



# BROOKLYN\_BORN

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## "To Have and Have Not" - Finding an Unexpected Spark Lesson

Monday, January 30, 2017



I spent most of Saturday at a high school swim meet. It was the conference championship and I had a connection to two of the schools.

Two of my grandchildren are students at school 'A' and one more is a graduate. One of my grandkids is a student at school 'B' and one more is a graduate.

The schools are about 100 miles apart. One is in an affluent area. One is located in a city at the low end of the socioeconomic spectrum.

My daughters and their spouses are not affluent or poor. Circumstances have dictated where they live.

School 'A' won the meet with nearly 300 points. School 'B' scored 2 points. Can you guess where each school was located? Sure you can.

We know that obesity rates and incidence of lifestyle diseases correlate with one's socioeconomic status and place of residence.

Do you think the affluent school has somehow been blessed with an abundance of natural swimming talent? Of course not.

Just as healthy food costs more than junk, there's the matter of opportunity. Most of the swimmers in school A compete all year long for well-organized teams. That costs a lot of money. A few of school B swimmers swim at the 'Y'.

During the season School A can afford to pay for sufficient pool practice time. School B is limited in that respect.

All the teams and activities in school A have great parent support. Boosters are very successful raising money. The community is very generous. I applaud their effort. My grandchildren have benefited from this.

School B gets by with the school board allowance. Fund raising is obviously dependent on the amount of money and time people can afford to contribute.

The level of support one receives in any endeavor is so important. Some Sparkers write about their supportive family and friends.

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Others describe support that is minimal, non-existent or even an environment of sabotage

The spark Community is one place we can create a level playing field.

We can support and encourage one another in their journey.

We can cheer them on whether they are successfully approaching their own finish line or stuck in a pothole gasping for breath.

We can share our own spark journey with tips and advice if we think it will help.

We can use the opportunity and platform we have been given to help others.

Finally, I want to add that team B swimmers did not look discouraged. They cheered their teammates like it was an Olympic final even when they were being lapped by the winners. They enthusiastically congratulated those who scored those 2 lone points (one individual and one relay) and from what I could tell they went home happy that they did their best.

That's all we can do here also.

Seek out those who need support and try every day to do our best.

Note: Yes, the reference to Hemingway's novel and the "sparks" between Bogart and Bacall in the subsequent movie were intentional



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**KHALIA2**

**Well Said!**

I just finished helping one of my granddaughters sell candy bars to help her school. As you can tell, she doesn't live in an affluent neighborhood.  
1174 days ago



**BOREDA**

What a great way of explaining the benefits of the SP community.  
1485 days ago



**ELSIEO62**

My son helps coach a "B" team for a school serving the deaf. See that kind of stuff there. Loved their attitude as they played schools so much better then they are.  
1583 days ago



**LIVELYGIRL2**

you always have something good to reflect about. Thank you for contributing to Spark in so many ways, if you weren't on the other coast, we'd probably meet.

I cut my finger a few weeks ago. On Tuesday, I'll find out if they can repair it. Sound me challenging to pack and move..

God bless you! You live by our son. I wish we could go there.  
1585 days ago



**POLSKARENIA**

Great reading. Thank you!  
1586 days ago





**NUMD97**

Sounds like "Team 'B'" is very mature for their age. Great sign.



When I first joined SP eons ago, I compared the most popular diets and the recommendations to SP's. SP fell in the same domain of distribution of carbs, fats and proteins (pretty much anyway). The enticement, of course, that tipped the scales was that it was free. At the time, I could not convince a friend that all WW had on their site was identical to what SP offered for free. In those days, not many had heard yet of this amazing place.

But the key difference is the incredible supportive nature of cyberstrangers, cheering you on, encouraging you when you are not up to where you had hoped to be. That aspect of SP makes all the difference in the world, and helps to keep most of us on point.

Thanks for the post, B\_B. You nailed it yet again.  
1587 days ago

Comment edited on: 2/3/2017 1:47:55 PM



**FOUNDITIN05**

If we could ALL read something so inspiring and well said on a daily basis, the world might be a better place. Thank you so much for such a great post.

1587 days ago



**WHITEANGEL4**

A great blog

1587 days ago



**AMBER461**

Very good blog, thanks for sharing.

1587 days ago



**LILLYROSEGRAM**

Shocking! Thank you for sharing this info.

1587 days ago



**DIANNEMT**

Well written--well-thought out and yes, it is certainly true!

1587 days ago



**ARTJAC**

Well Said!

1587 days ago



**DANNIEGEE**

Well Said!

Thanks for sharing.

1587 days ago



**FRAN0426**

Congrats on a wonderful blog, and for the this being a featured blog. How refreshing to her some students can be excited about the swim meet, without being the winner. Cheering one another on is the good sportsmanship all should have.

1588 days ago



**INCH\_BY\_INCH**

Well Said! KEEP SPARKING!

1588 days ago



**JPPERSELL**

Very good blog. Eveything you said was right on the money.

1588 days ago



**MILPAM3**

Good analogy. May we all be as supportive as the parent base in School A.

1588 days ago



**PENOWOK**

wonderful analogy! Love the sparks!





1588 days ago



**CD12068097**

Good one, thank you  
1588 days ago



**SEAMUNKI**

What a sobering thought. Thank you for sharing.  
1588 days ago



**MARYJOANNA**



We are all in the same boat at SP.  
1588 days ago



**STEVIEBEE569**



1588 days ago



**JERICO1991**

Thanks for sharing.  
1588 days ago



**LADYLUK**

Kudos to you my friend! This blog is awesome and serves as a reminder to always appreciate what we have.  
God bless you and keep you on your journey! Have a fabulous day!  
1588 days ago



**NOLAHORSERIDER**

Well Said! Woohoo!!  
1588 days ago



**MRDAUGH**



Sparkers help all of us so



1588 days ago



**ROCKYCPA**

Thanks for sharing this story - it is a shame but true that you don't have to be the winner to have the support of your team. We all need to support each other.  
1588 days ago



**PWILLOW1**

VERY NICE ANALOGY AND A LESSON TO BE LEARNED  
1588 days ago



**SUTHRNWMN**



1588 days ago



**PHHHISC**



1589 days ago



**DGRIFITH51**

Thanks for sharing



1589 days ago





**CECEIS57**

Thank you for sharing, this is definitely food for thought:-)  
1589 days ago



**IDICEM**

Well Said!

1589 days ago



**WBERRY57**

Thanks for sharing. I found this really helpful.  
1589 days ago



**BLUEJEAN99**

Well Said!

1589 days ago



**MARYJEANSL**

Definite food for thought. School competitions haven't been on my radar, so I haven't considered these issues with regard to school funding. However, my oldest competed for years in Irish dance, which isn't a school sport, but which \*is\* extremely expensive to pursue at the higher levels. I struggled quite a bit to pay for lessons, costumes (luckily much cheaper for young men than for young ladies), travel, food, and hotels for competitions, etc. I concluded that parents have to be pretty wealthy, and even very talented kids from poorer families probably wouldn't make it in the sport. Sad, but a reality of life. Which leads me back, as many things do, to cultivating an attitude of gratitude for what one has rather than envy and regret for what one does not have. It sounds like the team from the poorer district had that.  
1589 days ago



**LILSS10**

2 thumbs up!! Thanks for sharing  
1589 days ago



**LAH1222**

Well said.  
1589 days ago



**CAROLJ35**

WHAT A WELL-WRITTEN BLOG SHOWING GREAT INSIGHT!!!  
1589 days ago



**CELTICCLASSINLA**

Good blog - just one question I have that I didn't see addressed ... how were the "winners" acting about their win. Did they congratulate the other team or just dry off and head for the showers. This is one area in my observation where parents and schools that have can make a real difference.

The winning school has resources - that school could show real showmanship by sharing those resources, being a buddy school if you will.

When we were kids schools 100 miles apart would not be competing - just schools within the same county - we were a well endowed parochial school. One third of all the money for our school however was given to our buddy school to help level the playing field. The kids also buddied up and competed with each other. I don't see this being done in many places today

Meantime the level of overall support on this site is pretty awesome.  
1589 days ago



**SHAWFAN**

Very well written blog. Thank you for sharing.  
1589 days ago



**BLUEFOO**

Well Said! AWESOME

1589 days ago



**KITTYHAWK1949**

thanks for sharing  
1589 days ago





**JSEATTLE**

Great job today, it is the story of life. Some days we Have and other days we Have Not. But we always have our Inner Spark. What we choose to do with it is our own choice.  
1589 days ago



**STRNGNGRNDDED**

This is a new phenomenon. I've been poor. I lived in a poor area and no one was overweight. Of course this was back in the '80's and early '90's. It was still odd to see someone overweight. What has changed? A lot; food choices, kids not playing, etc. So how wonderful to hear the kids having a swim team that were from a lower income area. Where I grew up that was unheard of.  
cheers.

1589 days ago



**JIBBIE49**

Hugs  
1589 days ago



**HEALTHYANDFIT27**

Well Said!  
Thanks for sharing.  
1589 days ago



**KATHRYNGC**

Extremely well said. Anyone who reads this will be able to identify. Thank you!  
1589 days ago



**KATHRYNGC**

Extremely well said. Anyone who reads this will be able to identify. Thank you!  
1589 days ago



**GWINNER1**

I Agree Well Said!  
1589 days ago



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