

STANDING STRONG

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FOR CHILDREN AGES 9-11



JUST A BLUR

By Reginald Coats

What's so fast that the mustard, relish, and onions can't ketchup? A hot dog that's cooling off while speeding down a hill on a skateboard! Blazing by in a blur is one way to cool down for sure!

Here's something else that some dogs do much faster than most people: live their lives. Before a dog has lived two years in people time, it's already a teenager in dog years! That's because dog years go by in a hurry when compared to the kind of years that people count with calendars.

If you think dog years zip past in a blur, you haven't seen anything yet! The life of an adult mayfly only lasts twenty-four hours. To a mayfly, a dog year probably seems like forever.

And there's still something that all of the days, dog years, and decades just can't do! It's impossible to add up all of the time that God has been God. That's because God is, has been, and always will be God forever! To God, even a thousand years is just a blur! Take some time to think about what II Peter 3:8 has to say about it.

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Seeing Love Through

By Judith Hupp

"Knock, knock!"

"Go away," Rachel said.

"You're supposed to say, 'Who's there?' so that I can say 'canoe,'" Ruthie responded.

"Canoe who?" Rachel sighed.

"Canoe come over and play in the pool?"

"No!" Rachel snapped.

"It's a joke," Ruthie suggested.

"I can't see anymore! Nothing's funny when you're blind," Rachel snarled.

For months, Ruthie had tried to cheer Rachel up. Nothing worked. It seemed like Rachel became angry about everything after losing her sight. Ruthie's mom said to be kind. Don't give up, just like God never gives up loving His children.

Ruthie wanted to swim and practice ukuleles with Rachel like they used to, but Rachel refused. So they just sat in the shade and did nothing.

"I brought my ukulele. I'm learning a new song. Listen." Ruthie strummed the strings.

Rachel put her fingers in her ears.

Ruthie grabbed her friend's hand. "You lost your sight, but you didn't lose me. We can still play music and go swimming. Please? I miss you!"

"Go away!"

Ruthie ran to her house. "I'm sorry, God. I can't do this anymore," she whispered. Her best friend was gone.

The next morning, Ruthie looked across the road. Rachel sat under the tree alone. "God doesn't want me to quit on her," she muttered.

Ruthie hurried over. Rachel jumped to her feet. "I'm learning Braille," she said. "It'll take me a little while to get the feel for it," she said with a grin as she wiggled her fingers. "Get it?"

Ruthie laughed. "I'm sorry I left yesterday."

"No, you're right. We're friends. You showed me friends never give up. I want to do things together. Let's go for a swim."

Ruthie grinned. "Let's go!"

Proverbs 17:17—Friends see one another through tough times with love.

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Splatter-Paint Shirts

By Alexis Wohler

Summer is full of bright, beautiful colors. Have you ever wished you could paint the beauty of God's creation, or even better, wear some of those beautiful colors on your shirt? The good news is that now you can! You can create beautiful shirts with splatter paint. Everyone in your family can have cool-looking shirts that are sure to catch people's eyes.

All you need are white T-shirts, different colors of fabric paint, various sizes of paintbrushes, and newspaper to lay the T-shirts on while you work.

STEPS:

1. Put different colors of paint in small bowls.
2. Put the newspaper down on the grass. Lay the white T-shirts flat on top of it.
3. Put some of your favorite color of paint onto a paintbrush or mix colors to give your shirt an even more unique look.
4. Flick the paint from the paintbrush at the T-shirt. Don't worry about how it looks; there is no wrong way to do splatter paintings. Each design will be beautiful.



After God finished creating
the world, colors and all,
He said it was good
(Genesis 1:31)!