



## What You Missed That Day

**By Pam Morris, Early Learning Center director**

Have you ever read something that just made you think? I don't mean the textbooks for that class you had to take in high school or college. I mean that article or even meme from a magazine or blog or social media post. I had that experience today when I came across "What You Missed That Day You Were Absent from Fourth Grade" written by Brad Aaron Modlin. Read the full article [here](#).

It illustrated the concept of being present and in the moment so well. The article begins with how Mrs. Nelson taught her students how to "stand still and listen to the wind" and ended with how all of what was included in the lesson was the sum of one's life.

The references weren't about big fancy parties or those special moments that we often think about and even photograph. The article lists things like "finding meaning in pumping gas" and an event spent looking for a lost item. These are the instances that truly make up a person's life. The things you don't often think about but are what you might gloss over in a highlight reel. And aren't these times what others will miss the most?

Did you ever watch "Good Will Hunting" with the late Robin Williams, Matt Damon, Ben Affleck and Minnie Driver? There is a scene in the movie where Sean Maguire is in session with Will Hunting and is describing what he remembers about his late wife, "her peccadillos."



This article, this essay that Mr. Modlin writes, is all about that. The author doesn't seem to be referring to death in any way, but just highlights what really is important in the sum of someone's existence.

Will it be the awards you get at work that will define your success? What about the promotions that come along the way? Or will it be the small moments that will truly define who you are, and the lasting impression you make?

It's important to strive to be the best that you can but really look at what that means to you. Be the best you that you can be and take pride in what you put out in the world. And then how all of it adds up to something; how it all adds up to you.

Happy Chanukah and Shabbat Shalom!