**Imagination**

**And he said, Behold, I see the heavens opened**

**and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.**

***(Acts 7:56)***

**Acting is telling the truth under imaginary circumstances. *(Emma Watson)***

**The man who has no imagination has no wings. *(Muhammad Ali)***

**One of the nice things about problems is that a good many of them do not exist except in our imagination. *(Steve Allen)***

**Why do we want to have alternate worlds? You have to imagine something before you do it. Therefore, if you write about something, hopefully you write about something that’s better or more interesting than circumstances as they now are, and that way you hope to make a step towards it. *(Joan Aiken, British novelist)***

**Imagination is but another name for super intelligence. *(Edgar Rice Burroughs)***

**Imagination is as good as many voyages – and much cheaper. *(George William Curtis)***

**Imagination is the highest kite that one can fly. *(Lauren Bacall, in Lauren Bacall, By Myself)***

**Imagination was given to man to compensate him for what he isn’t, and a sense of humor, to console him for what he is. *(Sir Francis Bacon)***

***\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\**Baseball catcher Mike Piazza remembers the days of being batboy when the Dodgers came into Philadelphia to play the Phillies, dreaming one day of playing at Veterans Stadium. Now Piazza will be heading to Philadelphia, just outside his hometown of Phoenixville, not only as the starting catcher in the baseball All-Star Game, but the most popular player in the entire National League. *(Rick Hummel, in St. Louis Post-Dispatch, 1996)***

**Why do you think a baseball pitcher takes so much time with the windup and the throw? The whole time he is fooling around on the mound he is visualizing the flight of the baseball. In his mind's eye he is seeing the ball wobble and dip and curve right where he wants it to curve. And when he has the image burned into the projection screen of his mind, he lets go the real thing -- he throws the baseball. *(Michael Jamison, Unity Minister)***

***\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\**The story is told of two men who occupied adjoining beds in a nursing home. The man in the bed near the door was completely paralyzed and unable to move even his head. His roommate lay in the bed near the window. Although the aging process kept him confined to that bed, he remained both cheerful and alert. The one who suffered paralysis asked his roommate to look out the window and tell him what was going on in the world outside. Day after day the man by the window gave his friend a complete report. In vivid detail he informed him of the postal official making daily rounds, wearing a raincoat and boots in rainy weather and short sleeves on sunny days, etc. Truly, the paralyzed man in the bed near the door lived for those regular updates on the world outside. One day, however, his eyes to that world came to an end with the death of his friend. Before long another man was assigned to the bed near the window. After introducing themselves, the paralyzed man asked his new roommate if he would be kind enough to tell him about the activity going on outside the window. “Sure,” said the new occupant, “only I don't know how I can. There's nothing outside this window but a solid brick wall.” (*Victor M. Parachin, in Unity magazine)***

**At the end of the art period the very young assistant to the Nursery School teacher was checking the drawings of the four year olds. Pausing before a blank sheet of paper she inquired unwisely of its owner. “What's that?” “A boat.” “But I don't see any boat.” “It just sank.” *(Quote magazine)***

**To prove the body responds to the imagination, researchers put thermometers between the toes of several subjects and told them to imagine they were sitting in front of a crackling fireplace. The mercury went up in each thermometer. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Perhaps you think that boredom is just an unpleasant state of mind. But it's more than that. Boredom is a state of mental and emotional tension that results when what we are doing lacks motivation and purpose. What's the cure? Imagination, says Dr. Normal Vincent Peale. “Almost every day I hear people say they are bored with their work,” he said once. “Such people lack imagination. Nothing need be humdrum. You can find excitement in any job.” *(Bits & Pieces)***

**Brain scans indicate people may improve their tennis or golf games by simply imagining they are whacking the ball. The mental practice turns on most of the brain circuits used when a person swings for real. And that strengthens the brain cell connections needed to smash a winning ace or a booming drive, a researcher said. Dr. Richard Frackowiak, a professor of cognitive neurology at the Institute of Neurology in London, and colleague Klaus-Martin Stephan scanned the brains of six men as they actually moved a joystick in a certain pattern -- and again as they just imagined doing it. When the men imagined moving the joystick, they turned on about 80% of the brain circuitry used when they physically moved it. *(Rocky Mountain News, 1995)***

**It may be later than we think, or it may be earlier than we can possibly imagine. *(Ashleigh Brilliant, in Pot-Shots)***

**There are no rules of architecture for a castle in the clouds. *(G. K. Chesterton)***

**As the mother is down on her hands and knees scrubbing the floor, the child says to her: ‘Mommy! You look just like Cinderella!” *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)***

**Clearly imagine that you already have what you hope for, that you have reached your goals. What does your life look like? One reason this exercise of imagination is so effective is that the subconscious is not governed by the same rules of time as the conscious mind. In fact, time doesn't exist in the subconscious mind -- or in our dreams, which are the subconscious mind's most easily recognizable by-product. *(Mark Fisher & Marc Allen, in How To Think Like A Millionaire, p. 68)***

**The consolation of the imaginary is not imaginary consolation. *(Roger Scruton, philosopher)***

**While we were driving into the city one day, my granddaughter Chloe was having a fine time during an imaginary conversation on her toy car phone. Suddenly she said, “Just a minute . . . Hello.” “What's that all about?” I asked. Her mother, in a matter-of-fact tone replied, “Oh, she has call waiting.” *(Muriel Taub Glantzman)***

**Researchers have found that counting sheep doesn’t really help most people to fall asleep. They recommend that you instead picture a relaxing or tranquil scene, such as a waterfall or a forest. It takes more of your brain’s “space” to fill in the details of a picture, which helps block out worries and troubling thoughts that might be keep you awake. *(Victoria Westlane, in Tidbits)***

**I say imagination creates reality, and if this premise is true then imagination fulfills itself in what your life becomes. *(Neville)***

**“Pre-imagining,” Leonardo da Vinci wrote in one of his many notebooks, “is the imagining of things that are to be.” The story of Leonardo as an inventor is the story of history's greatest imaginer of things that came into existence after his time. Four centuries before the American bicycle makers Wilbur and Orville Wright put an airplane into the air, Leonardo was attempting to create one in his workshop. Four and a half centuries before the Russian-born American engineer Igor Sikorsky constructed a helicopter suitable for human travel, Leonardo was developing one that could be carried aloft by an aerial screw similar to the mechanism devised by the ancient Chinese toymakers to spin a top. *(Milton Lomask, in Great Lives, p. 147)***

**Liu Chi King, who placed second to Van Cliburn in the 1958 Tchaikovsky competition, was imprisoned a year later during the Cultural Revolution in China. During the entire seven years he was held, he was denied the use of a piano. Soon after his release, however, he was back on tour. Critics wrote in astonishment that his musicianship was better than ever. “How did you do this?” a critic asked. “You had no chance to practice for seven years.” “I did practice,” Liu replied, “every day. I rehearsed every piece I had ever played, note by note, in my mind.” *(Bits & Pieces)***

**Real difficulties can be overcome; it is only the imaginary ones that are unconquerable. *(Bits & Pieces)***

***\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\**“The way to make things work is not to worry,” Walt Disney told me, “and to get interested in some little idea that looks like fun -- like imagining what Peter Pan would see as he flies over London.” With those eloquent hands, voice, eyes and brow, Walt Disney made me see Peter Pan and the children flying high above the winding Thames River, the lamps of carriages glowing on the streets far below. “Peter and the kids might even perch for a moment on the hands of Big Ben,” Walt told me, “just before heading for Never Land: ‘Second star to the right and straight on till morning.’” I was mesmerized. *(John Culhane, in Reader's Digest)***

**At Disney studios in Burbank, California, Mike (former Disney executive Mike Vance) could gaze out of his office window, across Buena Vista Street, to St. Joseph’s Hospital where Walt Disney died. His death was preceded by an amazing incident that reportedly took place the night before in Walt’s hospital room. A journalist, knowing Walt was seriously ill, persisted in getting an interview with Walt and was frustrated on numerous occasions by the hospital staff. When he finally managed to get into the room, Walt couldn’t sit up in bed or talk above a whisper. Walt instructed the reporter to lie down on the bed, next to him, so he could whisper in the reporter’s ear. For the next 30 minutes, Walt and the journalist lay side by side as Walt referred to an imaginary map of Walt Disney World on the ceiling above the bed. Walt pointed out where he planned to place various attractions and buildings. He talked about transportation, hotels, restaurants and many other parts of his vision for property that wouldn’t open to the public for another six years. A man who lay dying in the hospital whispered in a reporter’s ear for 30 minutes, describing his vision for the future and the role he would play in it for generations to come. This is the way to live -- believing so much in your vision that even when you’re dying you whisper it into another person’s ear. *(Mike Vance & Diane Deacon, in Think Out of the Box)***

***\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\**Wife: “Do you remember your dreams, Brutus?” Brutus: “Only the nightmares!” Wife: “Do you dream in color?” Brutus: “Strictly black and blue!” *(Art & Chip Sansom, in The Born Loser comic strip)***

**I am enough of an artist to draw freely upon my imagination. Imagination is more important than knowledge. Knowledge is limited. Imagination encircles the world. *(Albert Einstein)***

**The greatest thing in my life was entertaining the troops. I knew they were going home in their minds. *(Frances Langford)***

**To imagine is everything, to know is nothing at all. *(Anatole France, novelist)***

**I work at home, so my four-year-old twin daughters, Maggie and Katie, are used to seeing me operate a computer and fax machine. One afternoon I was watching them have fun on our indoor playset’s small slide. Maggie proceeded to go down headfirst, giggling that she was “faxing” herself. Not to be outdone, Katie stood at the top of the slide and shouted, “Here comes page 2!” *(Paula Ferrato, in Reader's Digest)***

***\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\**Three men were sitting on a park bench. The one in the middle was reading a newspaper; the others were pretending to fish. They baited imaginary hooks, cast lines and reeled in their catch. A passing policeman stopped to watch the spectacle and asked the man in the middle if he knew the other two. “Oh yes,” he said. “They're my friends.” “In that case,” warned the officer, “you'd better get them out of here!” “Yes, sir,” the man replied, and he began rowing furiously. *(Adam T. Rattray, in Reader’s Digest)***

**As we were preparing for a fishing trip, my husband looked at me lovingly. “What's on your mind?” I asked. “Oh,” he replied, “I was just thinking what great lures your earrings would make.” *(Judy Vandergriff, in Reader's Digest)***

***\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\**Several weeks after a young man had been hired, he was called into the personnel director's office. “What is the meaning of this?” the director asked. “When you applied for the job, you told us you had five years’ experience. Now we discover this is the first job you ever had.” “Well,” the young man said, “in your advertisement you said you wanted somebody with imagination.” *(Winston K. Pendleton)***

**One child says to the other: “The garage clicker only gets two channels -- open and close.” *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)***

**The Gap store where I worked was buzzing with shoppers when a man asked me for help finding a gift for his teenage daughter. I showed him a display of shirts, picked one out and asked him if it looked like the right size. He took the shirt from me, held it up by the shoulders, shaking the imaginary wearer while scolding, “Don't you ever take my car without my permission again!” Then he smiled, handed the shirt back to me and said, “Yep. That feels like just the right size.” *(Rhonda Fortunato, in Reader’s Digest)***

**Few people have the imagination for reality. *(Goethe)***

***\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\**A golfer who had been playing badly went to a psychiatrist who told him to relax by playing a round of golf without a ball. “Do everything you would normally do, but use an imaginary ball,” advised the psychiatrist. The golfer tried it the next day. He stepped up on the first tee, imagined he got a 260-yard drive, made a fine approach shot to the green, then putted for a par. The round went splendidly and as he approached the 18th hole, he met another golfer playing the same way -- no ball. The other golfer had seen the same psychiatrist. They decided to play the last hole together and bet $10 on the outcome. The first golfer swung at his imaginary ball and announced that it had gone 280 yards right down the middle of the fairway. The second golfer matched his drive. The first fellow then took out his 5-iron and after swinging at his imaginary ball, he exclaimed, “Look at that shot. It went right over the pin and the reverse spin on it brought it right back into the hole! I win.” “No you don't,” said the second golfer. “You hit my ball.” *(Bits & Pieces) 29015***

**Golfer Tom Watson when on the green envisions a tack sticking out of the away side of his golf ball, and taps the tack in with his putter. *(L. M. Boyd)***

***\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\**As the child watches her mother put on her lipstick while looking in the mirror, she says to her: “I bet you were good at staying inside the lines in coloring books.” *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)***

**Grandma Moses was once asked, “If you had a grandson who wanted to paint, how would you start him off?” She replied that she would make him paint the landscape reflected in the window on the porch. “Why not work directly from the landscape?” she was asked. “Because then,” she said, “he’ll make it look like a photograph. If he paints the reflection in the window he’ll have to use his imagination.” I looked at the window; the panes were of old glass, rough and uneven, pocked with air bubbles. Grandma Moses was right; it would teach the boy to use his imagination. He’d get something of himself into the painting. *(Norman Rockwell, in My Adventures as an Illustrator, as told to Thomas Rockwell)***

**The human imagination cannot be programmed by a computer. Our imagination is our greatest hope for survival. *(Keith Haring, artist)***

**Zane Grey is remembered as a great American writer of stories about the Wild West. However, he did much of the research for his books not out in the rugged West but in the reading room of the New York Public Library on Fifth Avenue in New York City. *(Paul Stirling Hagerman, in It's a Weird World, p. 21)***

**I was grilling hamburgers in the back yard when my four-year-old grandson, Johnny, asked for one. I placed a freshly cooked patty on his plate, but he just stared at it, studying the parallel stripes burned into the meat by the hot grate. “Granddad,” he asked, “are we eating zebra meat?” *(Harry E. Gates, in Reader's Digest)***

**Everything great that ever happened in this world happened first in somebody's imagination. *(Astrid Lindgren, Swedish writer)***

**The human imagination cannot be programmed by a computer. Our imagination is our greatest hope for survival. *(Keith Haring, artist)***

**If you can imagine it, you can achieve it. If you can dream it, you can become it. *(William Arthur Ward)***

**Imagination lit every lamp in this country, built every church, performed every act of kindness and progress, created more and better things for more people. It is the priceless ingredient for a better day*. (Henry J. Taylor)***

**To innovate you need more than rote knowledge. You need a trained imagination. *(Martha Nussbaum, philosopher)***

**Perhaps imagination is only intelligence having fun. *(George Scialabba, in Harvard Magazine)***

**We make up horrors to cope with real ones. *(Stephen King)***

**Imagination is the largest nation in the world. *(Paul Esch)***

**One visit to a second grade will long remain in my memory. I had shown slides of a volcano in Hawaii pouring molten rock into the sea. Where the lava met the ocean, a pillar of steam rose a mile into the air. You could almost hear it roar. Afterward, I passed around a chunk of lava. When it had been through two dozen hands, a youngster came forward with the lava, his eyes wide. “Mr. Rood,” he said, carefully cradling the material, “it's still warm!” To be able to make a lump of lava come to life, so to speak, is all the success I need. Something of what I feel struck a chord in a young boy's life -- and his imagination one in mine. *(Ronald Rood, in Reader's Digest)***

**Imagine all the people living life in peace. You may say I’m a dreamer, but I’m not the only one. I hope someday you’ll join us, and the world will be as one. *(John Lennon)***

**Assisting the teacher in my son's second-grade classroom, I was reviewing papers handed in by the children. The form contained a listing of sentences that the boys and girls were to complete about their likes and dislikes. One of the sentences was: “I like to read about . . .” Several students wrote responses such as sharks, baseball and UFOs. Then I got to my son's paper. He had written: “I like to read about one page.” *(Nina A. Hoyt, in Reader's Digest)***

**If you live your life out of your memory, you live out of your history. That's what once was. If you live out of your imagination, you live out of your potential. That’s what can be. *(Bits & Pieces)***

**Let us be of good cheer, remembering that the misfortunes hardest to bear are those that never come. *(James Russell Lowell)***

**When you fear that the worst will happen, your own thoughts may help to bring it about. “Fear,” a writer once said, “is the wrong use of imagination. A salesman, driving on a lonely country road one dark and rainy night, had a flat. He opened the trunk -- no lug wrench. The light from a farmhouse could be seen dimly up the road. He set out on foot through the driving rain. Surely the farmer would have a lug wrench he could borrow, he thought. Of course, it was late at night -- the farmer would be asleep in his warm, dry bed. Maybe he wouldn't answer the door. And even if he did, he'd be angry at being awakened in the middle of the night. The salesman, picking his way blindly in the dark, stumbled on. By now his shoes and clothing were soaked. Even if the farmer did answer the knock, he would probably shout something like, “What's the big idea waking me up at this hour!” The thought made the salesman angry. What right did that farmer have to refuse him the loan of a lug wrench? After all, here he was stranded in the middle of nowhere, soaked to the skin. The farmer was a selfish clod -- no doubt about that! The salesman finally reached the house, and banged loudly on the door. A light went on inside, and a window opened above. “Who is it?” a voice called out. “You know darn well who it is,” yelled the salesman, his face white with anger. “It's me! You can keep your blasted lug wrench. I wouldn't borrow it now if you had the last one on earth!” *(Bits & Pieces)***

**Some men storm imaginary Alps all their lives, and die in the foothills cursing difficulties that do not exist. *(E. W. Howe, in Success Easier Than Failure)***

**“Don't fret if your mental images aren’t clear. People think in different ways,” David Thornburg explains. “Words, tastes, musical notes -- the key is to use whatever works for you. As your comfort with imaging increases, involve more of the senses. If you can see, hear, touch, smell and taste your goal, the results will be that much better.” *(Robert McGarvey, in Reader's Digest)***

**Mirrors can relieve chronic pain. Researchers at the University of Bath in England found that people benefited from looking at an altered mirror image of themselves that showed their injured limbs, hands, etc., to be healthy. As they imagined the image to be real, the pain in their injured body part disappeared. With repeated treatments, mirror therapy can permanently cure people of their psychosomatic pain, says researcher Candy McCabe. “The mirror tricks the brain into resetting its body image and stops the pain.” *(The Week magazine, January 6, 2006)***

**Back in 1932 a fellow named Charles Darrow was out of a job and broke. His wife was expecting a baby. Though he was a heating engineer, there were no jobs available, and Darrow and his wife were just barely subsisting on the few odd jobs he could get as a handyman. Things were bleak. Fate didn’t reckon with the courage of this man and his wife, however. They laughed at it – literally. In the evenings, to take their minds off their troubles, they made up a little game in which they could pretend they were millionaires. Recalling pleasant vacations in nearby Atlantic City, they reconstructed the area adjoining the boardwalk. Darrow carved hotels and houses out of small pieces of wood. They called it Monopoly. Three years later, in 1935, the game was marketed nationally by Parker Brothers and Darrow and his wife became millionaires. *(Bits & Pieces)***

**The more intelligent people are the more they see differences. To the unimaginative everything looks alike. *(Bits & Pieces)***

**The best motorist drives with imagination: he imagines that his family is in the car. *(Quoted by Earl Wilson, Publishers-Hall Syndicate)***

**The power of imagination makes us infinite. *(John Muir)***

**In all, Jim Henson and his colleagues created more than 2000 rich and woolly and imaginative Muppet characters. Some became superstars – like the seductive Miss Piggy and Cookie Monster, Big Bird and, of course, Jim’s own, irrepressible Kermit. *(John Culhane, in Reader’s Digest)***

**Penal experts have said three out of four murderers have less than average intelligence. Now, university studies suggest murder usually occurs because the murderer doesn't have enough imagination to solve the problem any other way. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**One is never fortunate or as unfortunate as one imagines. *(Francois, duc de La Rochefoucauld)***

**Golfer Jack Nicklaus also practices mentally. “I never hit a shot without having a sharp picture of it in my head,” he says. “First I ‘see’ where I want the ball to finish. Then I ‘see’ it going there: its trajectory and landing. The next scene shows me making the swing that will turn the previous images into reality.” *(Robert McGarvey, in Reader’s Digest)***

**Not long ago, Los Angeles psychologist David Bresler helped a cardiologist with rectal cancer overcome his paralyzing pain. Asked to picture his pain as concretely as possible, the man soon said he could “see” a vicious dog snapping at his spine. Bresler asked him to imagine himself making friends with the dog, talking to it, patting it. “Many of us had imaginary playmates as kids,” says Bresler, “and that resource for vivid fantasy is still alive in us. I just try to tap it.” As the cardiologist became “friends” with the vicious dog, he found his pain subsiding and becoming more manageable. *(Laurence Cherry, in Reader's Digest)***

**The past is really almost as much a work of the imagination as the future. *(Jessamyn West)***

**Imagination is the true magic carpet. *(Norman Vincent Peale)***

**One thing a person cannot do, no matter how rigorous his analysis or heroic his imagination, is to draw up a list of things that would never occur to him. *(Thomas Schelling, economist)***

**My mother-in-law was nervous about undergoing a complete physical examination, including a treadmill stress test. Said my sister-in-law, “Mom, you just need the right attitude. Imagine yourself at the mall with a shopping bag in each hand.” *(Irene R. Brown, in Reader's Digest)***

**Everything you can imagine is real. *(Pablo Picasso)***

**I picture each day as if it were a happy dog looking at me. I may not be in the mood, but the dog always wants to play. Trust the dog. *(John Patrick Shanley, playwright)***

**My tiny daughter was playing in the tub and had stretched a wet washcloth over the edge, pulling it toward herself while making a low, motor-type sound. I was about to scold her for dripping water all over the floor when she piped up, “Look, Mommy! I'm sending a fax!” *(Shimmy Wachtel, in Reader's Digest)***

**A good decision is usually arrived at after considering all the alternatives. How does one go about imagining all possible alternatives? Years ago a professor at Stanford derived a check list of nine questions that can be applied to any problem. Used as a self-quiz, the questions spur imagination. They are:**

**1. Is there a new way to do it?**

**2. Can you borrow or adapt?**

**3. Can you give it a new twist?**

**4. Do you merely need more of the same?**

**5. Less of the same?**

**6. Is there a substitute?**

**7. Can the parts be rearranged?**

**8. What if we do just the opposite?**

**9. Can ideas be combined? *(Bits & Pieces)***

**Pianist-conductor Andre Previn was to play a concert with a New York symphony orchestra. When it came the day to rehearse, Previn and the orchestra were there, but somebody had forgotten to provide a piano. Previn rehearsed the orchestra for the entire concert simply by fingering on a table top! *(Bernie Smith, in The Joy of Trivia)***

**Our imaginations can be the fertile soil in which worry and anxiety grow from seeds to weeds, but when we assume an imagined outcome is a sure thing, we are in conflict with what Proust called an inexorable law: "Only that which is absent can be imagined." In other words, what you imagine cannot be happening in your presence right now, for if it were, you would perceive it. Similarly, the very fact that you fear something is solid evidence that it is not happening in your presence right now. *(Gavin de Becker, in Fearless, p. 40)***

**Suppose you have a quick temper. When something ignites it, hold a picture in your mind of yourself calmly extinguishing it. If you can't extinguish it, you may at least delay it, which is often the best cure for anger*. (Norman Vincent Peale)***

**The most important requirement for understanding reality is unlimited imagination. *(Ashleigh Brilliant, in Pot-Shots)***

**A rock pile ceases to be a rock pile the moment a single man contemplates it, bearing within him the image of a cathedral. *(Antoine de Saint-Exupery, in Flight to Arras)***

**Things ain’t what they used to be and probably never was. *(Will Rogers)***

**I was a very unpopular child. I had only two friends. They were imaginary. And they would only play with each other. *(Rita Rudner, in Reader's Digest)***

**Imagination will often carry us to worlds that never were. But without it, we go nowhere*. (Carl Sagan, in Cosmos)***

**Frank: “So what excites you most about the St. Louis Arch, Ernie?” Ernest: “Thinking how big the hamburgers must be!” *(Bob Thaves, in Frank & Ernest comic strip)***

**We are more often frightened than hurt, and we suffer more in imagination than in reality. (*Seneca)***

**Choose to make your imagination your ally. You do have a say about what pictures live in your head – and you can choose the most positive images to shape your life. *(Jane Seymour, actress)***

**One child says to another: “If our shadows played basketball, I bet they could slam-dunk!” (*Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)***

**Imagination is something that sits up with Dad and Mom the first time their teenager stays out late. *(Lane Olinghouse, in National Enquirer)***

**I had all the fears that a lot of kids have, a society of the netherworld living under my bed, and monsters living in the closet waiting to pull me in. There was a forest outside my window in New Jersey, and at night the trees had silhouettes of arms and heads and tentacles. I liked being scared, though. It was stimulating. Even as a kid, I liked pushing myself to the brink of terror and then pulling back. In the morning I was the bravest guy -- little seven-year-old Steven walking around the closet or talking to the trees, saying, “I'm not afraid of you.” But once night fell, all bets were off. *(Steven Spielberg, movie director)***

**When a mother saw a thunderstorm forming in mid-afternoon, she worried about her 7-year-old daughter, who would be walking three blocks from school to home. Deciding to meet her, the mother saw her walking nonchalantly along, stopping to smile whenever lightning flashed. Seeing her mother, the little girl ran to her, explaining happily, “All the way home, God's been taking my picture!” *(Denver Rocky Mountain News)***

**Sometimes I feel like a figment of my own imagination. *(Lily Tomlin)***

**The two most important things in acting are a child's imagination and a sense of truth. *(Spencer Tracy)***

**Visualize using your turn signal! *(Bumper sticker)***

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**I’ve been through some terrible things in my life, some of which happened. *(Mark Twain)***

**I am an old man and have known many troubles, but most of them never happened. *(Mark Twain)***

**When I was younger, I could remember anything, whether it had happened or not. *(Mark Twain)***

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*Using your imagination is the one time in life you can really go anywhere. *(Ann Patchett)***

**In the native Greek, Utopia means “not a place” or “nowhere.” *(Noel Botham, in The Ultimate Book of Useless Information, p. 129)***

**Here's a marvelous, economical idea for a vacation trip: Climb into a hammock and let your mind wander. (*Bits & Pieces)***

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**Anything one man can imagine, other men can make real. *(Jules Verne, French author)***

**Jules Verne, who wrote about amazing voyages to the moon and around the earth, only ever went aloft in a machine once – a balloon ascent in 1873. *(Noel Botham, in The Ultimate Book of Useless Information, p. 116)***

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**Husband says to wife: “We have nothing in our savings account, nothing in our checking account, and nothing coming in. On the plus side, we've got twenty-five thousand in our virtual reality account.” *(Joe Martin, Willy 'N' Ethel comic strip)***

**A Turkish dairy farmer says he’s increased his cows’ milk production by fitting them with virtual reality goggles designed to make the indoor animals believe they are grazing in a sunny summer pasture. The two cows he has experimented on so far went from producing 22 liters a day to 27, said Izzet Kocak of Aksaray. “The quality of milk” has improved, he said, and “the animals are less stressed.” *(The Week magazine, January 28, 2022)***

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*Several weeks after a young man had been hired, he was called into the personnel director’s office. “What is the meaning of this?” the director asked. “When you applied for the job, you told us you had five years’ experience. Now we discover this is the first job you ever had.” “Well,” the young man said, “in your advertisement you said you wanted somebody with imagination.” *(Winston K. Pendleton)***

**I don’t really see science fiction as fiction. I can imagine colonies on Mars and everything. *(Sigourney Weaver)***

**At a sport's medicine conference in Milan, Italy, Charles Garfield, an American psychologist and amateur weight-lifter, heard about a new way to boost performance. First, some trainers had him do his lifting the usual way. Lying on his back and straining as never before, he managed to push 300 pounds above his chest. That was 20 pounds more than he'd been lifting. “I figured that was it,” he recalls. It wasn't. The trainers then talked Garfield through vivid mental images of lifting a much greater weight. “They made me imagine the clink of the metal as I lifted the weights, the sound of my breathing, the pressure on my arms and then the successful lift.” Next they put 365 pounds on the bar. Garfield rehearsed it all again in his mind -- and, with a mighty effort, he pushed the weight up. He was amazed. *(Robert McGarvey, in Reader’s Digest)***

**All the tragedies which we can imagine return in the end to the one and only tragedy: the passage of time. *(Simone Weil, philosopher)***

**While visiting the Butchart Gardens near Victoria, British Columbia, I stopped to rest at a wishing well. Several children came up and dropped coins into the well, whispering aloud their wishes. “I wish I had a puppy,” said one. “I wish I had a race car,” said another. At last one boy about ten years of age came up and looked thoughtfully into the well. Then grudgingly, he tossed in his coin and muttered, “I wish I had a magnet.” (*Sharon Lewsadder, in Reader's Digest)***

**He who has imagination without learning has wings but no feet. *(Joseph Joubert)***

**Women have more imagination than men. They need it to tell us how wonderful we are. *(Arnold H. Glasgow) 4901***

**There is a woman at my health club who always begins the workout with sit-ups and leg-lifts. One afternoon she entered the exercise room and, as usual, lay down on the slant board as if she were about to do sit-ups. This time, though, she did none. Instead, she turned around on the board and positioned herself for leg-lifts. Again she stayed there for several minutes without doing a single exercise. Finally she got up and headed out of the room. As she walked past me, she said, “Thinking about it was enough for today.” *(Stephen R. Cauble, in Reader’s Digest)***

**Those who imagine that the world is against them have generally conspired to make it true. *(Sydney J. Harris, Publishers-Hall Syndicate)***

**Everyone has a photographic memory; some just don’t have film. *(Steven Wright, comedian)***

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