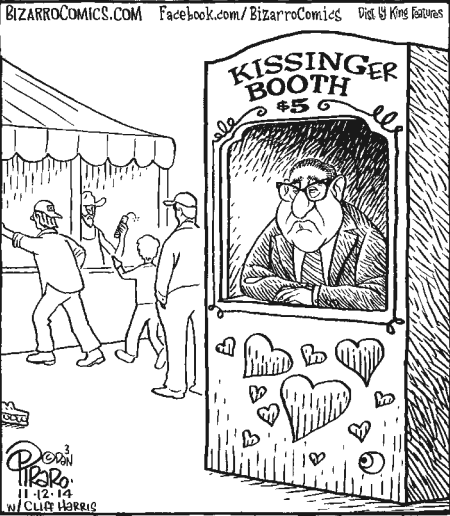


FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



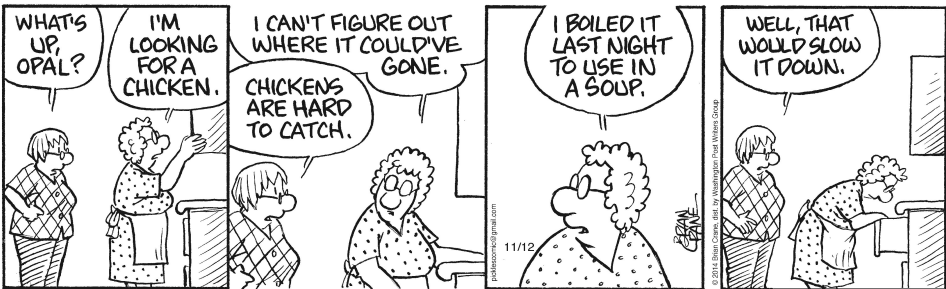
BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



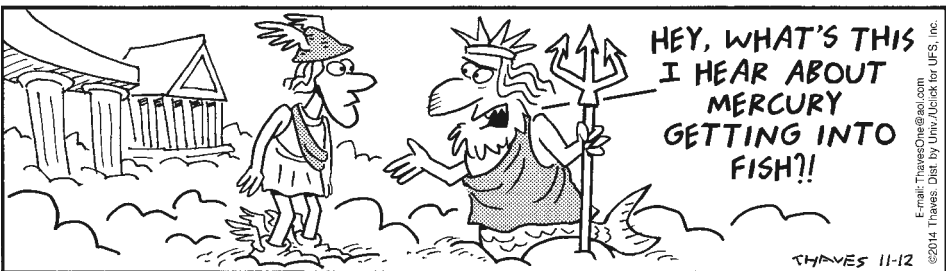
ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



PICKLES | BRIAN CRANE



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSOM



PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



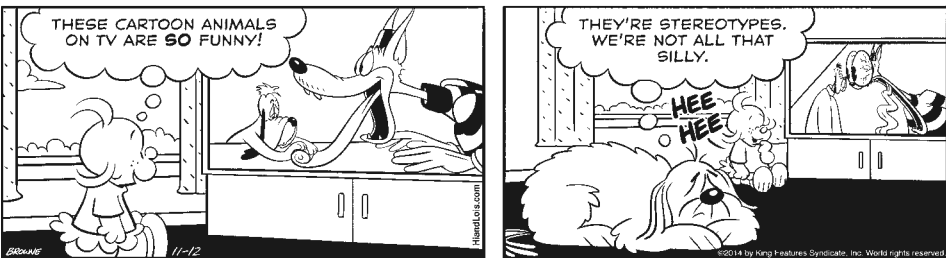
HÄGAR THE HORRIBLE | CHRIS BROWNE



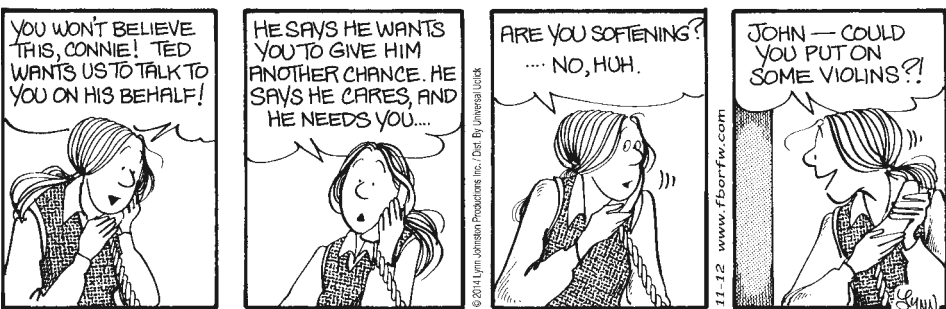
BEEBLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



# Writing Thank-You Notes Gets Easier Using The Right Advice

DEAR ABBY: The issue of thank-you notes comes up often in your column. May I share how I learned to write them? When I was young, my mother asked me one day why I was so resistant. I said I hated addressing them and I never knew what to say! It was overwhelming to me.

Mother taught me some phrases such as, "I appreciate your thoughtfulness," and ways to close like, "I hope to see you again soon." She gently reminded me that the sooner I wrote, the easier it would be to express words of gratitude. She also made a deal with me: If I quit complaining and procrastinating, she'd address them for me until I turned 18.

When I turned 18 she gave me an address book filled with the addresses of our family and friends, beautiful new stationery and a book of stamps. In case you're curious, my 18th birthday gifts were all acknowledged with thank-you notes addressed by me! I'm 22 now, and I have never missed a note. — SARAH B., ANSONIA, CONN.

DEAR SARAH B.: Thank you for your charming letter. Your mother was not only a good negotiator, she also taught you a skill that will be valuable as you grow older.

I print letters about this subject so often because of the number of complaints I receive about the failure to receive a thank-you note. When a gift (or check) isn't acknowledged, the message it sends is that the item wasn't appreciated, which is insulting and hurtful.

Chief among the reasons people don't send thank-you notes is that they don't know what to say and are afraid they'll say the wrong thing. That's why my booklet, "How to Write Letters," was written. It contains sam-

ples of thank-you letters for birthday gifts, shower gifts and wedding gifts, as well as those that arrive around holiday time. It also includes letters of congratulations and ones regarding difficult topics — including letters of condolence for the loss of a parent, spouse or a child. It can be ordered by sending name, mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds), to Dear Abby Letters Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.) Use it to tailor your own messages. With the holiday season approaching and people sending gifts and greetings through the end of the year, this is the perfect time to reply with a handwritten letter, note or well-written email.

Because composition of letters and notes is not always effectively taught in the schools, my booklet can provide a helpful tutorial, and is particularly valuable for parents as a way to teach their children how to write using proper etiquette.

DEAR ABBY: My question is very simple, Abby. Who determines right or wrong in your life, your opinions, your column? This will tell me all I need to know about your wisdom or advice. — RON IN MICHIGAN

DEAR RON: Actually, I think your question is anything but "simple," and the answer is: I DO.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



DEAR ABBY

Jeanne Phillips

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## JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

EDITOR'S NOTE: Bigar's Stars is based on the degree of your sun at birth. The sign name is simply a label astrologers put on a set of degrees for convenience. For best results, readers should refer to the dates following each sign.

A baby born today has a Sun in Scorpio and a Moon in Cancer if born before 1:44 p.m. (PST). Afterward, the Moon will be in Leo.

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR WEDNESDAY, NOV. 12, 2014:

This year your subtle ways seem to be diminished. Your intensity continues to draw others to you like a bee to honey. Your popularity is one of your greatest strengths this year, but it also might prevent you from experiencing many quiet, reflective moments. If you are single, you could discover that others often are possessive. If you can't handle that behavior, move on. If you are attached, the two of you infuse your bond with much more fun and adventure. LEO knows how to grab your interest.

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult

### ARIES (MARCH 21-APRIL 19)

★★★ You might want to stabilize a difficult situation with a loved one. You could be dealing with a feisty older person. Try to curb your anger and frustration. Go for a walk or choose some other relaxing activity. Get creative, if need be. Tonight: Love the one you are with.

### TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★ Schedule an important meeting for the morning. By the afternoon, you won't be as fluid or sure of yourself. Someone who has been quite difficult finally might loosen up. A friend might have an exciting proposition for you; go along with it. Tonight: Onward!

### GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ Don't hesitate to express your feelings. You know how to create strong boundaries, and you might feel the need to establish yet another limit. Have a conversation with the person in question. Make an adjustment. Tonight: Favorite spot with favorite people.

### CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★ Use the morning to the max, as you'll feel more energized. By the afternoon, you might want to slow your pace. News from a distance could encourage you to consider taking a trip. Be aware of the feelings of a boss or older friend who might be quite difficult. Tonight: Your treat.

### LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★ You could be slow to get going, but once you do, you'll be unstoppable. You'll have the ability

to express an unusual perspective that others might be keenly interested in. Know that a partner could have difficulty seeing your vision. Tonight: You call the shots wherever you are.

### VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★ Use the morning for people-related matters. By the afternoon, you'll enjoy weighing the pros and cons of a certain situation. Do some research, and you'll be able to get past a barrier. A loved one could startle you with a decision. Tonight: Choose a favorite stressbuster.

### LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★ Your clarity regarding how to get what you want will help you stay on track. You won't need any supporters, but the fact that they are there only seems to help. A loved one or partner could be difficult. Don't push your luck with this person! Tonight: Let off steam.

### SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★ Gather some information this morning, as you will need to apply this knowledge to a difficult situation. A testy attitude could cause a problem. Tap into your ingenuity to defuse the situation. A child might play a dominant role. Tonight: Burn the midnight oil.

### SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★ Handle a personal matter in the morning. Later in the day, you will want to take off and explore a new place, or tap into someone's knowledge about a certain topic. You seem more than willing to make a major purchase involving your home. Tonight: Try a new spot.

### CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★ You might note that you are unusually hot-tempered. Consider incorporating a little more exercise into your daily life. The good news is that your new steaminess is not long term. Share an idea through more visual description. Tonight: Share news with a close loved one.

### AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

★★★★ Others seem to come toward you with determination. Be open to a change of plans, as you could be presented with an interesting offer. Follow your instincts. Come to an understanding with a boss before you veer in a new direction. Tonight: Go along with the moment.

### PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

★★★★ You could discover that someone else has a better idea. You know when to pull back and say when you've had enough. A male or very assertive friend could be pushing you quite hard. Hold your ground. Tonight: Make calls, but plan on an early night.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

