

Lupton's Laugh & Learn – Happy New Year

Thoughts to Begin the New Year

Zig Ziglar

Sometimes adversity is what you need to face in order to become successful.

Billy Graham

Comfort and prosperity have never enriched the world as much as adversity has.

Jean De La Bruyere

Out of difficulties grow miracles.

Wrestler Triumphs over Adversity

AKRON, Ohio (Dec. 26.2008) - **Neurologists** and **pediatricians** told Debbie and Tony Gunter that their son suffered brain damage at birth and would never be able to **participate** in sports.

"Most of the doctors told us he'd never be able to walk or even talk, that he wouldn't be able to do much of anything," Debbie Gunter told the Akron Beacon Journal [newspaper].



Jesse Gunter has surpassed those **meager** expectations. He's 15-1 on his high school wrestling team and has a **4.0 GPA**, despite being blind in one eye and having only limited vision in the other.

Debbie Gunter goes through a series of emotions when she watches her son compete for Coventry High School. "I'll be crying at the beginning, screaming and laughing during the match, and crying again after the match," she said. "There is simply so much **adrenaline** flowing every match, I can't stand it because I love so much what is happening. Jesse amazes us every time he's out there."

Debbie believes she is witnessing a **miracle** every time. "We never had the courage to dream that he could do what he's doing," she said. "He's an **inspiration** to all of us, especially those of us who were there when he was born."

It was a problem **delivery**. After 16 hours in labor, Debbie had an emergency Caesarean section.

A few hours later, Jesse began having **seizures**. For three years, the Gunters took Jesse to experts who said there was little anyone could do. After moving to Virginia, they found a pediatrician who offered hope. "She told us that whatever we do, don't baby him. Treat him normally like every other child and he'll grow up to be like every other kid," Tony Gunter said.

Jesse has no **peripheral vision**, ruling out most sports. When the family moved back to the Akron area in 1996, Jesse began taking karate classes. He started wrestling three years ago as a seventh-grader at Coventry Junior High. "The thing I love most about wrestling is that I can really push my body. My body can support me in wrestling, and it's a thrill for me," he said.

"I can't see anything on a blackboard or TV screen," he said. "But the teachers have been great. They give me extra handouts that show the things that the rest of the class can see."

"Jesse's story is an **incredible** life story," Coventry coach Keith Shinn said. "Hopefully, it will inspire others to get over whatever is holding them back and **enable** them to have as much passion for life and wrestling as Jesse does."

Jesse has **ambitious** goals. He wants to be a state champion wrestler and to compete in college and the Olympics. "I can't see, but I can dream," he said. "And I'm determined to live those dreams."

VOCABULARY

Adversity:	serious or continued difficulty
Neurologist:	a doctor skilled in diseases of the nervous system
Pediatrician:	a doctor trained in the treatment of children
Participate:	to take an active part in something, such as sports
Meager:	little
4.0 GPA:	4.0 means all "Ones" for grades. GPA = Grade Point Average
Adrenaline:	energy flowing within the body
Miracle:	loving act of God...something requiring more than a natural explanation
Inspiration:	encouraging and lifting the hopes, emotions and expectations
Delivery:	childbirth
Seizures:	physical attack often including convulsions and loss of consciousness
No peripheral vision:	no side vision...sees only straight ahead as through a tunnel
Incredible:	Unbelievable or hard to believe
Enable:	To make possible
Ambitious:	A desire to accomplish a goal

Link: <http://www.radio.cz/en/issue/111149> Czech Radio Praha...interview with Mr. Dan and feature on Svitavy. You can both read and listen to this.



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STUDENT'S NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

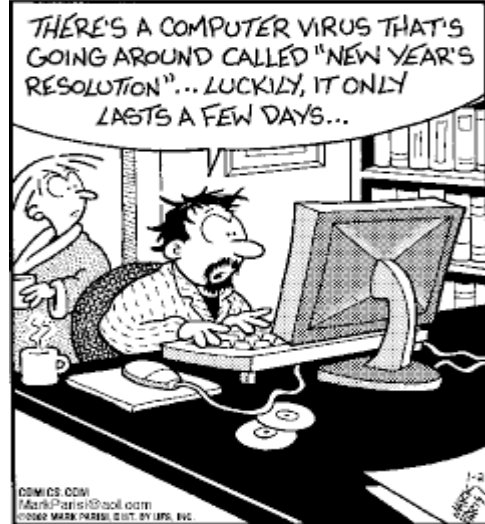
by Bruce Lansky

Last year I did some rotten things.
This year I will be better.
Here are some resolutions
I will follow to the letter:

I won't make dumb excuses
when my homework isn't done;
when the truth is that I did no work
'cause I was having fun.

I won't fly paper airplanes
when the teacher isn't looking.
I won't sneak in the kitchen
just to taste what they are cooking.

I will not twist the silverware

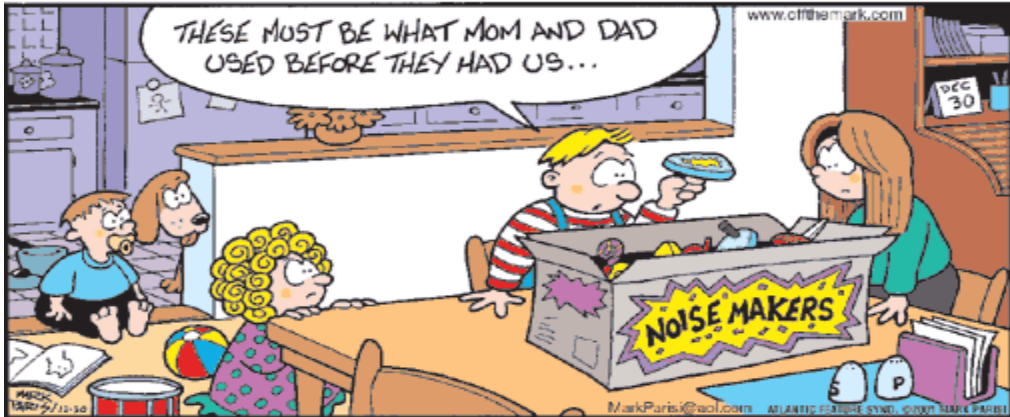


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to see how far it bends.
I will not take the candy bars
from lunch bags of my friends.

I will not skateboard down the hall
or skateboard down the stairs.
I won't run over teachers,
and I won't crash into chairs.

I will not do these rotten things;
my heart is full of sorrow.
But I have got some brand-new tricks
to try in school tomorrow.



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