

# Games to Play



## Times Remembered

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I know everyone has been spending a lot of time indoors since the Corona Virus. And frankly, it is getting old; I think we have watched the news and every movie ever made. We've played games on our phones, and read Facebook a million times. We've talked on the phone to family and friends two or three times a day and even played several board games.

I talk to Colton and Tara about every other day on my iPhone, face-timing or something. That really helps ease depression and keeps me from being so lonesome. I know about everyone is in the same boat; but we've got to be strong and hopefully restrictions will be eased in a few weeks, depending on the number of cases we have. It's not going to happen overnight; it's not like a light switch.

In my opinion we will never know life as it

was; the virus is not going away quickly. I think we may still be following safety procedures into late next fall. I hope and pray I'm wrong; but the virus is so contagious and if everyone doesn't follow guidelines it will keep coming back.

We must follow all the rules; we don't want to end up like Philadelphia did in 1918 when they disregarded what health department, doctors and the WHO told them to do. They had a huge parade and a second wave of the virus occurred and killed more people than the initial outbreak.

Hopefully, the weather will get warmer soon and if the rain will subside for a few days, we could play games outside; but only with our immediate family that we live with. No congregating of 8 or 10 playing basketball from up the street. We must use social distancing of 6 ft. and wear a mask.

When it's warm enough to swim you could get in the pool; if you have one, and play some water games, such as "Marco Polo," it is like tag in the water. "Marco," counts to 10 with his eyes closed while the other players scatter in the water, and he swims and tries to tag someone.

"Shark and Fish" - Another tag game where one player, designated as the shark attempts to tag the other players, (the fish), as they swim from one boundary line to the other in the wa-

ter. Tagged fish are frozen until they are unfrozen by another fish. The shark wins once he tags and freezes all fish. The fish win if they successfully make it across the water and back.

Snorkeling can be fun if you have a lake or deep stream nearby. To get started you will need snorkeling gear, a breathing tube, face-mask and swim fins. If you don't have access to a stream or lake you can still have a blast with a snorkel in a pool. You can place items at the bottom of the pool. You can also purchase laminate field guide cards available at dive shops and hold a fish scavenger hunt to see who can get the most species.

Many have large pools to play Water Basketball, using a purchased net, or you could use an inner tube to shoot the basketball through. This game is very popular.

Water Volleyball is fun too..... you need a net, a volleyball or beach ball. It is played just like regular volleyball but with only six people playing both of these games according to social distancing; if it still in effect.

Another yard game that is fun is corn hole, horse shoes, croquet, badminton, and whiffle ball. Playing Hopscotch and chalk art on the drive way or sidewalk can also be fun.

Most of all..... stay safe and remember to follow all the rules. **WE WILL GET THROUGH THIS!**

# Thunderstorms can bring out the 'big sissy' in all of us



**America's Heartland**  
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A mother was tucking her little boy into bed one night as a storm blew through the neighborhood with thunder and lightning.

She was about to turn off the light when the little fellow asked with a tremor in his voice, "Mommy, will you sleep in here with me tonight?"

"I can't, sweetie," the mother said. "I have to sleep in Daddy's room."

After a brief moment, the little boy said: "The big sissy."

I kind of understood where that little boy was coming from the other

night when I was loading my Redbone hound into the truck after a few hours of coon hunting. As I was taking her collars off, a blinding lightning bolt hit nearby, with a crack that sounded like a rifle shot. That was followed by jarring thunder. Believe me, I jumped into my truck just as fast as I could.

Except for a few close calls with lightning, I don't know of anything more refreshing than a thundershower, especially on a hot night. I have always loved sitting on a front porch on a steamy evening when a shower blows through to the cool air.

Of course, there's much to be said for sunshine as well. How we enjoy being outdoors soaking in sun after a dreary stretch of weather.

We realize, of course, that God provides both sunshine and rain at his own discretion. He knows what we need when we need it.

What's amazing is that he is so kind as to provide warm sunshine and refreshing rain to

everyone, even the worst scoundrels among us. That's what the scripture says: "He maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust" (Mathew 5:45).

In my mind that scripture speaks to the fact that, when God blesses his own, those blessings can spill over on people around them. I believe that's true of weather, but also of other blessings. I've seen God's blessings for a godly wife spill over on an ungodly husband, simply because they shared the same home. I've seen disobedient teenagers reap the blessings that come from living in the homes of their godly parents.

So, the next time a thundershower rumbles through, let's consider the fact that it will water not only your crops but those of the scoundrel down the road or the big sissy in the net room.

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The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



# Inspiration for the Ages

In January 1943, after being bombed by the Germans, this young man had the strength to write a letter of encouragement to his family and to his sweetheart back home, even though a few days earlier, a tag was attached to his body saying "not dead yet." Likewise, in these difficult times, we must work to protect our families, friends and neighbors. This letter gave them courage that all will be well. Today, we must have that kind of faith that we will get through this. Our prayers are for everyone to stay safe from this pandemic. May this be an inspiration to all of us.

Jan. 7, 1943

Dear Mother and All at Home:

Well, I guess you will be surprised to get a letter from me out of the States, but I am some where in England getting along just fine. Hope all is well at home, and don't worry about me for I am O.K. Just take care of yourself until we meet again. I am sure that wont be so awfully long.

Boy, people dont knot know back there how luckey they are, they are not being bombed like some of these towns has been, they should be thankful besides fussing about gas and tires to ride around on.

Mother, don't worry about me, for I am trusting in God for every thing, and what ever happens at the end, I will be with you all, if it is not God's will for us to meet in this world.

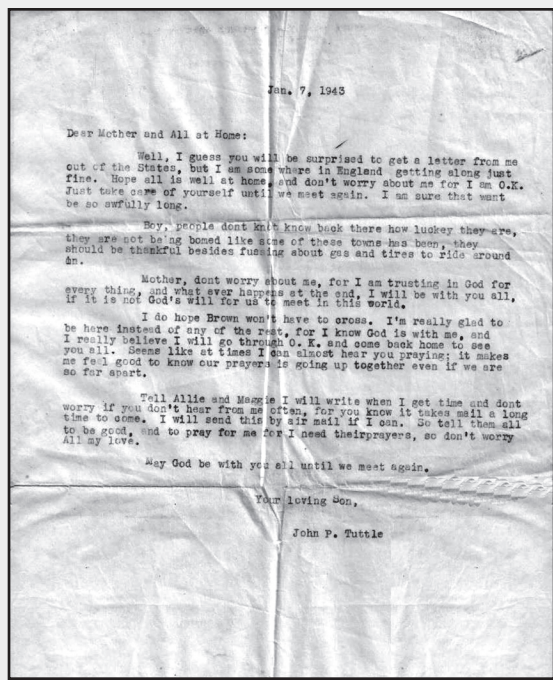
I do hope Brown won't have to cross. I'm really glad to be here instead of any of the rest, for I know God is with me, and I really believe I will go through O. K. and come back home to see you all. Seems like at times I can almost hear you praying; it makes me feel good to know our prayers is going up together even if we are so far apart.

Tell Allie and Maggie I will write when I get time and dont worry if you don't hear from me often, for you know it takes mail a long time to come. I will sent this by air mail if I can. So tell them all to be good, and to pray for me for I need their-prayers, so don't worry. All my love.

May God be with you all until we meet again.

Your loving Son,

John P. Tuttle



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