

Lucky You

by Suzy Hopkins

Hobby: an activity or interest pursued for one's pleasure with no expectation of monetary gain.

1. A person would need to have a *location* for this: a room, shelves or a table, electric light, tools.
2. It takes *spare income* to buy supplies like quilting squares, oil paint, wood for carving, clay, air plane model making parts, etc. or pieces like antique books, American Indian pottery, horse statues, decorated thimbles, or Civil War relics and the like for a collection.
3. One must have *leisure time* to spend enjoying their chosen hobby: after work, after chores are done, all day if retired or a child.

All three of the above must be present to fully participate in one's hobby.

What if you lived in a refugee camp in Syria or Sudan with your whole family in a single tent or the slums of Haiti where the family lives in one room or on the pavement in India? These poor souls and their children are trying to survive another day using their time to find sellable items in the dump to be traded for food or waiting for the subsistence donations from food aid organizations. Some people actually live in the dump in Egypt and Mexico. No such thing as spare income.

Pursuit of a hobby never crosses their minds.

We Americans are immensely fortunate to have all three parts needed to enjoy our hobbies. To assist us in this pursuit there are two hobby chain stores with tens of thousands of items for hobbyists (Michael's = 34,000, Hobby Lobby= 70,000). Luckily we live in The United States but we take it for granted. Take a moment to thank your lucky stars for the *room, income* and *leisure* to pursue your hobbies.