

Third Place
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Title: Life is Like a Box of Chocolates

As Forest Gump once said, "life is like a box of chocolates ...you never know what you're going to get." There are an infinite number of possible configurations for a single box of chocolates ranging with color, flavor, quantity, shape, and size - it's the same for life. Everyone's life is unique, no one person is the exact same as another. Whenever something happens it shouldn't make or break the rest of someone's life, there are plenty of opportunities to change. Also, people should live their lives without any regrets, so they can enjoy it for all it's worth. I think what Forest was trying to say is: your life is unique, don't get hung up on every little snag, and have no regrets.

When I was younger, I had one friend that I just got along great with. At the time, my family was living in our old neighborhood where there was nothing really to do, but he and I always found ways to spend our time. We were always together - morning or night, sun or rain it didn't matter. I thought that we got along so well because we were the exact same, we even looked alike; but soon I learned that he was very different from me. He started getting into bad habits and causing trouble and I didn't want to be a part of that. We stopped hanging out and I was devastated; the point is that no matter how much it seems like two people are the same, there is always something that makes everyone unique.

When my friend and I weren't hanging out anymore, it was a hard time for me because I had nothing to do. I even tried to be like him and cause destruction to make other people think I was cool. But I soon learned that I wasn't the type of a person that can be bad and not have it eat away at my conscience. It took a while for me to recover and find new friends, but in the end I made it; to this day I continue to keep my morals and make friends that have the same ideals. People can change, no matter what happens during their life; changes may even be for the best.

A little while ago I had a girlfriend that I absolutely adored. I had the best time being with her and taking her out on dates; it was rarely a dull time. Unfortunately, I let her friends convince me that she wasn't the person I thought she was and we broke up. It didn't take long for me to realize that her friends just hated me and were telling me all this bad stuff about her to get us to split up; now its too late to fix things and I definitely regret my decision to ever break up with her. The fact is if I would have thought ahead, I could have known at I might regret losing her; now I know to think before I act so I can live my life without any regrets.

In conclusion, life *is* like a box of chocolates - you never know what you're going to get. People can't live their lives waiting around for something to happen, they have to go out and make it happen. Don't be afraid to be yourself and let others follow you, its much harder to try and be someone else. Think ahead before making any decisions, regrets may haunt you if you make a wrong choice. Last but not least, don't live life in fear of what is to come; you have to take risks not to escape life, but to keep life from escaping you.