

# June 2017



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**NUMBERS** - The New York Yankees retired Derek Jeter's # 2 on 5/14/17. The Yankees are tied with the Boston Celtics with 21 retired numbers each, the most in professional sports. The Yankees' 21 retired numbers were worn by 22 different players. Both Bill Dickey and Yogi Berra had their # 8 jersey retired (source: MLB).

**MIDTERMS** - Democrats lost 63 House seats and 6 Senate seats in the November 2010 elections, i.e., 2 years into the Obama administration's first term in the White House (source: Congress).

**I DON'T SEE IT** - A painting sold for \$110.5 million at Sotheby's in New York City on Thursday 5/18/17. The art was sold for just \$19,000 in 1984. The staggering sale price for the art equates to a +30% annual rate of return over the 33 years from 1984 to 2017 (source: Sotheby's).

Searching for a good Father's Day present that shows your father how you feel about him, and what he means to you?

I have an idea. Actually, I have three. If your father likes to read, here are three books about fatherhood, each featuring a father-character we can all identify with, one who exemplifies the many different qualities that make the best dads so special.

*The Little House on the Prairie*, by Laura Ingalls Wilder. The book was written in 1935, and tells the story about life in the Midwest in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. One of the most important characters is Charles Ingalls, known to his family as "Pa." While life for the Ingalls family is hard and uncertain, Pa is an example of both hard work and compassion, and constantly shows his family the importance of simply showing love to one another.

*To Kill a Mockingbird*, by Harper Lee. This book may be one of the most widely read stories in the English language. Atticus Finch is the father of two young children in the fictional town of Maycomb, Alabama. A lawyer, he agrees to defend a black man named Tom Robinson who has been falsely accused of rape. His courage, morals, and sense of fairness not only influence his children, but have influenced countless real-life fathers for decades.

*The Road*, by Cormac McCarthy. McCarthy's Pulitzer Prize-winning masterpiece tells the story of an unnamed Man and his son, who wander along a road in post-apocalyptic America. Battling constant dangers, with little sunlight and even less food, the Man will stop at nothing to keep his son safe. Despite having no hope himself, he refuses to allow the boy's hope to die. He works constantly to keep the boy's spirits high, to keep alive in him the memory of good things, to demonstrate that concepts like good and evil still matter. He is a father who will sacrifice anything, including his own life, for both his son's safety *and* his son's happiness.

Any of these books would make a great Father's Day gift, but remember that the greatest gift of all is simply telling your own father how much you love him. Fathers do so much for their families. They pour so much love, effort, and commitment into making sure their children grow up safe and happy. We owe so much of who we are to our dads, so this Father's Day, thank him from the bottom of your heart.

(But giving him a good book is a nice gesture, too!)

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