

sneaking out /1/ making things fun

I **grew up** in a typical American suburb. A suburb has **lots of** small houses and each house has a small **yard** right **next to it**. It was a **nice place to grow up**, but sometimes the kids would **get bored** because **there's not much** to do there **apart from** riding up and **down** the street on a bike. So **every time** we **found** ourselves with nothing to do, we had to **figure out** how to **make things fun** — **especially** in the summer.

All the kids in the **neighborhood used to sneak out**. Sneaking out **basically means leaving** the house **at night without letting** your parents know. We'd wait **until** our parents **fell** asleep **to make sure** they wouldn't hear anything, then we'd **slip** out of the best window or door. **Each** of us **had** their own **techniques**. I **myself** used the garage door. **I'd lift** it really slowly and quietly **until** there was **just enough** room **for me to crawl out**.

sneaking out /2/ not waiting on a lady

A friend of mine named Richard used his basement window because his parents' bedroom was right **above** the garage. And the Johnson children **had** a good tree **growing next to** their bedroom window so they **had no trouble climbing** down. I **wished I had** a tree like that next to my room and I actually **thought of planting one**. But then I **realized** that **even** if I **did**, it would still be a long time before I could use it.

So **anyway**, sometimes I **would be lying** in bed **waiting to see if** my friends would come and then I **would** hear **someone tapping** on my bedroom window and I **would open** the curtain and see all the kids in the **neighborhood standing** there. They **had to be** very quiet **so that** my parents **wouldn't wake up** and **discover** what we **were up to**. **After** my friends **showed up** it only **took** me a minute to **get ready** and sneak out.

sneaking out /3/ the worst fun part

Once we were out we **had to figure out something to do**. We usually went swimming, but **it** was a **long way** to the pool and the police would **arrest** us if they **caught** us out **late at night**. That was the worst **part, actually**: If the **cops** caught you, they took you **downtown** to the police station and called your parents. Your parents **would** wake **in the middle of the night to** a phone call from the police, **telling** them that **the kid they thought was** asleep upstairs **was in fact being held at** the station. Then they **had to get dressed** and drive **down** to the station to **pick you up**.

Then, lord, I always knew I **would get the beating of my life**. But that was **part** of the **thrill**, the fear of the police **made** sneaking out an **adventure**. I **don't** think I **would have enjoyed** it so much **if I hadn't known** I could get caught. In fact, I **did get** caught once. **Let me tell you** how it happened **so it won't happen** to you.