

Mischief

By Brenda J. Sanders

Mischief is one of those things that has apparently been around since the beginning of time. We see it in Mother Nature with sudden changes of weather, with drought, rain, snow, and wind storms. We witness it in animals with their playful bantering and chasing about, hiding and then pouncing onto one another. Children do it all the time; whether in testing their limits with parents such as keeping their feet off a table, or, in snatching a toy from another, saying, "It's mine"...or, "I have to have it"...or, "It's my turn."

There are numerous stories and books written where acts of mischief provide us with lessons of life. One author by the name of Bart King, who wrote *The Pocket Guide to Mischief*, stated that "the greatest leaders and geniuses in history were mischief makers...they were the brave women who looked at how unfair the world was and said, 'I can do better than that'...they were the stalwart men who saw stupidity and asked, 'Why do we have to do it that way?'" And, "they were the delightful children who ganged up on the neighborhood bully and hit him with wet noodles until he said, "Uncle!" King wrote the *Guide to Mischief* as a way of honoring the people who created mischief history. He believed they were courageous by pointing out things like slavery and global warming are bad. King believed that some of the mischief makers were able to pull off some of the greatest hoaxes and practical jokes of all time, including the Boston Tea Party and the "War of the Worlds" radio broadcast of 1938. Some people may or may not agree with King. After all the depth of mischief is one's own perspective of right and wrong.

Mischief often feels like a test of endurance which places us on a pendulum swinging from laughter to crying fits. It makes one wonder why mischief is so ubiquitous. Is it suppose to be important for the survival of life?

Mischief, Mischief, Mischief, what a wonder you present! You create laughter, you frustrate, and you even bring us to hurtful tears.

Mischief, Mischief, Mischief, You are immortal and effervescent. You are mastered by insight and those with it would toast you with beers.