

- 三年級組 (二選一)

Three Days to See

I have often thought it would be a blessing if each human being were stricken blind and deaf for a few days. Darkness would make him appreciate sight. Silence would teach him the joys of sound. Yet those who have eyes see little. The panorama of color and action which fills the world is taken for granted.

If by some miracle I were granted just three days to see, I should divide the period into three parts.

On the first day, I should like to see the people whose kindness and friendship have made my life worth living. First, I should gaze long upon the face of my dear teacher, Mrs. Anne Sullivan. I should like to see in her eyes that strength of character and compassion for all which has revealed to me so often. I should also want to see the simple things in my home. My eyes would rest respectfully on the books in raised type. During the long night of my life, books have built themselves into a great shining lighthouse. Books have revealed to me the deepest channels of human life and spirit.

The next day, the second day of sight, I should arise to watch the dawn. This day I should devote to a hasty glimpse of the world, past and present. Often I have touched with my hands many of the objects exhibited in the Museum of Natural History. Now I would see the condensed history of Earth displayed – all the animals and the races of men pictured there. The evening of my second day of sight I should spend at a theater or at the movies. How I should like to see with my own eyes the actors moving gracefully or comically across the stage.

The following morning, I should again greet the dawn. This is to be my third and last imagined day of sight. I shall have no time for regrets. There is too much to see. Today I shall spend in the workaday world of the present. I look at people and try to understand something of their lives. I see smiles, and I am happy. I see serious determination, and I am proud. I see suffering, and I am compassionate. My heart is full of the images of people and things. At midnight, I would again be blind. But my mind would be crowded with glorious memories.

Perhaps this outline of how I should spend my three days of sight does not agree with the plan you would follow if you knew you were about to become blind.

I who am blind can give one hint to those who see: Use your eyes as if tomorrow you would become blind. Use your other senses the same way. Hear the music of voices, the song of a bird as you would be deaf tomorrow. Touch each object as if tomorrow this sense would fail. Smell the perfume of flowers, taste each morsel, as if tomorrow you could never taste or smell again. Make the most of every sense. Glory in the pleasure and beauty the world reveals to you through your senses. But of all the senses, I am sure that sight must be most delightful.

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International News

1. Back in school at 98, Kenyan woman sets example for next generation

In a stone classroom in rural Kenya's Rift Valley, Priscilla Sitini, who turns 99 on Friday, takes notes alongside fellow pupils who are all more than eight decades younger than her. Dressed in the school uniform of grey dress and green sweater, Sitini said she went back to class to set a good example for her great grandchildren and to pursue a new career. "I would like to become a doctor because I used to be a midwife," she told Reuters, adding that her children were supportive of her decision. The government of the East African country began subsidizing the cost of primary schooling in 2003, allowing some older members of society who had missed out on education in their younger days to revive their dreams.

2. Soldier's second world war letter to his mother delivered after 76 years

A letter sent from an US soldier stationed in Germany during World War II to his mother in Massachusetts has been delivered 76 years later. The letter of Army Sergeant John Gonser, 22 at the time would sit unopened for more than 75 years before being found in a US Postal Service distribution facility. "Dear Mom, Received another letter from you today and was happy to hear that everything is okay," the letter reads. "As for myself, I'm fine and getting along okay. But as far as the food it's pretty lousy most of the time." Gonser died in 2015. His mother has died as well. But the USPS found an address for his widow, Angelina. "Imagine that! Seventy-six years!" said 89-year-old Angelina. "I just couldn't believe it. It's like he came back to me."

3. Oklahoma sixth-grader praised for heroism twice in one day

An Oklahoma sixth-grader was honored by law enforcement and school officials for his heroic actions not just once, but twice in the same day. Earlier this month, Dave Johnson used the Heimlich maneuver on a classmate who was choking on a bottle cap at his school in Muskogee. Later that same day, he helped a woman escape from a burning house, the Muskogee Phoenix reported. Last week, Dave was named an honorary member of the police and sheriff's departments at the Muskogee Board of Education meeting, the newspaper reported. Principal Latricia Dawkins called Dave a "dual hero" and said the recognition couldn't have happened to a better person.

4. Stolen pit bull reunited with family thanks to 2,000-mile volunteer relay

A pit bull named Zeus was stolen from his Montana family two months ago. When the alleged dog napper was captured in West Virginia, Zeus was still with him. Fortunately for Zeus and his family, he was microchipped. His family was found, but getting him home wasn't that easy. Many airlines have banned pit bulls from flying. A network of dog-loving volunteers came into play and put together a relay of drivers to give Zeus a lift back home : 15 volunteers traveling 2,000 miles across nine states in four days. A Kansas City radio station got wind of the trip and did a live report on Facebook during one of the handoffs.