

Jewett Speech, by Megs Schreck

Maurice Sendak, author of Where the Wild Things Are, has been one of the most consistently inventive and challenging voices in children's literature. His literary masterpieces are among the best-loved imaginative works of their time. In an interview with Applause Magazine, he was asked about the best compliment he has ever received.

"Oh, there's so many. Can I give you just one that I really like? It was from a little boy. He sent me a charming drawing. I loved it. I answer all my children's letters--sometimes very hastily--but this one I lingered over. I sent him a postcard and I drew a picture of a Wild Thing on it. I wrote "Dear Jim, I loved your card." Then I got a letter back from Jim's mother and she said, "Jim loved your card so much, he ate it!" That to me is one of the greatest compliments I've ever received. He didn't care that it was an original drawing or anything. He saw it, he loved it, he ate it."

When I read this excerpt I couldn't help laughing out loud—its silly really the little boy loved something so much that he ate it---but the more I thought about it, it spoke to me on deeper level---the phrase he saw it, he loved it, he ate it—is really about the unique combination of hunger and passion—the two essential elements needed in order to live your life so that is each day is your very own masterpiece.

In the book Make Each Day Your Masterpiece, Michael Lynberg writes, "Each person born into this world represents a force, an energy, a promise that has never occurred before and that will never occur again. Only one being like you, with your dreams and aspirations, with your wisdom and experience. If you do not live your life completely, realizing values and goals that you hold to be worthwhile, making your unique contribution and finding your passion, nobody ever will.

Since we were little kids we have been asked to find our passion...with the ever famous questions “What do you want be when you grow up?” I know that at 3 when I said I wanted to be a waitress at Eat’n Park—I definitely hadn’t found my passion—or boys our age who wanted to be Ghostbusters, GI-Jo’s, Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles—and the girls who wanted to be Jem and The Holograms, Barbie, or Rainbow Bright...they probably hadn’t found their true calling yet either. Some of us are still searching. Others among us have a compelling sense of what we want to do with our lives. We have a passion, a purpose that resonates to the very core of our being. Confidence, enthusiasm, energy and strong beliefs are often the hallmarks of passion... basically I like to think of passion as that driving force inside of you—it is figuring out what you are hungry for in life—and then figuring out every way to fulfill that appetite.

History is filled with accounts of individuals who had both passion and hunger and lived their lives so that each day they created a masterpiece. Take the happiest place on Earth for example... Walt Disney’s worldwide popularity was based upon the ideals which his name represents: imagination, optimism, creation, and self-made success. He himself put it perfectly “If you can dream it you can do it!” Eleanor Roosevelt is remembered as one of the most influential women in the 20th Century. Her passion for helping others and her hunger for making this dream a reality is monumental. She understood that life is about living and making the most of the talents that are uniquely yours. She said, “Life was meant to be lived, and curiosity must be kept alive. We must never, for whatever reason, turn our back on life.”

Today’s society is a bit cut throat—I mean just take a look at our television shows--The Apprentice, America’s Next Top Model, Project Runway, The Gauntlet,

American Idol—all of these shows are based on competition—if you want to see your dream become a reality and bring your passion to life in this cut throat world you have to be hungry. Wanting something is not enough. You must HUNGER for it. Your motivation must be absolutely compelling in order to overcome the obstacles that will invariably come your way.

Motivational speaker, Les Brown, once said “If you take responsibility for yourself you will develop a HUNGER to accomplish your dreams.” During our 4 years at MC we were lucky enough to have received a liberal arts education—which basically I like to think of Marietta College as one big buffet restaurant and you have your main course which is your major—the food selection you like the most—but then you could choose all these other little dishes—your electives—and you leave a full individual. This liberal arts education has challenged us—taught us to take responsibility for our own actions, to always dig a little deeper—to be critical thinkers—and to never stop believing in ourselves—and this is in large part thanks to the wonderful faculty, staff, and mentors we have on campus—so to all of you thank you—thank you feeding our hungry appetites for knowledge.

In 1969, Eric Carle, wrote the book that has eaten its way into the hearts of literally millions of children over the world and has been translated into more than 30 languages and sold over 22 million copies. The book, is The Very Hungry Caterpillar, this all-time favorite follows the very hungry caterpillar as it grows from egg to cocoon to beautiful butterfly. Now the book in of itself is quite simple but the lesson profound—taking each day at a time and growing into someone you can be proud of. Each day is a

choice and with every choice there are consequences—but if you remember what your passion is, then the choices are simple.

We all started our college story like the caterpillar—hungry to grow into something great—I remember I was so excited to come to Marietta College—I chose the school because of the Leadership Program and superficially because the bus stop on second street looks like a ginger bread house—and that is just super cute. My peers in the leadership program will remember that on the first day of the leadership orientation—I said today “was a kick butt good day.”—Four years later I can look back and say for the most part most of my days were kick but good days-and I hope each of you can say the same.

1,368 days, ago we began chapter 1 in our story as the Marietta College Class of 2006. Each of us has had something special and unique to contribute to our story. Among us we have those who are gifted with a certain skill or ability, for teaching, for example, or for medicine, politics, and scientific research. These individuals will surely help save a life, educate the children of tomorrow, or become our future government leaders. Others among us have talent and ability to be apart of a business or organization in which we can work with others toward some common, worthwhile goal. Perhaps you are the next Bill Gates or Sandra Day O’Connor? Some of us are called to more vigorous and physical pursuits. You will build our bridges, repair our homes,—you are the next great architects and carpenters.

We have artists in the group who will surely have their names in lights—have their books published, or dance among the stars. Others will be parents—raising children, caring for them and teaching them virtues. No matter what we choose to be or where we

are in life, all of us have unique gifts and talents that must discovered, developed, challenged, and explored. Find your passion. Find the hunger inside of you to accomplish all of your dreams. Today starts a new chapter in a new book. Today is your very own masterpiece. Take a bite out of life. See it, love it, eat it!