

# Living With Children

By John Rosemond  
Copyright 2017, John K. Rosemond

As the current school year kicked off, I began hearing the same-old, same-old report from teachers and principals: children who have never lied. At least, that is what the parents of said children claim.

When one of these highly-evolved kids is accused of misbehaving at school, his parents ask him for his side of the story, his take on what really happened. And sure enough, the child's story does not match the teacher's report. The teacher, for example, swears she saw the accused deliberately trip another child during recess. The trip resulted in facial injuries and two broken teeth. The accused claims he only stuck his foot out because he thought his \$450 sneakers were untied and that the victim just happened to be running by at the time.

The accused's parents go to the school and say something along these lines: "Our child is very upset that he's been blamed for something he did not and would never do. He's been crying since he got home from school yesterday. We believe him because he's never lied to us, so we're keeping him out of school until he gets an apology from Mrs. Machiavelli." Ultimately, the dastardly Mrs. Machiavelli apologizes

and is summarily transferred to Death Valley Elementary School. Oh, I failed to mention that during the conference in question the child's parents dropped the term "our lawyer," which never fails to correct the thinking of principals, superintendents, heads of schools, and school board members.

Lest the reader think I am engaging in hyperbole, the above story was related to me by the principal of a school in Southern California. Granted, the teacher in our tale is not related to an infamous Italian prince, nor was she transferred to a school in Death Valley. Furthermore, the accused's sneakers cost a mere \$425. Everything else came straight from said principal's mouth.

The question becomes: What causes otherwise rational adults, having heard the report of a person who has dedicated her life to the betterment of the lives of children, to ask a child for his side of said story?

The myth of parenting determinism, that's what. Parenting determinism is the notion, relentlessly promoted by mental health professionals, that every action on the part of a child can be linked to an action on the part of or something about his parents. Parenting determinism

explains the "My Child is an Honor Student" bumper sticker. It also explains "My child has never lied."

Parenting determinism had not yet clouded parental thinking when I was a child. So, when a teacher accused me of misbehavior, my parents believed the teacher. Anything I said in my defense was wrong, a lie. End of story. That no one took my explanation with more than a grain of salt, if that, was, I felt, grossly unfair. I thought it was unfair even when I was lying, which was close to one hundred percent of the time.

I did not know it at the time, but I was greatly blessed to have parents I was unable to con. I can only imagine what my life would have been like otherwise. Parenting does not produce the person, but the child is father to the man.

Family psychologist John Rosemond: johnrosemond.com, parentguru.com.

# Library friends to send lap quilts for nursing home residents



Ladies of the Friends of the Library at the Durant Public Library have been busy making lap quilts for some residents of the Attala County Nursing home to be donated. A member of the Friends group donated the material. Pictured above are (from left): Kay Whitehead, Gwen Buckley and Martha Jo Killebrew. (Photo submitted)

### 20th October

#### ACROSS

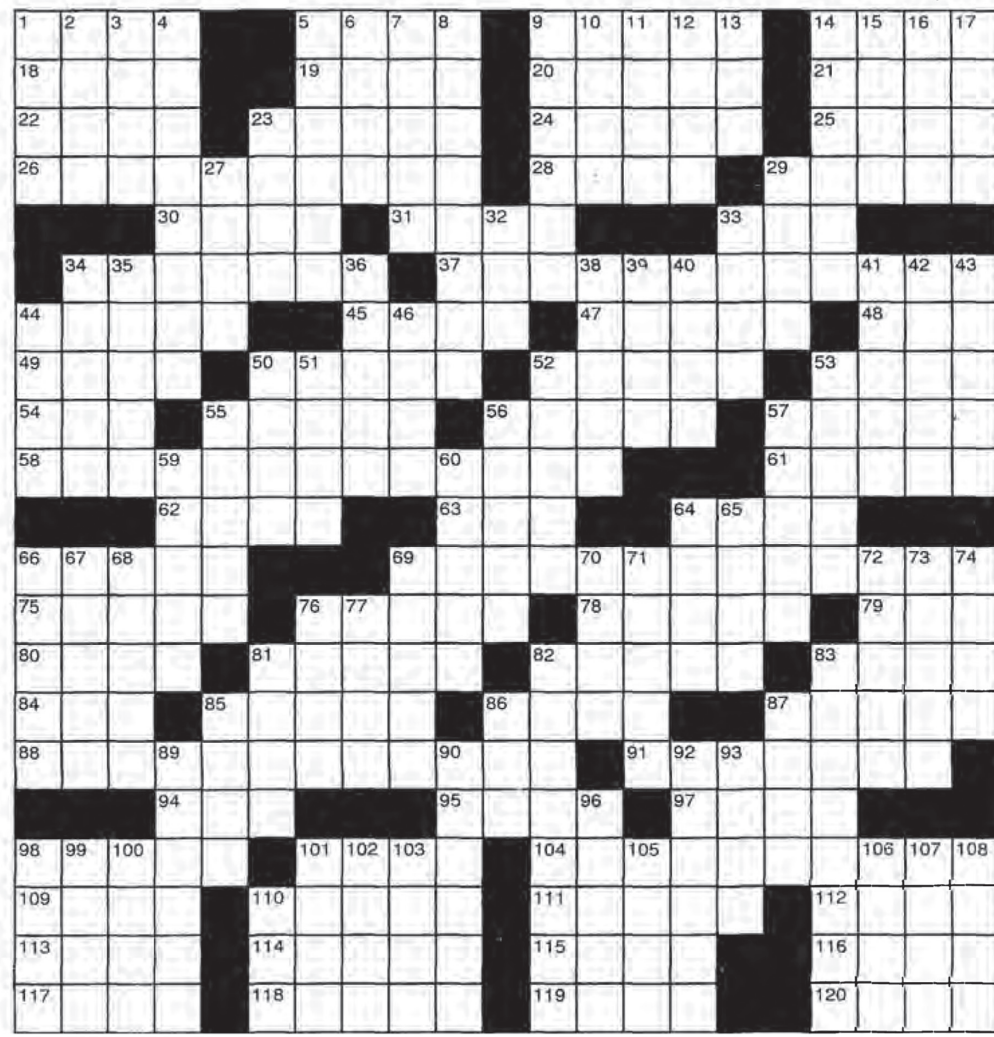
- 1 Teases gently
- 5 Ted of "Blossom"
- 9 Alamo defender
- 14 Venomous vipers
- 18 Stew
- 19 "Check \_\_\_" (Beyonce)
- 20 Military groups
- 21 Approach
- 22 Soothing salve
- 23 Silly blunder
- 24 Free-for-all
- 25 Backbone
- 26 Hit for The Everly Brothers
- 28 Seer's map?
- 29 Monk or Messing
- 30 Cattle call offering
- 31 O.K. Corral figure
- 33 Have the vapors
- 34 Soigné
- 37 Chinese takeout order
- 44 \_\_\_ and fauna
- 45 Busy as \_\_\_
- 47 Brickell and McClurg
- 48 Pedro's gold

- 49 Product pushed by Ed McMahon
- 50 "Real Time" guy
- 52 Like Miss Havisham
- 53 Flicker
- 54 WPA artist Krasner
- 55 Exaggerate
- 56 Windows symbols
- 57 "A Branch of May" poet
- 58 Classical guitarist
- 61 Buenos \_\_\_
- 62 Choir member
- 63 Central: prefix
- 64 J-O fillers
- 66 Whelk
- 69 Ambushes
- 75 Nova Scotia strait
- 76 Goats
- 78 Froglike creatures
- 79 Hoppy brew
- 80 Kate Winslet voiced her in "Flushed Away"
- 81 Deck suit
- 82 Vladimir's predecessor

- 83 Moor fuel
- 84 Egg: prefix
- 85 Craft
- 86 Ely and Guidry
- 87 Lily type
- 88 Sex appeal
- 91 Chores
- 94 Neighbor of Wyo.
- 95 Gershwin heroine
- 97 Mark replacer
- 98 Volume
- 101 Formally surrender
- 104 Hitchhike
- 109 Queen of Jordan
- 110 Type of duck
- 111 Mirage view
- 112 He loves: Lat.
- 113 Boob or test follower
- 114 Mideast peninsula
- 115 "Baby Blues" baby
- 116 Foal's mama
- 117 Commentators' page
- 118 Miss America's topper
- 119 Twerp
- 120 "Them!" critters

- #### DOWN
- 1 Lyndon Johnson's son-in-law Charles
  - 2 "Now \_\_\_ me down..."
  - 3 Venom
  - 4 Señor's hat
  - 5 Made of worsted
  - 6 \_\_\_ Domini
  - 7 Colander's cousin
  - 8 Bon voyage ribbon
  - 9 Cooper's hero
  - 10 Top-rated, draft-wise
  - 11 Testament
  - 12 Filler
  - 13 Nationality suffix
  - 14 Pavan's twin
  - 15 Balkans combatant
  - 16 Duo
  - 17 Mlle., in Barcelona
  - 23 Gym coach Károlyi
  - 27 Hindu discipline
  - 29 Days, in Durango
  - 32 Old World deer
  - 33 Crooked, in England
  - 34 Actress Terry

- 35 Bounded
- 36 Western resort lake
- 38 Large jib
- 39 Father of Thor
- 40 Artist's medium
- 41 Canal figure
- 42 Go up
- 43 IOUs
- 44 FDR's pooch
- 46 Actress Gertrude
- 50 A majority
- 51 Moreover
- 52 Etchers' supplies
- 53 Faked attack
- 55 Viola's kin
- 56 Penn and Brown
- 57 "Caddyshack" director Harold
- 59 Last first lady of the USSR
- 60 Leaves out
- 64 River of film
- 65 Fellas, British-style
- 66 Young cod
- 67 Credulous
- 68 Those against
- 69 Malign
- 70 "Blame \_\_\_ Rio"
- 71 Like many Vikings
- 72 Occupation
- 73 Milky stones
- 74 Pro \_\_\_
- 76 Be indiscreet
- 77 BMW competitor
- 81 Bellyache
- 82 Flanagan's legacy
- 83 View an oriel offers
- 85 Sapling
- 86 Highway: abbr.
- 87 Face: Sp.
- 89 Hardened
- 90 Portugal and Spain
- 92 Jog the memory
- 93 Polishes
- 96 Be generous
- 98 Fascinated by
- 99 Potage
- 100 Energy drink brand
- 101 103, to Marc Antony
- 102 Best or O'Brien
- 103 Missive opener
- 105 Web surfer
- 106 "\_\_\_ Ordinary Man" ("My Fair Lady")
- 107 Run out suddenly
- 108 French seasons
- 110 N' \_\_\_-ce pas?



**Yard & Garden Service**  
30 Years Experience - Dependable  
Commercial, Residential, Cemeteries, etc.

**Firewood Leaf Raking Bo Patterson**

\*Clean Fence Lines & Empty Lots \*Bush Hogging  
\*Now is the best time to get bushes cut back & fence lines cleaned.  
\*We also install Septic Tanks and Sewer Lines. \*Stump Grinding  
\*We also cut limbs hanging over houses and trim shrubs.

**Free Estimates**

**We do Trenching for Water Lines**

\* We Specialize in Grass Planting & Lawn Preparation.

125 Victor St., Durant 653-3576 653-9935  
(Anywhere in Holmes County)

# CASH PLUS TITLE PLUS

205 Tchula St., Lexington, MS  
(across from Double Quick)  
662-834-9045

Payday Loans up to \$400.00  
Title Loans up to \$2,500.00

**WE DO 30 DAY LOANS!!!**  
**NO Credit Check**

Refer a friend, earn a free \$20.00!