

Tobias'
Homeschool
Story



Paths of Homeschool Wisdom
from *a homeschool Dad*

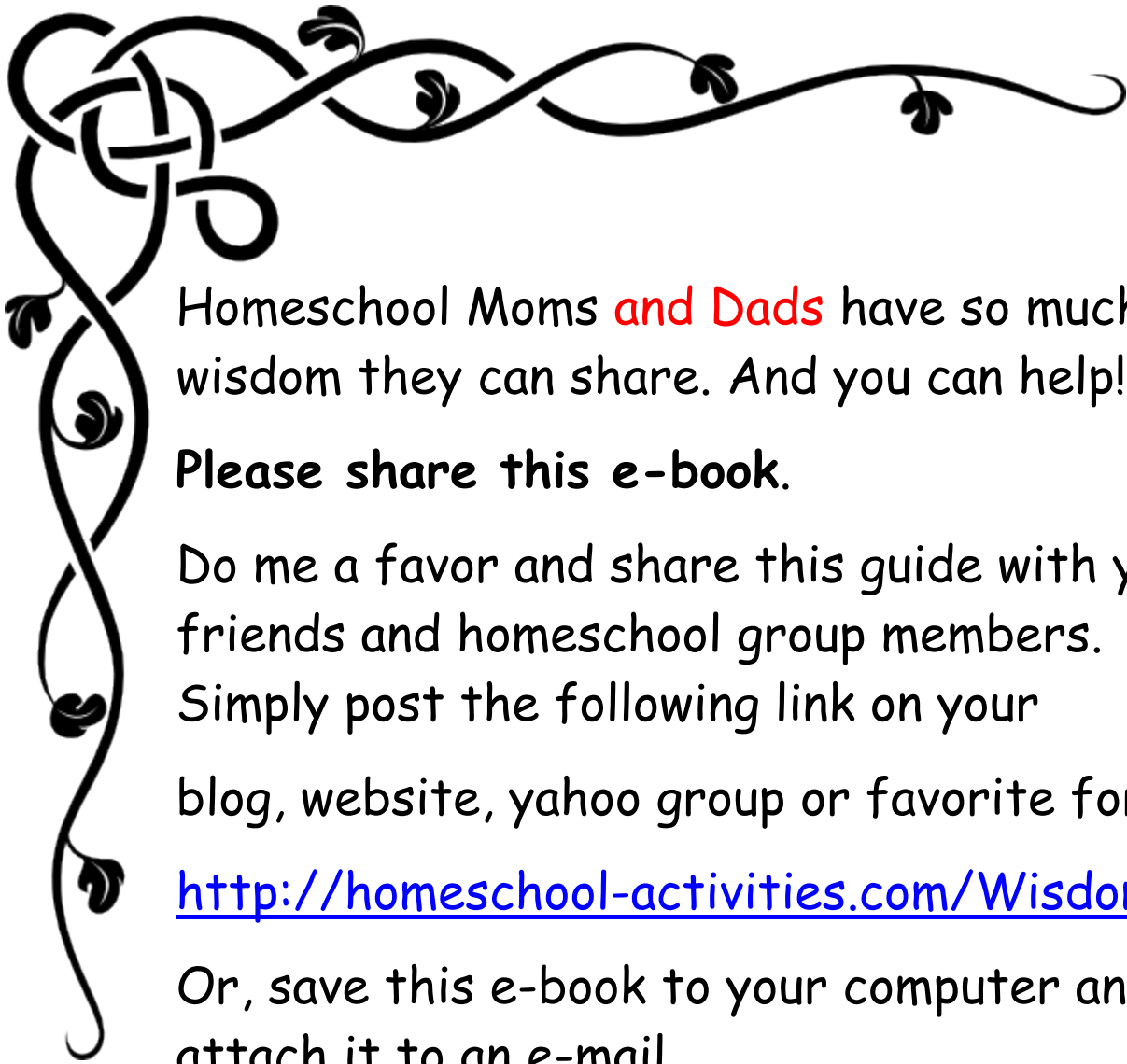
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Homeschool Moms **and Dads** have so much wisdom they can share. And you can help!

Please share this e-book.

Do me a favor and share this guide with your friends and homeschool group members.

Simply post the following link on your

blog, website, yahoo group or favorite forum:

<http://homeschool-activities.com/Wisdom>

Or, save this e-book to your computer and attach it to an e-mail.

If you have a story for my Homeschool Moms Wisdom series, then come to over to:

<http://homeschool-activities.com/Wisdom>

and share what you have learned with other Moms and Dads.

Thanks and best wishes,
Sonya

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This is Tobias' story.

You'll notice my series is called Homeschool Moms Wisdom - which is why I am so pleased that Tobias has come forward as a **Homeschool Dad** to offer some much needed balance!

It's fascinating to find out what he has to say from a Dad's perspective. You'll find from Tobias that many of the problems we face are the same - but some are **different**.

Understanding those differences makes it easier for us to **support each other**.

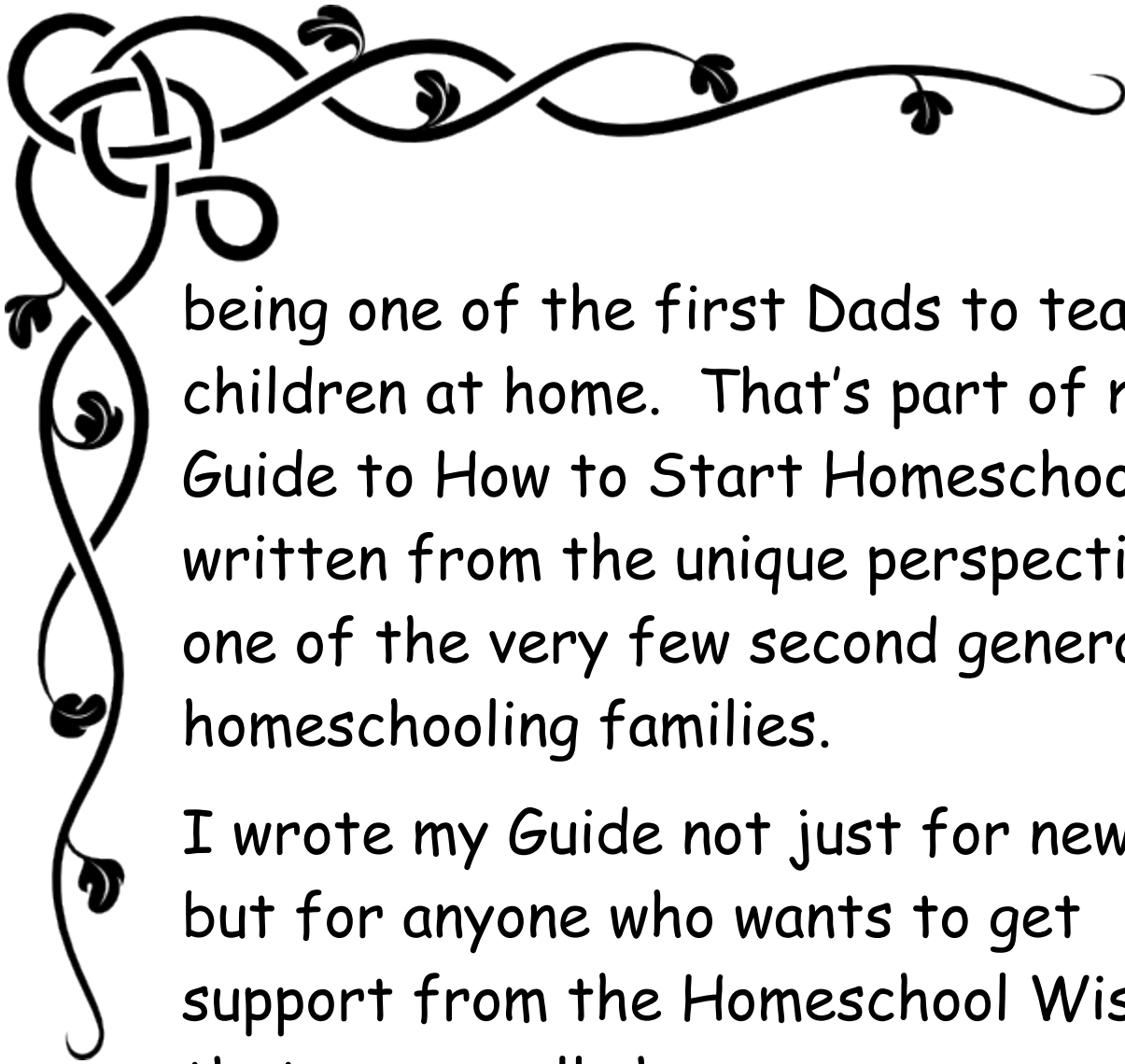
My own Dad was one of the homeschooling pioneers. You'll find he has a lot to say about why he decided to take that step, and how he went about

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being one of the first Dads to teach his children at home. That's part of my own Guide to How to Start Homeschooling, written from the unique perspective of one of the very few second generation homeschooling families.

I wrote my Guide not just for newbies but for anyone who wants to get support from the Homeschool Wisdom that we can all share.

I hope you find Tobias' story equally inspirational.

Best wishes

Sonya

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Tobias's Story

What's it like being a Homeschool Dad?

On some level there is little difference between myself and homeschooling mothers. We probably both find ourselves staring in bewilderment at the organized chaos taking place around us.

All evidence would suggest we both **survive on coffee** and pray for the occasional opportunity to use the restroom without a child pleading their case with the door wide open. How is it that the bathroom in our home has turned into a Federal courtroom where accused toy and candy thieves try to stack the jury in their favor?

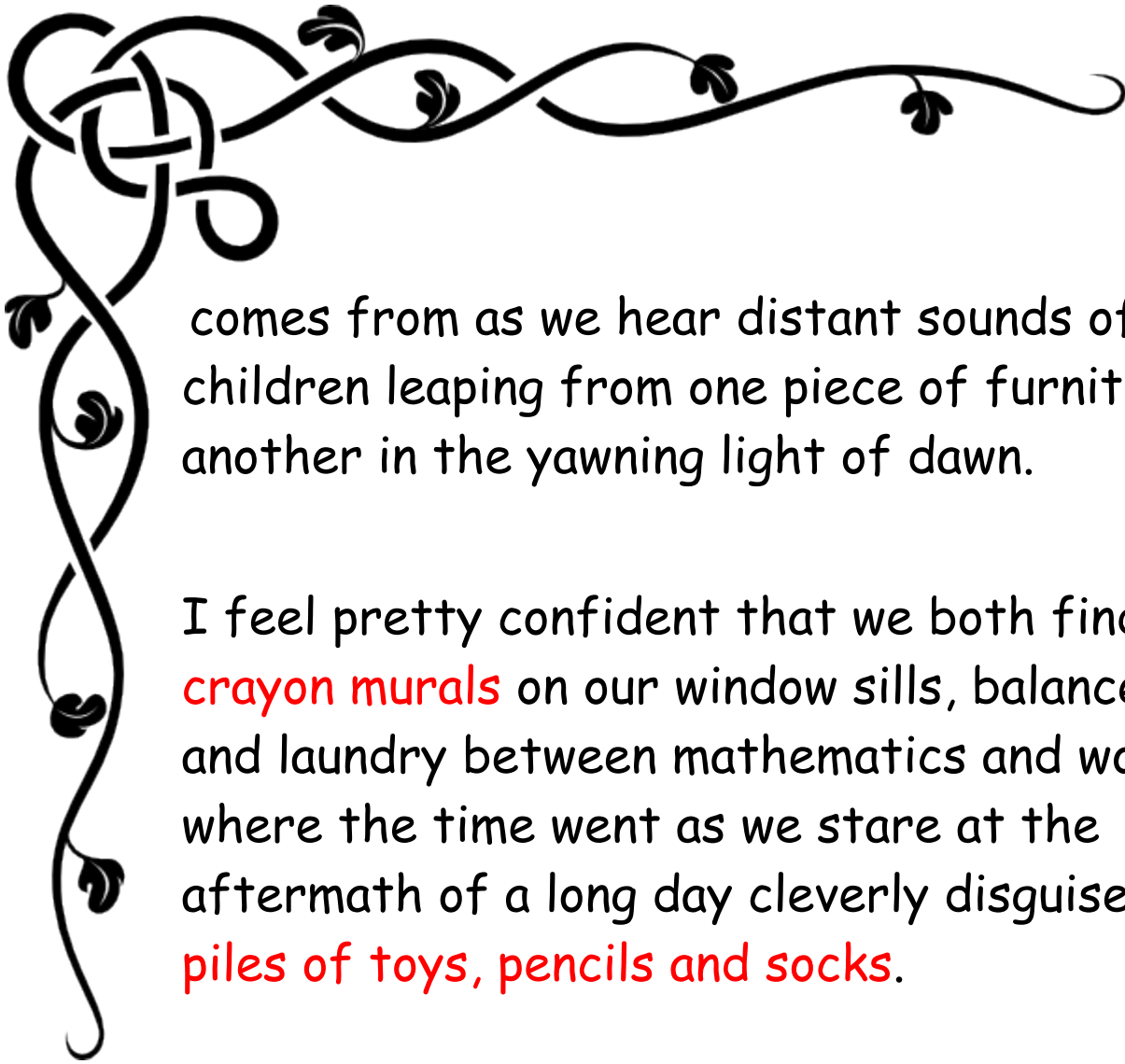
Most likely we both stare at the dark ceiling of our bedroom in the early morning hours wondering where the immediate energy of youth

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comes from as we hear distant sounds of children leaping from one piece of furniture to another in the yawning light of dawn.

I feel pretty confident that we both find **crayon murals** on our window sills, balance dishes and laundry between mathematics and wonder where the time went as we stare at the aftermath of a long day cleverly disguised as **piles of toys, pencils and socks**.

On the other hand, just as homeschooling mothers face obstacles I lack the experience to address, there are circumstances **unique to my situation**.

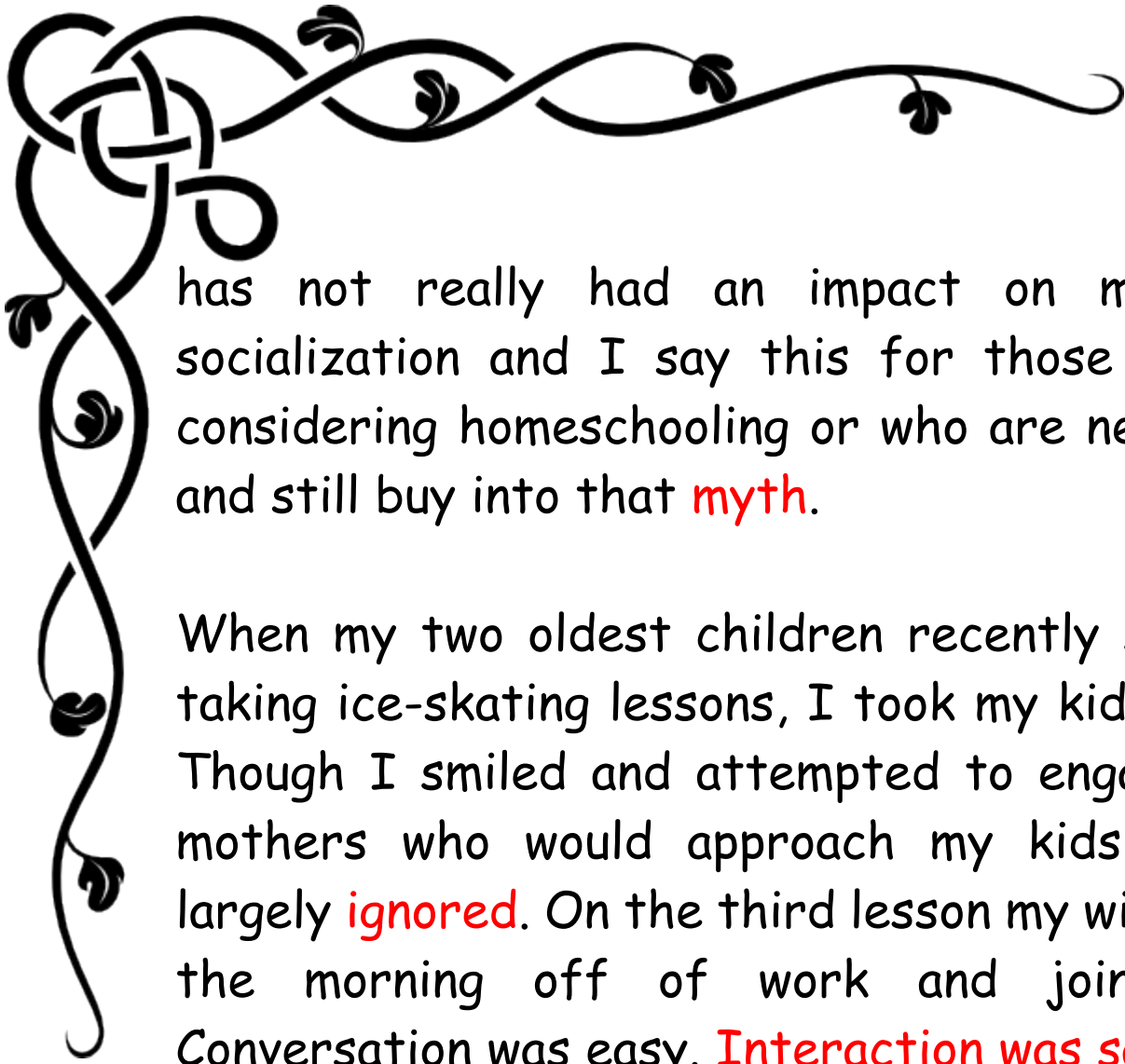
For me personally the feeling of **isolation** is a major obstacle both creatively and emotionally. Now the interesting thing is that my isolation

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has not really had an impact on my kids socialization and I say this for those of you considering homeschooling or who are new to it and still buy into that **myth**.

When my two oldest children recently started taking ice-skating lessons, I took my kids along. Though I smiled and attempted to engage the mothers who would approach my kids I was largely **ignored**. On the third lesson my wife took the morning off of work and joined us. Conversation was easy. **Interaction was safe**.

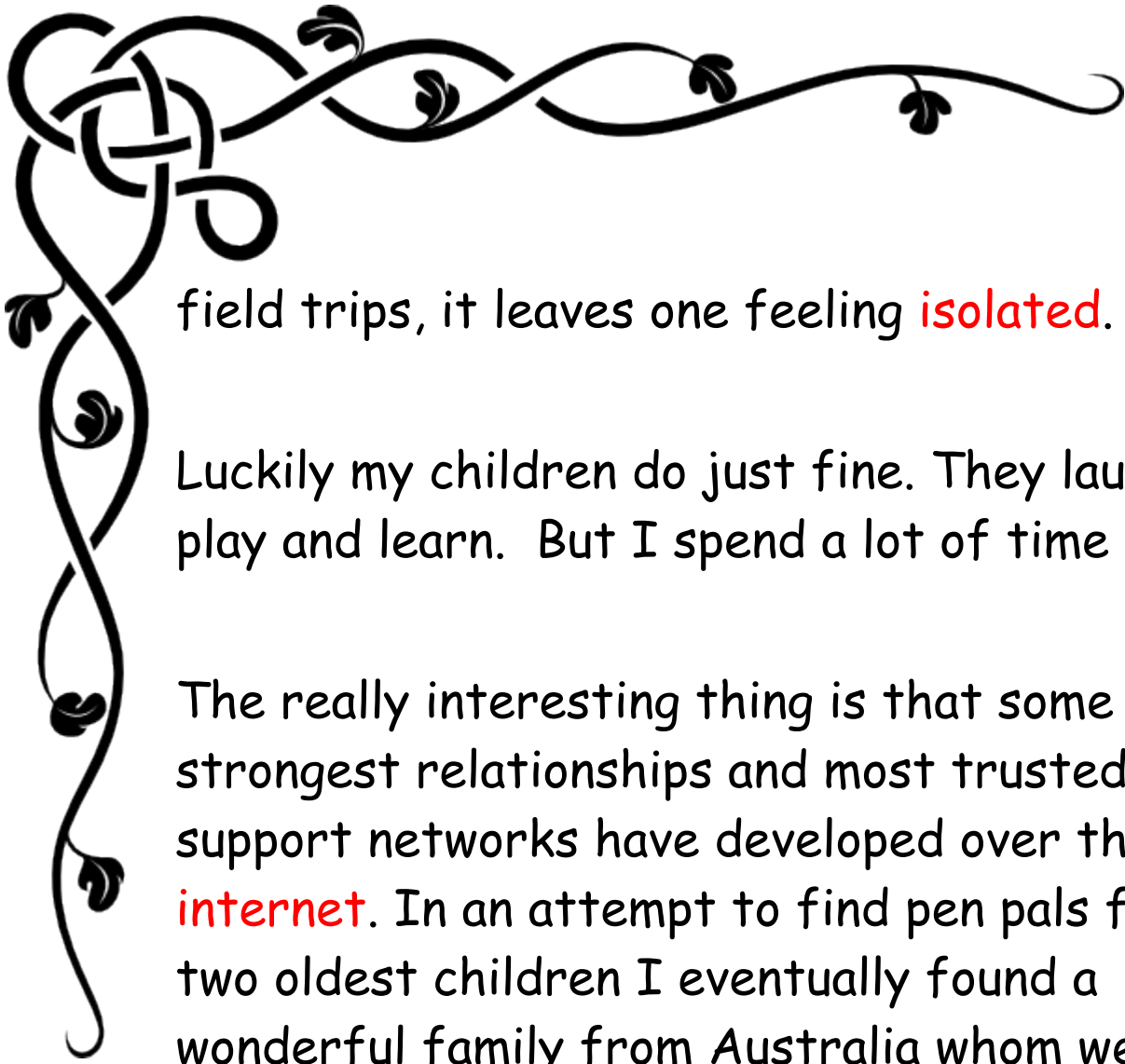
There is some sort of **social taboo** that does not allow married male/female interaction to take place as readily. Now I realize that that may seem like a very small and insignificant situation to some. But when you multiply this by every social situation - whether the library, kids sporting events, dance classes, or any number of

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field trips, it leaves one feeling **isolated**.

Luckily my children do just fine. They laugh and play and learn. But I spend a lot of time alone.

The really interesting thing is that some of my strongest relationships and most trusted support networks have developed over the **internet**. In an attempt to find pen pals for my two oldest children I eventually found a wonderful family from Australia whom we interact with regularly. I have even had the good fortune to interact with a homeschooling author who really inspires me. Although not in my immediate vicinity these are very important relationships to me.

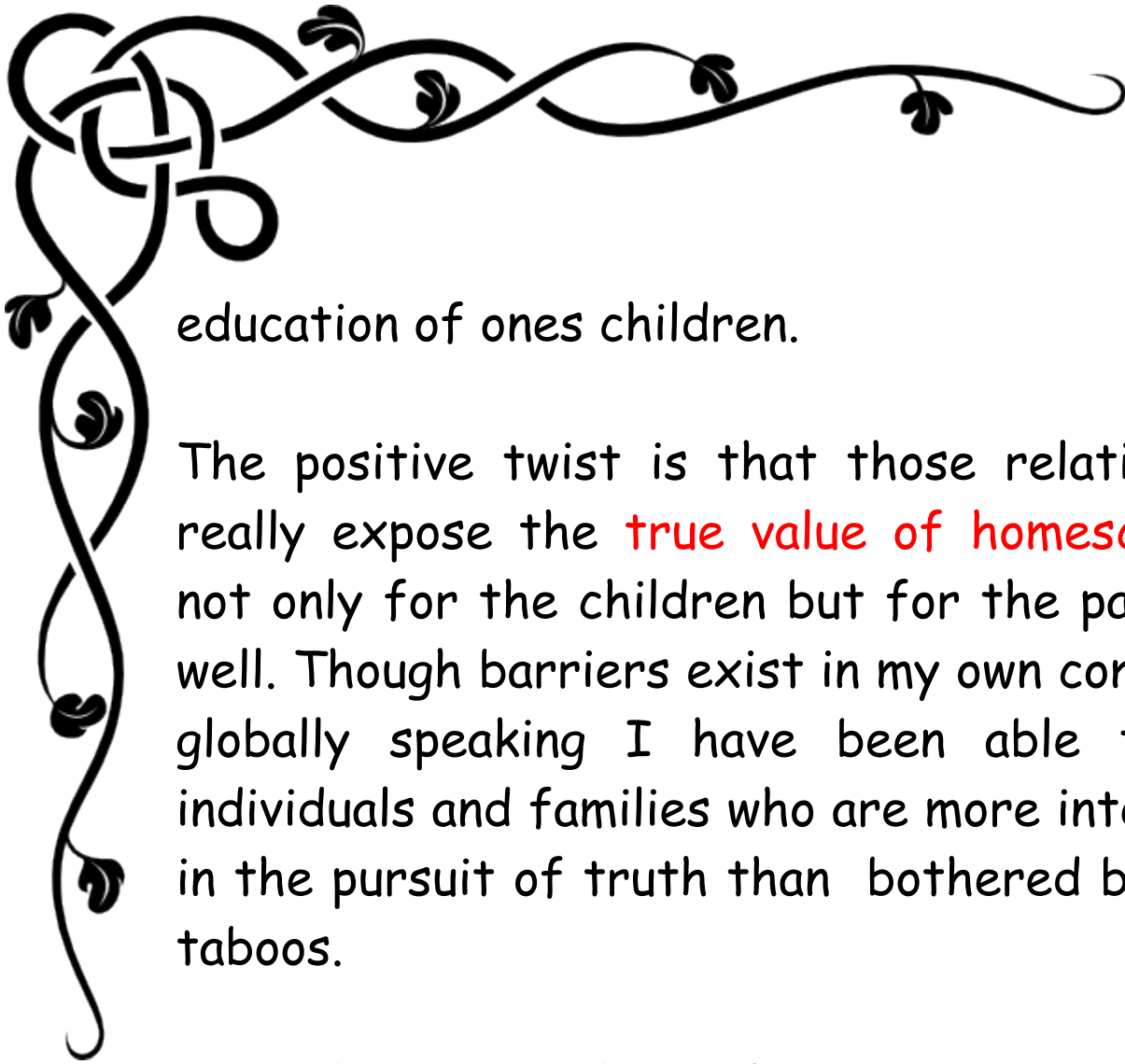
A network of support is important in any aspect of life, especially when it comes to the

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education of ones children.

The positive twist is that those relationships really expose the **true value of homeschooling** not only for the children but for the parent as well. Though barriers exist in my own community globally speaking I have been able to find individuals and families who are more interested in the pursuit of truth than bothered by social taboos.

Now, that said, I have always been comfortable with myself. I can spend large amounts of time reading and meditating (simply put: daydreaming!) But it is always nice to know that if you need to interact with someone you can and that has been my biggest obstacle as a homeschooling dad.

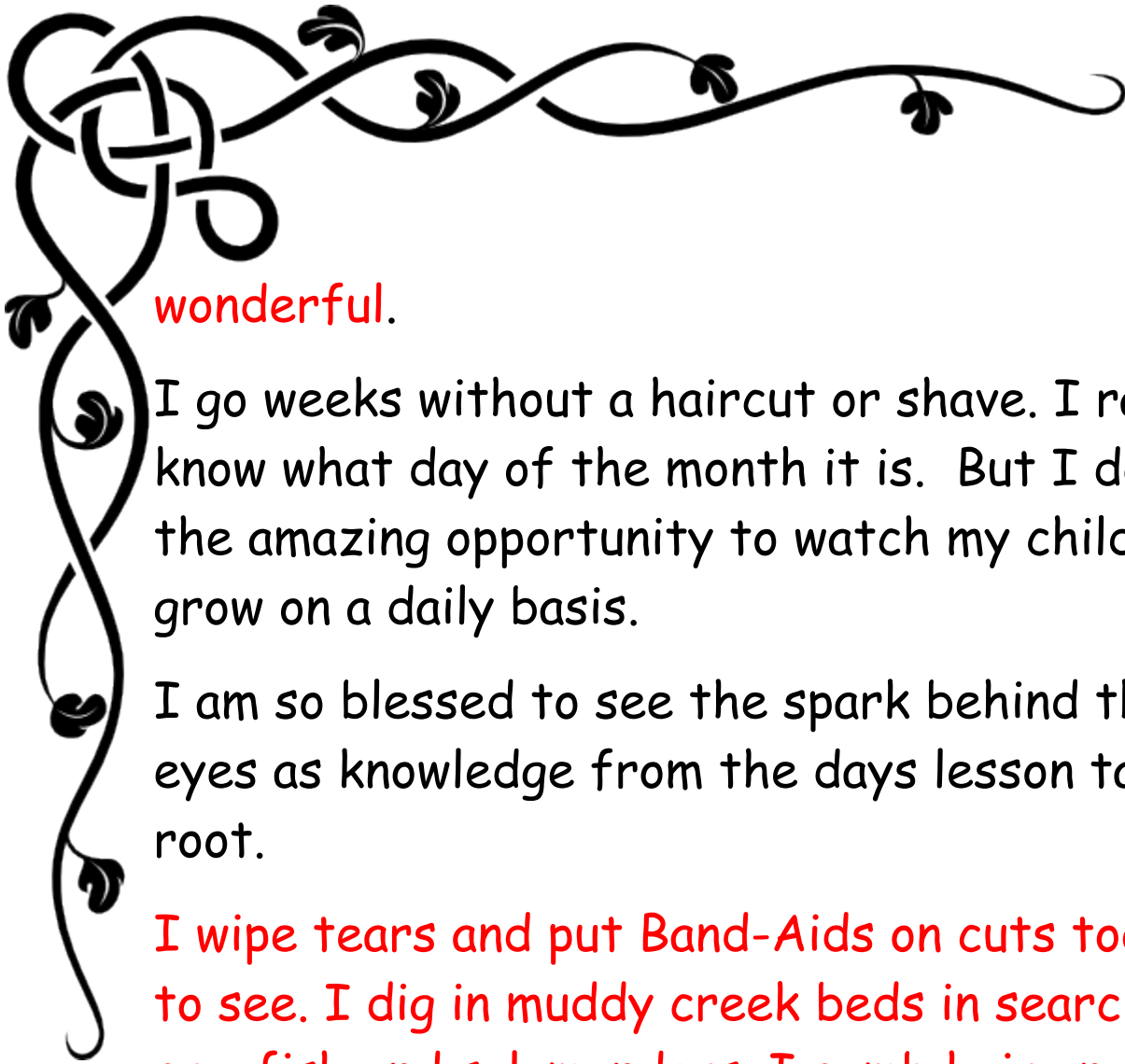
My life is far from gloomy though. It is too hectic and too entertaining to be anything but

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wonderful.

I go weeks without a haircut or shave. I rarely know what day of the month it is. But I do have the amazing opportunity to watch my children grow on a daily basis.

I am so blessed to see the spark behind their eyes as knowledge from the days lesson takes root.

I wipe tears and put Band-Aids on cuts too small to see. I dig in muddy creek beds in search of crayfish and salamanders. I comb hair and put in crooked ponytails.

I color with crayons and introduce Neil Young on vinyl to my kids. I have barrettes put in my beard while I work on social studies activities.

Most importantly I listen when they ask the serious questions in life,

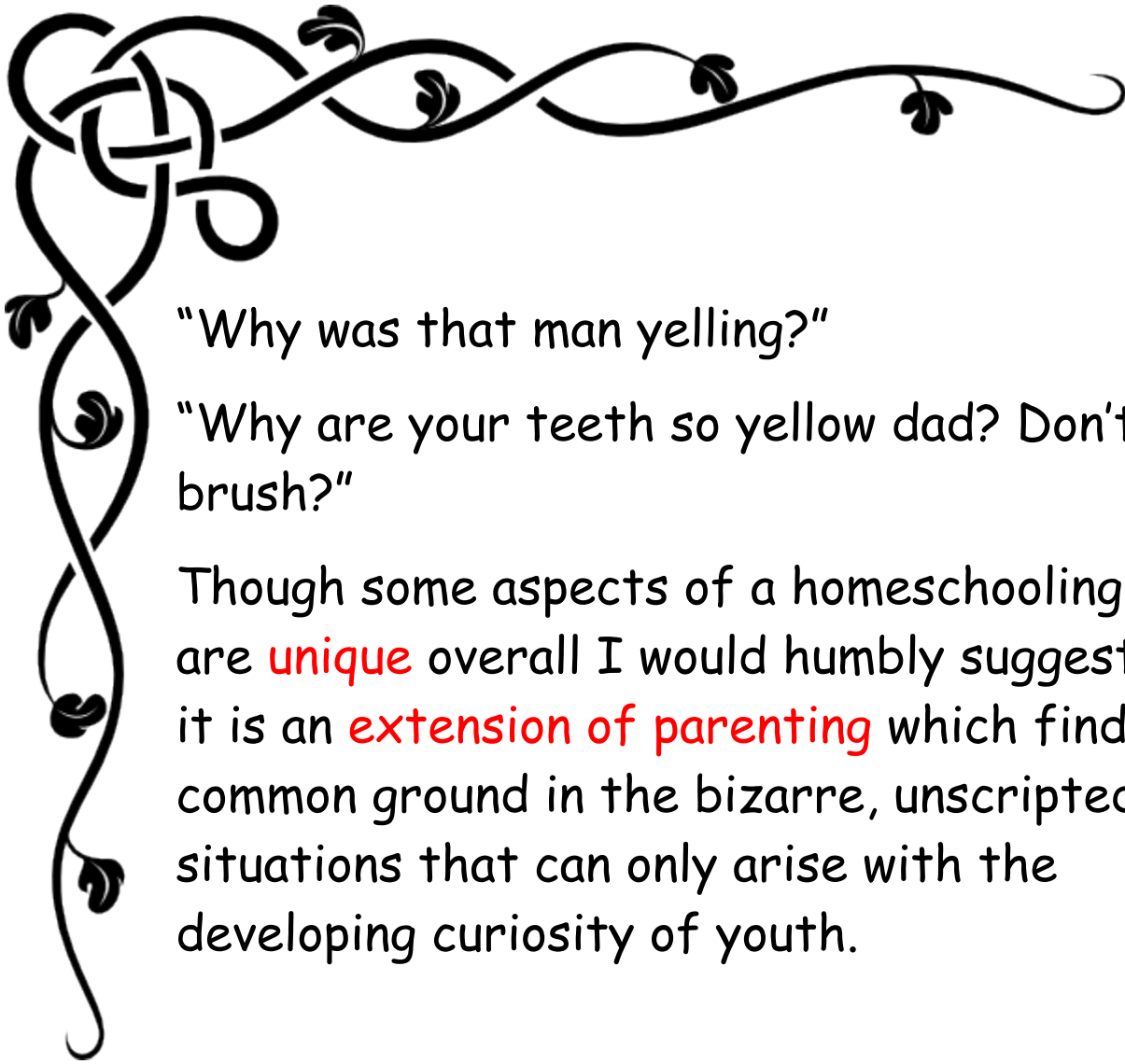
"Where do we go when we die?"

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"Why was that man yelling?"

"Why are your teeth so yellow dad? Don't you brush?"

Though some aspects of a homeschooling father are **unique** overall I would humbly suggest that it is an **extension of parenting** which finds its common ground in the bizarre, unscripted situations that can only arise with the developing curiosity of youth.

My family and I are no different from any other family in that regard. But we are also **entirely unique** because of that fact.



You can see more of Tobias' life as a homeschooling Dad on **his blog** here:

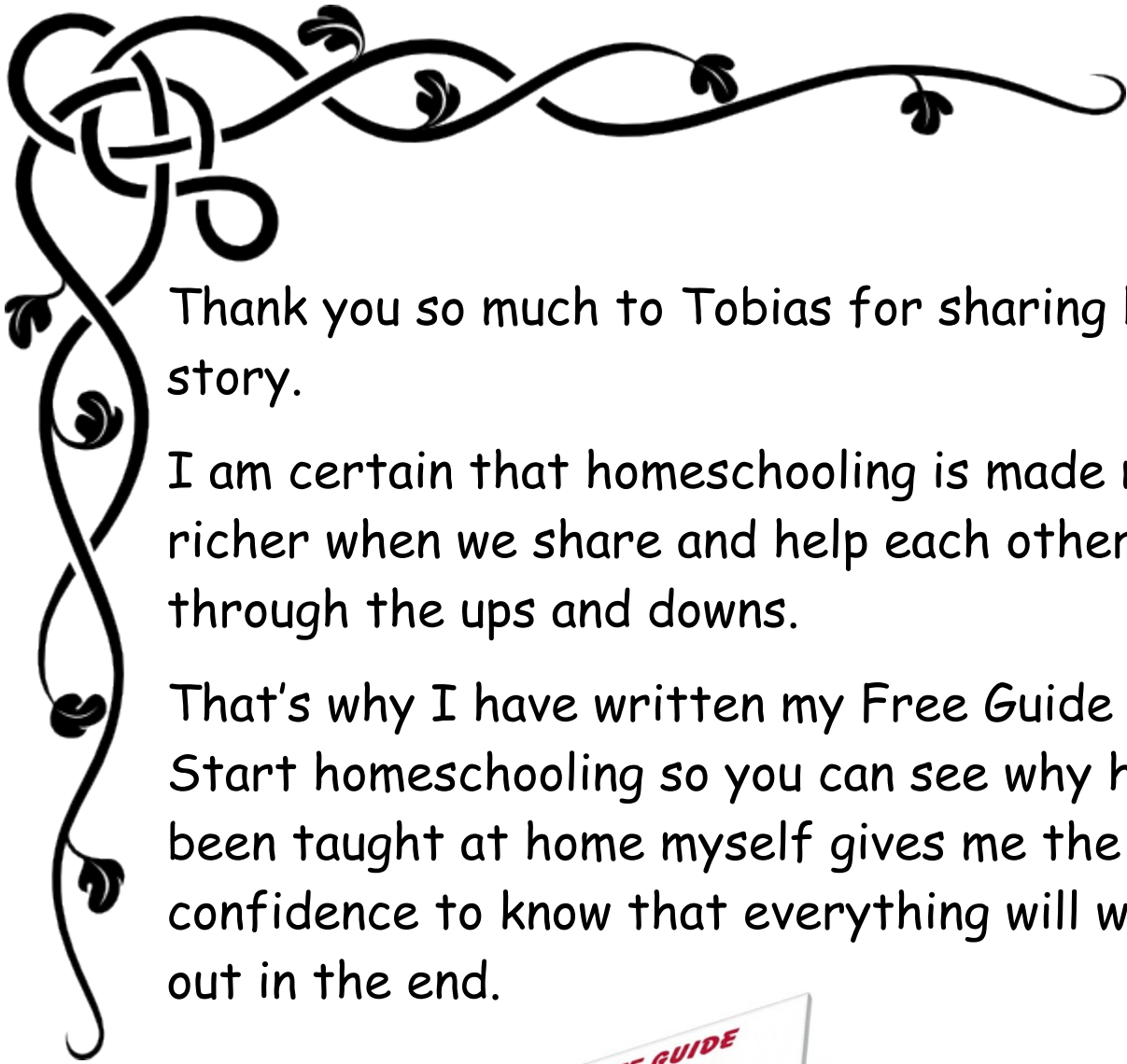
[Tales of a stay at home Dad](#)

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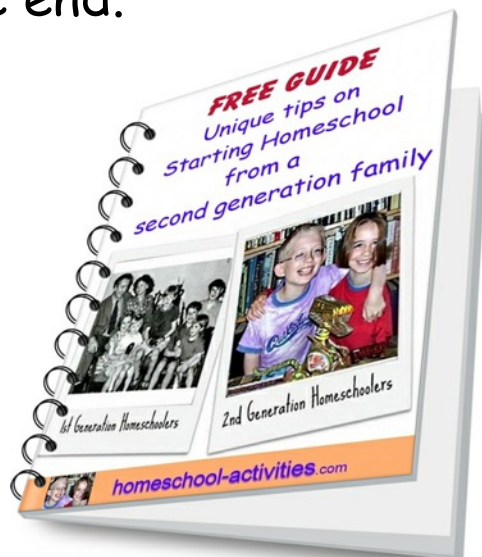
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Thank you so much to Tobias for sharing his story.

I am certain that homeschooling is made much richer when we share and help each other through the ups and downs.

That's why I have written my Free Guide to Start homeschooling so you can see why having been taught at home myself gives me the confidence to know that everything will work out in the end.



Sign Up for your Free Guide here:

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Best wishes and good luck on your journey!

Sonya

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