

BACON 'N LACES

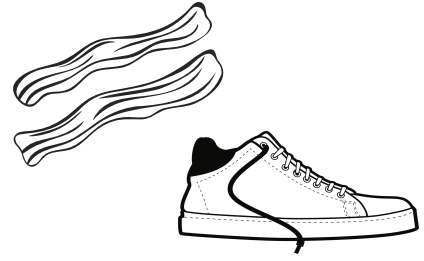


An Inspiring Video Lesson Documentary

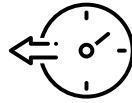
A blind father. A diner. 3 young boys and dreams of Harvard.

- Pre, During and Post Watching Activities.
- Transcript.

Bacon 'N Laces



BEFORE YOU WATCH



Answer on your own these questions, then share and discuss.

1. What disability do you think would be the hardest? Why?

2. Do you think the job of a waiter or server is difficult?

3. Who in your family has gone to college? Is it important?

4. What things do you collect or would you if you had \$?

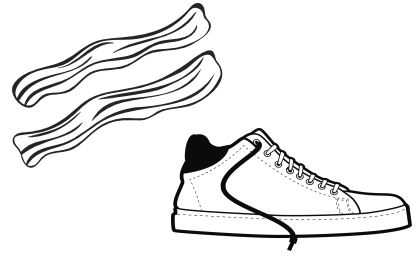
5. Do you think learning to cook is an important skill?

6. What is your relationship with your father like?

7. What kind of jobs do teenagers do these days?

8. What do you think the film is about? Take and share your guess.

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WHILE YOU WATCH 

Answer on your own these questions, then share and discuss.

1. What is John's disability?

2. What does John do for a living? What is he good at?

3. What happened to John's marriage and family?

4. What nationality is John? The kids?

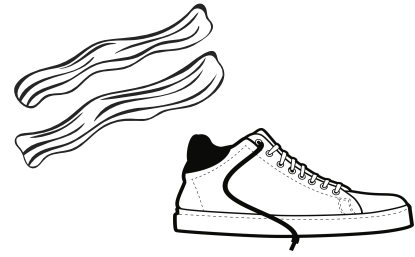
5. Where is Tony going to go to college?

6. What success did Tony write about on his college application?

7. What things does John collect?

8. What part of the film did you like the best? Why?

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AFTER YOU WATCH 

Answer on your own these questions, then share and discuss.

1. Which character did you identify with most. John or Tony?

2. What great qualities did John's son, Tony have?

3. Do you think Tony was right to stay with his father?

4. What impressed you most in the film?

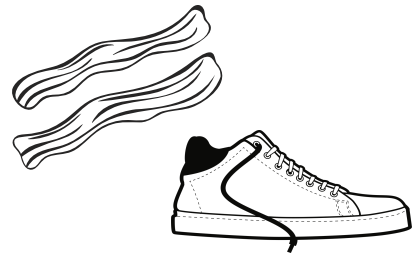
5. Do you think Tony will be successful at Harvard?

6. What do you think allowed John to be positive, to succeed?

7. Do you think Dimitry will step up and help his dad well?

8. What was your biggest takeaway from the film. One lesson?

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WHILE YOU WATCH 

Answer on your own these questions, then share and discuss.

1. What is John's disability?

He is blind. He has retinitis pigmentosa.

2. What does John do for a living?

He runs a diner and serves food. He has a great memory.

3. What happened to John's marriage and family?

John divorced his wife. They grew apart. He kept the kids.

4. What nationality is John? The kids?

John is Greek. The kids are half Greek, half Barbadian.

5. Where is Tony going to go to college?

He applied to and go accepted to Harvard.

6. What success did Tony write about on his college application?

He wrote about figuring out how to cut a triple decker sandwich.

7. What things does John collect?

He collects after shave, clothes, shoes.

8. What part of the film did you like the best? Why?

Various answers.

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There you go. Thank you very much. There's your ice. You need a few minutes, right? Okay, Sierra Mist right here. Thank you. And one regular Pepsi too you said? Yeah. Who gets the diet? He gets the diet. Okay, there you go sir.

Tony, the Bacon Cheeseburger and the Bacon Cheeseburger Deluxe?

- Yep, the bacon's cooked, the burger's done, and the bread's almost out of the oven. Just give me another- So one is with fries, one is just not even lettuce tomatoes- Not even lettuce, just coleslaw

- Huh?

Just coleslaw and pickles. Yep.

Okay. Okay, and the one after that is gonna be the Veggie Burger with the Chili Burger Deluxe?

-Yeah.

The one after that is gonna be- The Cheeseburger Deluxe and a meatloaf and mashed potatoes.

*-Uh-huh. And then a salad-ranch, spaghetti and meat sauce. Uh-huh.
And then it's gonna be, so you know, after that it's gonna be, two ham and
cheese omelets and one Greek omelet.*

-Yep.

All with white toast and home fries. Right.

-All white toast and home fries.

*I started memorizing the infinite numbers of pi, because Tony when he was in
eighth grade, the teacher wanted him to memorize 50 of 'em.*

*So it's 3.1 4 1 5 9 2 6 5 3 5 8 9 7 9 3 2 3 8 4 6 2 6 4 3 3, 8 3 2 7 9 5 0 2 8 8 4 1
9 7 1 6 9 3 9 9, 3 7 5 1 0, 5 8 2 0 9 7 4 9 4 4, 5 9 2 3 0 7 8 1 6 4, 0 6 2 8 6 2 0
8 9 9, 8 6 2 8 0 3 4 8 2 5 3 4 2 1 1 7 0 6 7 9. That's the first 100. You want me
to keep going?*

I have what's called retinitis pigmentosa. I've been blind for 49 years.

*I'm okay with it 1000%. But there was these anger feelings, like why I'm not
gonna be the only one that doesn't drive a car, I have to rely always on
people ...*

When you're 18, 20 years old, you take it kind of like, a little bit personally.

*The realization, really hit me, okay, I can't see and I have to rely on people,
but I'm independent. I'm walking around, I'm shampooing my own hair,
I really have nothing to complain about.*

*You want me to take anything off the table? Yeah, you can take this,
yes, thank you. Okay. I have cookies and cream cake, chocolate mousse
cake, and chocolate fudge cake. Everybody got everything, right?*

- Yes, thanks.

*I don't have the convenience of having a paper and pen and writing things
down or a cell phone to store things in. My memory is my computer.*

*See if you could get me a scoop of chocolate and vanilla ice cream,
and then I'm gonna need you to get me two chocolate cakes. I'm gonna need
two tuna melts for the other table and a toasted bagel with cream cheese.*

Give me Turkey Club please. And you want cheese, or no cheese?

-Yeah, cheese. I'll get a turkey club too.

Okay.

Can you make it well done?

Okay, raw onion only?

Yeah.

And coffee?

Thank you.

Chili Burger Deluxe? Yep, I got it.

I'm putting it all together. So, just you figure out how you wanna do this 'cause, I need the omelets and the spaghetti with meat sauce out and I'm gonna start taking orders. Chili Burger Deluxe. Okay.

Imagine you guys blindfolding yourselves and saying, Okay, let me take care of six, seven different tables, remember all the orders, salad? And then at the end of it, when you go up ready to pay, okay, so a Chili Burger Deluxe, a Veggie Burger Deluxe, and two sodas, right?

Yes.

It comes out to \$22. Here's your bill, it's 18.95. Then I would never write anything down, and people would say, Hey, Tony, someone come over here. If he came to my tables, and he didn't spill hot coffee and tea all over my head or my crotch or whatever, all right, I'm good with that.

Does that say 25, sir? Just making sure, 'cause it was 22.

Ah, yes- Okay, thank you so much.

I get a kick out of exceeding every single person's expectations of what someone with a disability of my nature can do.

I live with my three kids. That's Tony, Dimitri, and Michael. They're part Greek and their mom was born in Barbados. We were common law and then, you know, after six years, we just grew apart.

My mom, she asked me who I'd rather be with. My dad doesn't really have anybody to take care of him. So, it'd probably be best if I'd be with my dad and just help him out, if you know, if you're going away. And so, she respected my opinion and just said, Okay.

Let's see, 78, Social Studies 90, Spanish 89. Gray size 20.

Okay, how about, yeah

- Reading 96, Writing 80, Math 95, and I thought it was 85.

I mean, like when I was four, I was leading dad around the mall. I always knew, I'm like, Food Court's right over there.

-And you got any test tomorrow Mike? Yeah. For who, Peto? Mm-hm. You ready for it?

- I just need to study in one thing, that's all.

You wanna bring it to the diner? Yep.

-Okay, come.

Michael's like a Gummy Bears freak, like me sometimes. [candy crunching] Everybody's ready? Okay, come. Last person, shut the door.

How is it being, like, a single dad? Is it tough?

-Well, yeah, there are of course challenges but it makes you a better person. Now, I tell people and I mean it when I say this, I go, I was born with two eyes that don't work but I have six eyes that watch for me.

Growing up, you didn't really think that your dad was different from any other dad. Like, you just thought, oh, everybody has to walk him around to cars and just lead him around places.

My mom owns the diner. My father bought it originally, and she's owned it.

-Do they come with you when you work here? Yeah.

-Like, every time?

Not every time, but you know, a good majority of the time. You bring homework, Tony works.

So. Tony's already at 16 years old cooking.

Middle school to high school is when the responsibility came, and it was still fun. New experiences, new people, working here. Most people hate their teenage years, I'd say, it's pretty awesome.

It started off freshman year, that I had to take over as a cook.

-Oh, sorry. No problem.

Hey, Tony?

The way I balanced it out with school is I would bring either my homework on a busy day, and if there's any, say a grace period for like an hour, I'd spend that time just doing, say calculus.

- You've got so much, like, responsibility, you know? A lot of this already sounds like an adult. Like, you've kind of had to grow up fast.

Mini-adult!

Yeah. Right.

You tired, baby?

For dad, I'm pretty much the right-hand man.

Hey Tony? Do me a favor Tony? Hey Tony? Hey Tony. Uh, Tony? Tony!

Okay um,

Tony? His main person to go to, if he has a problem with anything, whether it be technological, whether it be in here, or at home.

Hey Tony, can you come here one second? I'm just gonna ask you something.

Aren't there some Air Force gray ones that are just sitting around here that are gray and white? There's, I think, Air Force maybe, in that bin that has all those shoes in the kitchen. No strap though.

Which ones are these? Those are the Griffey's.

Yeah. The pair that's silver and black? Yeah.

Do they match more than what I'm wearing now?

Yeah, they're closer.

Sometimes, it's just, say Facebook chores, like see who called me in the morning, see, did you get any texts or emails?

- But was it a Foamposite?

Is it a Foamposite, or, but wait. Air Max Hyperposite, that's what it was.

Hyperposite Tiger Camo. I got it.

And probably his lookout when it comes to this place, I'll say car pulled in, and then I'll say they went to third table, side with the Pepsi machine.

Hey Tony? Uh-oh, [chuckles] yep. Tony? Yep.

This psycho killer wants the Chili Cheesesteak with the cooked onions and all the fixings- Okay. And home fries.

-Yeah, sure, I'll be right back.

I mean, I enjoy having a good work ethic, and it's a good skill to have.

So, Hamburger Deluxe with barbecue sauce, two Rubens, a Turkey Burger Deluxe, fried Calamari, chicken parm with ranch fries, two Tuna Melts, a toasted bagel, anything else?

-Pizza Burger Deluxe. Pizza Burger Deluxe.

Tony, he's so bright, and from a young period of time I was dictating, he was writing, so I think that's why he's become a pretty skilled writer. And he's also very good in math, like a straight A student.

My dad wanted me to really focus. He didn't want any future generations of Dikakasis working in a diner. It was time to end that Greek tradition of owning diners.

I went to Ithaca college. That's where I graduated from. I majored in psychology. I don't know, it just, always interested me, how I can outthink everybody. It started from an early age. I was a phone hacker making free phone calls. [phone ringing]

I even got the nation's capital building's toll free number, making it seem like it's coming from, you know, the capital building. [patrons laughing]

I did travel around doing standup comedy. My first real passion, in front of 200 strangers, can I make 'em relate to me? When someone comes from out of town and walks into New York, you walk up to someone in the street and you're like, Excuse me, can you tell me how to get to Rockefeller Center?

One time when my kids were small, I took 'em to one of my gigs. I have this routine of me in a driver's seat of a car. I'm saying, Oh, I just ran over my seeing eye dog. [dog whimpering] Oh my gosh, he was in my blind spot.

Tony's observation of what was going on, he goes, Oh, people were laughing with you, they weren't laughing at you.

I was always someone that wanted to collect clothes, shoes, cologne, shirts, pants, something new, something to look forward to putting on. My first thing that I ever collected was cologne. I said it was the blind man's jewelry.

Oh, you put this and you smell that, and once in a while I'll wear this with that. So I'd almost make my own blend. I would collect, I would try to buy one a month. I like Asian Green Tea from Creed, Hola eau de, Mr. Burberry, Carven, I like one of the Pradas, I think it's called Infusion that they don't sell anymore. The most expensive is probably Royal Mayfair by Creed. It's probably about \$500 a bottle.

If I've held to a fragrance for a long time, I'll like, okay, I better start using it and put it in the fridge just to keep it fresh, because it's known if it gets overheated and stuff like that, the molecules could possibly like, change the fragrance.

It got into always wanting to look good, so I collected a good amount of jeans through the years. Then it just, the shoe collection just went a little too outta hand probably.

Even managers and friends of these stores are like, You know, this blind guy has everything. Oh yeah, he's got that. And then people would start, Oh yeah, yeah, John's got that. And then they're almost like, they're proud of me.

I don't have vices, I don't drink, I don't do drugs, I just collect cologne, clothes and shoes, you know? We got a lot more shoes now.

- Yeah? How many pairs?

Now it's approaching like 700, mid-700. Like, it's gotten to the point where it's actually hard to squeeze around in the attic.

This is my attic, infested with shoes. Nikes, Adidas, and Reeboks. Here we go. Okay, these are LeBron. Are they 616750 is the style number? See if it's 616750? Are they 3108? Uh-huh, and they're- 500. Oh, you know what these are? I think these are the All-Star LeBrons. Ah, yeah. LeBron 10, All-Stars. LeBron 11s. SB Dunks Waffle Premium. All right, these are a 6 retro, Jordan, these are the Foamposite galaxies. Air force 1 Premium.

You wanna have some sort of organization where, you know, I've memorized the colors on the boxes, style numbers and all sorts of things, just so it makes

it easier for me to tell Tony, Okay, it has this color description and so forth, and so on.

Okay. Champagne 6s,

-Cigar 6s?

Okay, these are the Air Maxes 2009, I have one that's all navy, a royal pair, I have, positive I have one other color of these.

-Green pair. KD8N7?

They're KD8N7. Yeah.

-Jordan 2Q54, Jordan 13s, Nike Foamposite's with the Nike check. Air Max Griffey series. Kyrie 2 Christmas edition. Adidas 750 Boost Black. Jordan 1 Pinnacle Vachetta Tan. Giuseppe Zanotti's Crocodile-Print, off-white.

Ahh, smell the leather on these things. When you wear these to school Tony, I'm probably gonna have you walk with a different pair and then just put these on, and when you get out of school put 'em back in the box in the locker. You know what I'm saying?

I applied to six of the Ivy Leagues. So, Princeton, Yale, Columbia, U Penn, and I think Cornell, yeah. Believe it or not, like Harvard was really, probably the quickest of all the applications.

I mostly talked about my time acclimating to the diner. I attribute some of my excess to a triple-decker sandwich. It's hard to put it together and cut it without it completely falling apart on you. So, one day I decided, let me just rearrange things. Like, maybe instead of lettuce before tomatoes, tomatoes before lettuce. Maybe it'll make it more structurally sound. And it worked out for me.

March 28th. So, that was the day. There was nobody really else around in the diner. I went over to my email, checked it, it said there was an update. Our admissions committee considers each application with great care, voting to admit those who will make the best use of the opportunities at Harvard. We admire all you have accomplished, and we believe that Harvard is a particularly good match for your talents and interests.

I only said two words, and they're not exactly appropriate. Isn't it unbelievable? So, he (John) just dashed over to the phone, the diner phone,

and started calling everybody he knew, from like everywhere.

-Just high, high up.

Behold. [chuckling] Lion King. About right here.

-Hug? Yeah, a little lower. How do you think it's gonna be for your dad after you leave? Do you think it's going to be tough without you?

Initially, he was worried. His main fear was whether or not my brother was gonna step it up. Dimitri. When I told him that he's gonna need to be able to adjust to me being gone, he really took it to heart and started to step it up. Dimitri's gotten a lot better. Is that right? Yes, he's becoming the new awesome cook. Yeah, the new Tony. Yes.

This one goes to college, his shoes are inherited by the younger brother. Is that right? You're gonna give him your shoes?

-Pretty much, I mean, I can't take 700 to college. [laughs]

No, no, of course not.

Nothing is permanent, they're gonna go on, become young adults, have careers, families, and stuff like that. So as human beings, we try to, take a situation where some people might think is so uncomfortable, and make the best of it, and that's what, you know, every human being should do.

[relaxing upbeat music]

Tony, can you put a Tiramisu to go?

-Oh yeah, sure.

[crowd chattering]

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