the energy and power up enough to accomplish that. The zig-zag tracks help the trains go up hills one brief piece of climbing at a time.

THE END