

A Week in Images and Quotes

September - 2026

TUESDAY

01

Wendell Berry died on August 31st. I had just watched an [interview on YouTube](#) by Bill Moyers that caught my attention and embodied much of what he stood for. His words that were inserted at the beginning of this interview stuck with me as well as two additional quotes I found:

- *We don't have a right to ask whether we're going to succeed or not. The only question we have a right to ask is what's the right thing to do?*
- *All right, every day ain't going to be the best day of your life, don't worry about that. If you stick to it, you hold the possibility open that you will have better days.*
- *It may be that when we no longer know what to do, we have come to our real work, and that when we no longer know which way to go, we have begun our real journey.*

While reading through the comment section that accompanied the *NY Times* obituary, I was drawn to this quote:

- *And the world cannot be discovered by a journey of miles, no matter how long, but only by a spiritual journey, a journey of one inch, very arduous and humbling and joyful, by which we arrive at the ground at our own feet, and learn to be at home.*

WEDNESDAY

02

I read a wonderful article in the *NY Times* this morning centered on one of my heroes, Yo-Yo Ma:

But why, at an age when musicians wind down their careers, is he expanding his reach? Despite maintaining a full performance calendar, Ma has a running joke that he is retired, and that "when you're retired, you only do what you want to do." The truth is that his brain may not be wired for a life at rest. "I hope," he said, "that I will stay curious until I die."

(Emanuel) Ax described their collaboration as a kind of endless search, saying, "We've played the Beethoven sonatas for almost 50 years, and we're still finding ways to do them differently each time."

THURSDAY

03

Gloria Steinem:

- *The first problem for all of us, men and women, is not to learn, but to unlearn.*
- *Power can be taken, but not given. The process of the taking is empowerment in itself.*
- *We need to remember across generations that there is as much to learn as there is to teach.*
- *Writing is the only thing that, when I do it, I don't feel I should be doing something else.*
- *The first resistance to social change is to say it's not necessary.*
- *Logic is in the eye of the logician.*

And, interestingly, a final quote read the day after Gloria Steinem died:

- *Everything about aging in my experience so far has been a plus. Except the death part!*

Barbara Kingsolver wrote remarks in the *NY Times* pertaining to Wendell Berry's passing: *A giant tree has surrendered to gravity. No, not surrendered. Accepted. I'll take Wendell's instruction to stay here, in these fragments of the earth that are still me, and use them while I can, to nurture a place, a family, a spiritual trust, a neighbor: To call that home, and carry on.*

FRIDAY

04

SATURDAY

05

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SUNDAY

06

MONDAY

07

TUESDAY

08

WEDNESDAY

09

THURSDAY

10

FRIDAY

11

SATURDAY

12

The Missing Puzzle Piece (Part 1)

*I am flustered, but don't call the police.
My puzzle is missing its 1,000th piece.
I looked high and low - I've searched hither and yon
From the dark of night right to the waking dawn.
Well - perhaps a little exaggeration on my part.
If I had known this from the start,
Would I have taken on this task?
It's a hypothetical question I ask,
Since maybe it's lurking somewhere near
And soon it may just reappear.
I could pray to the Goddess of Puzzle Pieces
Or look in the nooks and numerous crevices
Where it just may be hiding.
How long should I wait before deciding
To break up the puzzle and look no more
And put the puzzle back into a drawer?
But wait! Maybe this is a sign from above
To clean my floor and put on rubber gloves
To wipe down the surface and get rid of the dust
And put some faith in my detective skills and trust
That the puzzle piece is there to find,
If only I am so inclined
To not give up and just plough ahead.
This poem is too long - I'm off to my bed!*



Can you spot the missing piece?



Not about jigsaw puzzles,
but wisdom none-the-less

The Missing Puzzle Piece (Part 2)

*We are always "becoming" ... in motion - transforming.
We are the pause between our incoming and outgoing breath,
Yet it's never a fixed point.
It's a transition from - to.
There are "missing pieces" to our movements:
We are never "whole" but reaching toward wholeness.
Perfection is a myth - a perfect self is a myth.
Normal is a myth.
There can be pleasantness and satisfaction
On the journey to a better understanding of who we are.
We are on a current path leading to our physical death.
But, as we take our final breath, we are still becoming - - -
That which is the essence of who we are
Is not restricted by our bodies.
It moves on.
Where it moves is a mystery: a becoming of another existence -
We take with us, within that transition, all our past experiences - - -
To our next adventure - even with all our missing pieces!*

I was reading a SubStack posting by Austin Kleon and he writes: *A personal motto of mine cribbed from (Wendell) Berry: "Every day do something that won't compute."*

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
<i>If you define something, what something is, it is no longer that something. My preference is not to talk about or put words to my work. It either works for you or doesn't work for you and my explaining it isn't going to make it work for you.</i> Rita Ackermnn <i>When solutions are offered us by the people who originally brought us the problem, we do well to be suspicious.</i> Robin Morgan	Charlotte Grinberg, an end-of-life doctor, was interviewed in <i>Oldster Magazine</i> and I captured some of her wisdom from this article as well as when she was interviewed by Barry Shore on a podcast. <i>Through witnessing hundreds of births and thousands of deaths, I have learned something that sounds simple but is actually very hard. The best way to be with someone at a threshold is not to ignore strong emotions, add chaos, or rush to solve what cannot be solved. It has something to do with presence, though I know that word can sound vague and overused. What I mean is simpler and harder: staying close without taking over.</i> <i>While we cannot be in control, birth and death teach us that human connection changes the feeling in a room. It makes space for the love and fear that remain when medicine has reached its edge. The more presence, the more calm. The more anxiety, well, the more anxiety.</i> <i>Death, when approached with presence and intention, becomes a tool for transformation for everyone involved.</i> <i>Doesn't matter how old you are. As a matter-of-fact, I believe that the older you are, the better, because you bring life experience and a degree of wisdom with you. We oldsters often glance at each other, and there's an implicit "understanding". "We 'get it.'" Patricia Ross</i>			<i>In Japan we have the phrase, "Shoshin," which means "beginner's mind." Our "original mind" includes everything within itself. It is always rich and sufficient within itself. This does not mean a closed mind, but actually an empty mind and a ready mind. If your mind is empty, it is always ready for anything. It is open to everything. In the beginner's mind there are many possibilities; in the expert's mind there are few.</i> <i>Everything is perfect, but there is a lot of room for improvement.</i> <i>Wherever you go you will find your teacher, as long as you have the eyes to see and the ears to hear.</i> <i>Life is like stepping onto a boat which is about to sail out to sea and sink.</i> <i>Strictly speaking, there is no such thing as an enlightened person. There is only enlightened activity.</i> <i>Faith is a state of openness or trust...In other words, a person who is fanatic in matters of religion, and clings to certain ideas about the nature of God and the universe, becomes a person who has no faith at all. Instead they are holding tight. But the attitude of faith is to let go, and become open to the truth, whatever it might turn out to be.</i> Shunryu Suzuki		