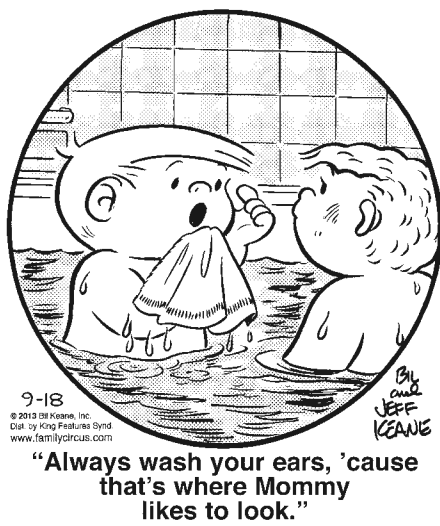


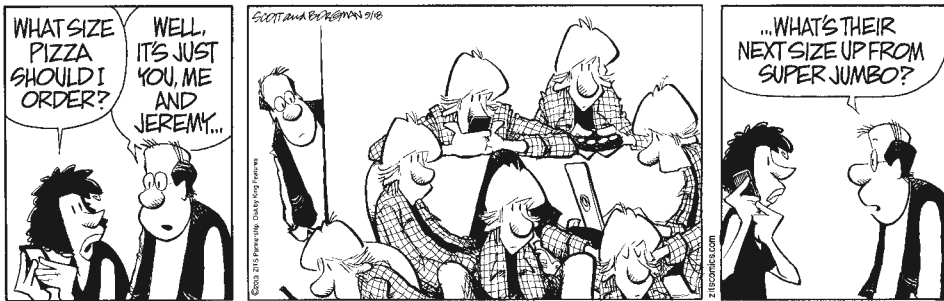
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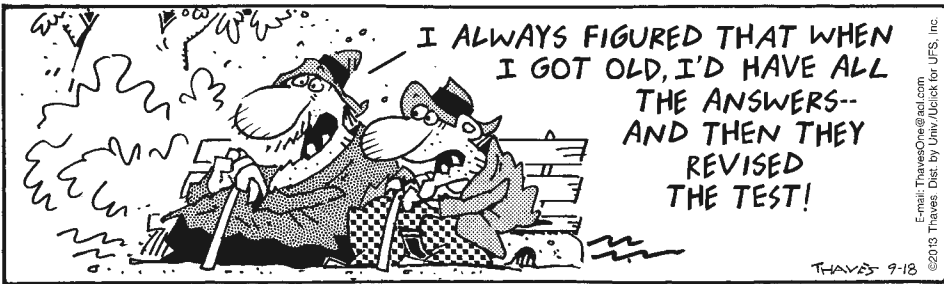
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ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



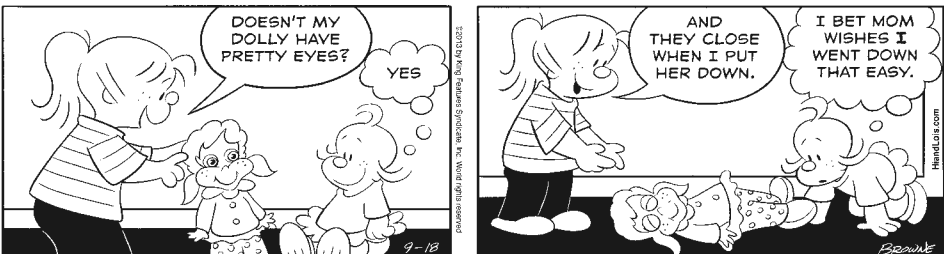
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BEETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSOM



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS



# Girl Can Conquer Shyness By Reaching Out To Others

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 14-year-old girl who just started high school. I started to notice boys when I was in middle school, and I'd like to start dating soon.

The problem is I've never had a close friend who was a boy, and the idea isn't natural to me. How can I ask a boy out if I don't even grasp the concept of being friends with one? I'm frustrated over this, especially because I really like one particular guy.

The only advice I have been given is, "Get over your fear and just TALK to him." This isn't very helpful to me. I want to know how to get over my fear! Abby, your thoughts would be appreciated. — CAN'T FIND THE NERVE IN OHIO

DEAR CAN'T FIND THE NERVE: I'll gladly share some thoughts. The first is I hope you realize how many girls and guys your age feel EXACTLY the same way you do. Social skills don't come naturally to everyone — but they can be learned. And like any learned skill, they take practice.

The surest cure for shyness — which is the "fear" you are experiencing — is to forget about yourself and concentrate on the other person. Smile and introduce yourself if the guy doesn't know you. If you share a class with him or know an activity he's involved in, ask a question about it. He's not good at sports? Not musical? Ask him about a class assignment.

You don't have to be brilliant or witty. Try leading off with a friendly remark or a compliment. ("Nice shirt, cellphone," etc.) I know very few people who don't appreciate a compliment. Overcoming shyness takes practice, so don't go after the boy you "really like" at first. Make a point of smiling and saying hello to everyone. It's friendly, it's welcoming.

Keep in mind that the majority of people have the same insecurities you do. Many of them will respond positively because they appreciate being noticed. That's how you make friends of both genders. I have a booklet that offers even more suggestions. The

title is "How to Be Popular," and it contains hints for polishing social skills for people of all ages. It can be ordered by sending your name and address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to Dear Abby Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price. Remember, you don't have to be the prettiest or smartest girl in school. But you CAN be one of the nicest.

Show an interest in others. Be honest but always tactful. Cultivate your own interests so you will have something to talk about with others. If there are clubs at your school, join the ones that interest you. It's another way of making friends of both sexes.

Most young people go out in groups these days. So, if you and some friends plan to do something (and after you have been friendly and let the young man you like notice you), smile and ask if he'd like to come along. If he's shy, it's a way of making HIM feel less self-conscious, too. Good luck!

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$14 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

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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 Virgo and a Moon in Pisces all day.

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 18, 2013:

This year you will learn to bend gracefully toward others' way of thinking without harboring resentment. You will come to an understanding as to how easy it is to respect differences and learn from them. If you are single, you will discover someone very special in your immediate environment. The attraction will be strong, but you might realize that you are very different people. Before making a commitment, get to know each other completely. If you are attached, the two of you act like a seesaw, in the sense that you each take turns leading and being right. PISCES appeals to you.

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)

★★★★★ Your hard work and effort will pay off far more than you might've thought possible. You could find an instrumental partner to be overserious. Do not take this person's attitude personally. Opportunities surround your home and your personal life. Tonight: Not to be found!

### TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★ Everything from your gait to the way you carry yourself exudes resilience and confidence. A partner could be jealous, and he or she might be very cold toward you as a result. Don't let this behavior get to you. Make your presence known. Tonight: Rearrange your plans, if need be.

### GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★★ You have a strong sense of what needs to be done, and it is unlikely that you will settle for anything less than what you want. Money might flow out of your account as quickly as it goes in. Take a break in the afternoon in order to pace yourself. Tonight: A must appearance.

### CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★★ You are in the position to make one of your long-desired dreams a reality, yet there might be some fear around realizing this wish. You could trip yourself up unless you are willing to root out the issue. Revamp plans with a key associate or loved one. Tonight: Buy tickets to a concert.

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

★★★ You have pushed so hard lately that your energy seems to be waning, even though

your enthusiasm remains high. If you would take just an hour for relaxing, and then delegate what you can to others, you will feel revitalized. Tonight: Go along with a loved one's request.

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

★★★★ You tend to let others take the lead. Some people might not realize that you make a conscious choice to defer to them; otherwise, they could be taken aback. A meeting that transforms into a friendly get-together will be the highlight of your day. Tonight: Say "yes."

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

★★★ Emphasis is on routine and daily matters. You might want to make a situation more exciting. You are likely to tease someone whom you've put on a pedestal. Fortunately, all parties involved have a sense of humor. Tonight: Put your feet up and watch a favorite TV show.

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

★★★★★ You might want to express concern about someone's interpretation of a situation. Perhaps you feel as though this person is way off. Realize that it could be just your wild imagination. Make a point to indulge a loved one. Tonight: Adapt to a friend's request.

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

★★★★ If you can play it low-key, you'll feel better by the end of the day. A partner could come through for you in a major way. You might not believe everything you hear. Do your own research, and as a result, you will feel more confident in making decisions. Tonight: At home.

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

★★★★ Emphasize your priorities. You know what will happen if you are able to get your way. Unfortunately, you might not have that opportunity, as a partner will be so charming that people naturally will gravitate toward his or her way of thinking instead. Tonight: Go with the flow.

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

★★★ You might notice that you have a need to catch up with others financially. The good news is that this attitude is temporary. Your values could be considerably different from those around you. Try not to point out the differences, but do respect them. Tonight: Indulge a little.

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

★★★★★ You are in your element. You would have to work very hard in order to displease someone in your life. You naturally say and do the right thing. You might not even be aware of the number of admirers you seem to have. Tonight: Be yourself, and let the good times roll.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON

