

Sample Book Review

Ponders, Proverbs & Principles

Book review by Arlette Braman

Optional review headlines:

- **A Book That Travels Well With Kids and Adults**
- **An Inspiring Book of Wisdom and Trivia Challenges Both Kids and Adults**
- **Families Find Answers in *Ponders Proverbs & Principles***
- **Can Books Be Fun And Entertaining, While Building Character?**

Sitting alone in the living room on a Saturday night, with my children off in their respective rooms (doors closed, playing video games, talking on the phone, watching television) prompted me to ask the age-old question, "What's wrong with this picture?" I had no one to blame but myself for "creating" this monster, so I decided to banish the ogre from my house.

I grabbed the book, *Ponders, Proverbs & Principles*, by Rodney R. Weckworth, which I had received from my editor to review for my column. As I began reading the book, I couldn't help but think that this might be the solution to my problem of not spending enough quality time with my kids.

While reading the interesting facts and inspirational anecdotes, I thought that my son might get a kick out of it. I headed to his room and, after a few knocks, he opened the door. Without hesitation I asked, "What is pictured on the back of a \$10 bill?" He loves trivia and bits of knowledge and immediately answered, "The Treasury building, duh." Undaunted, I turned to a different page in the book and posed another question. "How much does Plymouth Rock weigh?" This time he was baffled. He wanted to know where I was getting these questions, but first he wanted the answer. I told him 14 tons. "Cool."

He took the book and started flipping through the pages, stopping to read one of the many *Proverbs* or thoughts to *Ponder*. "This is really cool," he said. "Hey, did you know that pound for pound, grasshoppers are three times as nutritious as beef?" Apparently he had found one of the many *Did you know...* facts. My daughter opened her door and asked what was going on. My son immediately asked her a *Baffler*. "What is the most despised household task?" She knew it had to be cleaning her room. "Nope," my son answered. "It's washing the dishes."

What started out as a quiet evening alone turned into a wonderful evening with my family. And the best part was that I didn't have to beg them to join in. *Ponders, Proverbs & Principles* was like a magnet that drew us together. We spent an evening of fun sharing the *Proverbs* and thinking about the *Ponders*. We took turns trying to stump each other with the *Bafflers* and delighted in knowing the answers. The *Did you know...* facts amazed us. Without knowing it, my kids were getting a treasure trove of character-building insights grounded in moral principles. For me, that was the best side effect.

The wit and wisdom in *Ponders, Proverbs & Principles* will inspire, teach, create togetherness, and provide hours of fun. Each of the 344 pages, containing over 1,500 ponders, quotes, proverbs, principles, bafflers, and did-you-knows is devoted to a different

subject—forgiveness, commitment, humility, disappointment, risk-taking, responsibility, and happiness, to name a few.

Since that night, we have used the book on family car trips and at family gatherings. I even purchased extra copies as gifts for friends who love this type of book—a book that rivals any of the *Chicken Soup for the Soul* books. *Ponders, Proverbs & Principles* travels well and is an incredible deal at \$14.95.

The book comes with powerful endorsements from some heavy-hitters. General H. Norman Schwarzkopf requested that the material be sent to him during the Gulf War so it could be read to the troops. Others who have personally expressed their appreciation and enthusiasm to Mr. Weckworth include Colin Powell; Alan Greenspan; Dan Reeves; and Shirley M. Green, on behalf of President Bush. *Ponders, Proverbs & Principles* includes a compelling endorsement by Zig Ziglar, who also wrote the Foreword.

Rod Weckworth's life goal is to make a difference in the world by adding happiness and good things to people's lives. He has certainly succeeded with this book. *Ponders, Proverbs & Principles* is a life-enriching gem for people of all ages. I'm really looking forward to the *Ponders, Proverbs & Principles for Women* edition due out this summer so I won't have to share the book with my kids quite so much!

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