



Generation Homeschool



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Dear Reader,

My how the year is flying by! Seems like just yesterday we were breaking open the new pencil boxes and turning the cover of our new theme books. Here it is practically Christmas! I for one, can barely wait to see what the new year brings! As I mentioned before, we are making a geographical change—we are moving to Florida in June. That's less than 180 days and I cannot wait!

Until then, we've began packing up some non-essential classroom materials and even had a yard sale! We added our gains to our savings for the move.

In other news, our oldest son has left the nest! He and his oldest sister are cohabitating as a way of looking out for each other while spreading their wings a little. I'll tell you what, there is no worry like your babies being out the big 'ol world, but there is also something surreal about knowing you've taught them what you feel they need to know. Life will be their teacher now.

For more updates on our coming year, visit our website, follow us on Facebook or Twitter, or check out our VLOG on Youtube.

Grab a cup of coffee and sit a spell!

JayVonda



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Want to share?

If you have something to share, please email us and include in the subject: Newsletter Add-In

Subscriber Freebies at the end!



Homeschool News

Class in the Dining room... or the Classroom

Homeschool can happen anywhere, right? So why the fuss over a specified homeschool space. For some, it's a matter of wanting to separate school life from home life. For others, space is the backbone of their operation. Many homeschool families struggle with storage space for curriculum, books, art supplies, did I mention books? All the 'stuff' homeschool requires depends on the type of homeschool style you prefer, and as such, your space will reflect that style. Whether you have a designated homeschool room or simply utilize the dining room table, organization is fundamental in keeping the chaos of homeschooling to a minimum – especially with all the other things that families have occurring in their daily lives.

How we do it...

After one year of using our dining room table, we decided that a designated homeschool room was more to our liking. With all the homeschool 'stuff' we use, it felt like we were in class all the time, even when we weren't. We turned a bedroom into the classroom and have enjoyed it for four years! We've also ensured that our future move to Florida will have the space for a designated room. For now, our classroom has bookshelves, desks, computers, and all the other things you might find in a classroom at home.

As a self-proclaimed "paper pusher", I enjoy the work of organizing our room. It is a form of meditation for me, and it certainly allows for our class days to go by without much of the chaos of missing books, folders, binders, and books. This keeps the kid's anxiety levels down, too. Not to mention, when we need something, we know exactly where to find it. Such organization allows for easy clean-up each week after we have finished our lessons! Who doesn't like easy clean-up?

You can see a walk-through of our homeschool classroom by visiting our YouTube channel by clicking on the icon below.



Click the icon to visit our channel

Links and Free Resources

Be sure to check out [Generation Homeschool](#) for the newest freebies for kids and parents!

Encouraging Quotes

"The best teachers will tell you where to look, but not what to see"

"A good teacher is like a candle – it consumes itself to light the way for others"

"It shouldn't matter how slowly a child learns, as long as we are encouraging them not to stop"



Click the bubble to visit our blog

Literature Unit Study: The Golden Goblet

I simply must tell you about the wonderful book we've just completed! It is full of historical reference, imagery, and culture that one could only hope for.

As a component of our history curriculum, this book took us on an adventure to Egypt and left us feeling mesmerized by the culture, friendship, and 'life' the character experienced.

The book is titled "*The Golden Goblet*" and it is written by Eloise Jarvis McGraw. Her writing flows easily and the chapters are longer than your typical read-aloud text, allowing you to feel as though you are right there, in the presence of the characters and going through what they experience—good and bad—to build a relationship with the characters.

The story begins with a young boy named Ranofer, who lives with his step-brother Gebu, in what one might describe as a 'shanty town' of Egypt. He is witness to thievery and, holding a very high regard for morals and ethics, sets his mind on righting a wrong. There are some scenes depicting images of abuse, so I will caution you to read the chapters ahead of time should you want to censor those sections – however, they are crucial in building the momentum of the story. I'll stop there—no spoilers from me! But I encourage you to read it!

Taking from my experience with creating unit studies, I decided to incorporate a little more "fine art" into this literature unit study. Along with worksheets and chapter quizzes for the kids to complete, I also decided to add an element of art: Papier Mache and music.

Keeping with the theme of the book and the gold that the story is based on, we decided to create a golden goblet from Papier Mache. Using old newspaper and masking tape, we formed our goblet.

Then, using a homemade recipe for Papier Mache glue, we covered our form and allowed it to dry. Afterward, we used a spray-on glitter paint to make it sparkle like the goblet in the book! The kids really enjoyed the art project and I found that the process, while messy, was easy to clean up.

I've included the recipe to the homemade glue we used, should you want to create your own art piece.

For the music element, we found many songs with an Egyptian sound by simply searching YouTube. I am thoroughly encouraged to continue with this style of learning with our next read-aloud.

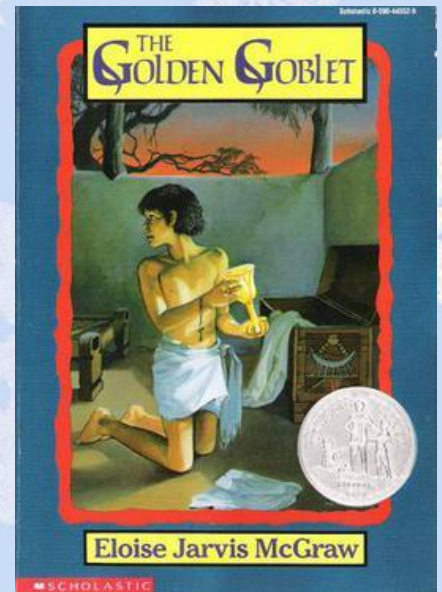
Visit our [Teachers Pay Teachers](#) store if you would like to purchase the chapter quizzes, essays, and final exam for *The Golden Goblet*.

Future Read-Aloud List

- Aesop's Fables
- The Adventures of Tom Sawyer
- The Matchlock Gun
- Number the Stars
- The Door in the Wall
- The Borrowers
- The Deerslayer
- Across Five Aprils
- Summer of the Monkeys
- The Bronze Bow

What is on your reading list?

"The imagery within the story transports the reader right into Egypt"



Parenting Ninja

If your house is anything like ours when the holidays approach, chaos is a term severely understating the situation. The kids are cooped up due to the cold weather, the house seems smaller, the walls are getting closer and you cannot wait for spring!

Do not let this get you down. Turn the situation around by finding things to do together that allow them to spend that energy AND make it productive:

Winter cleaning does not have to be a chore. Turn up some music, make a end-goal and reward available and see how well your chaos turns to harmony.

In the last week, I've seen my children become enemies of each other and in turn, put a damper on the holiday mood. But recently, I created an end-goal and reward to encourage better behavior as well as taking a few things off my "to do" list.

The end goal was to get the classroom (and house) back in some sort of order. To do this, I made a helpers list of things that needed to be done. Each task completed earned a stamp. At the end of the week, whoever had the most stamps got to pick the movie or game we would see or play. The person with the second most stamps got to pick the snack we would have, and the person with the least number of stamps got some extra cuddle time with mom on the sofa or got to go first during the game. We turned up some music, laughed, acted silly, even danced a little Cupid Shuffle in the living room! In the end, everyone wins! Memories, laughter, smiles, and even some exercise!

Everyone wins! The house is back in operational order, we've got some packing done for our move in June, and I got to drink a full cup of hot coffee while we watched a movie!

Plus, the kids started getting along when it became a round of healthy competition!

Don't give up momma (or daddy)! They are learning, just like you are!

"Children learn to smile from their
parents."

~Shinichi Suzuki

When you're getting HOT

1. The kids are screaming
2. The house is a mess
3. You forgot to set out dinner
4. The washer quit
5. The kids are fighting
6. Your printer quit working

Keep a Cool Head

1. Make being calm your number one goal
2. Don't make your child's behavior about you
3. Always decide how you will behave as a parent, no matter how your child chooses to behave
4. Turn your focus on yourself
5. Put your "thinking self" in the driver's seat and put your emotions in the passenger seat
6. Take time for yourself

The Milk Jug

Winter Porchetta

Ingredients

- 4 garlic cloves, plus 2 whole heads
- 5 sprigs rosemary
- 1 tablespoon fennel seeds
- 1½ teaspoons kosher salt
- 2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil, divided
- Freshly ground black pepper
- 1 1½-pound pork tenderloin
- 4 slices bacon



Figure 1 <https://www.bonappetit.com/recipe/weeknight-porchetta>

What to Do:

1. Preheat oven to 425°.
2. Peel and finely chop 4 garlic cloves.
3. Cut 2 whole heads of garlic in half crosswise.
4. Strip leaves off 1 rosemary sprig, discard stem, and finely chop leaves.
5. Finely chop 1 Tbsp. fennel seeds.
6. Mix chopped garlic, chopped rosemary, chopped fennel seeds, salt, and 1 Tbsp. oil in a small bowl; season with pepper.
7. Rub garlic mixture all over 1½ lb. pork tenderloin on a rimmed baking sheet (if you have time to do this in the morning, great; chill pork until dinner).
8. Scatter remaining 4 rosemary sprigs in a large baking dish and set tenderloin on top. Wrap 4 bacon slices around tenderloin, tucking ends underneath so bacon stays put.
9. Nestle halved heads of garlic around tenderloin and drizzle with remaining 1 Tbsp. oil.
10. Roast until an instant-read thermometer inserted into thickest part of tenderloin registers 145°F for medium, 30–40 minutes. Transfer to a cutting board and let rest at least 10 minutes before slicing. (Note: I cooked our until it was 165°F and for about 55 minutes).
11. Serve with a side of steamed vegetables and a potato soufflé.

Milk Painting

Paint has been used by mankind since before recorded history, first as decoration, and much later as a protective coating. The oldest painted surfaces on earth were colored with a form of milk paint. Cave drawings and paintings made 8,000 years ago, even as old as 20,000 years ago, were made with a simple composition of milk, lime, and earth pigments. When King Tutankhamen's tomb was opened in 1924, artifacts including models of boats, people, and furniture found inside the burial chamber had been painted with milk paint.

Because the original formula for milk paint was so simple to make and use, it was for thousands of years a major form of decoration throughout the world. Over time, and in various places, different recipes, including milk protein(casein), lime, and pigments were tried, producing varying results in durability. Many of these coatings also provided weatherproofing, while others disintegrated, leaving only a permanent stain on the painted surface. The variations included adding substances such as olive oil, linseed oil, eggs, animal glue, or waxes. Over the centuries, better recipes were found that could produce a durable coating, which could last indefinitely. The colors on the walls painted at Dendaras, even though exposed to the open air for centuries, are as vivid today as they must have been 2000 years ago. This week, we are going to explore transitional art by making milk paintings.

While we aren't going to go to the extent of the "original milk paint", we'll use a modernized version!

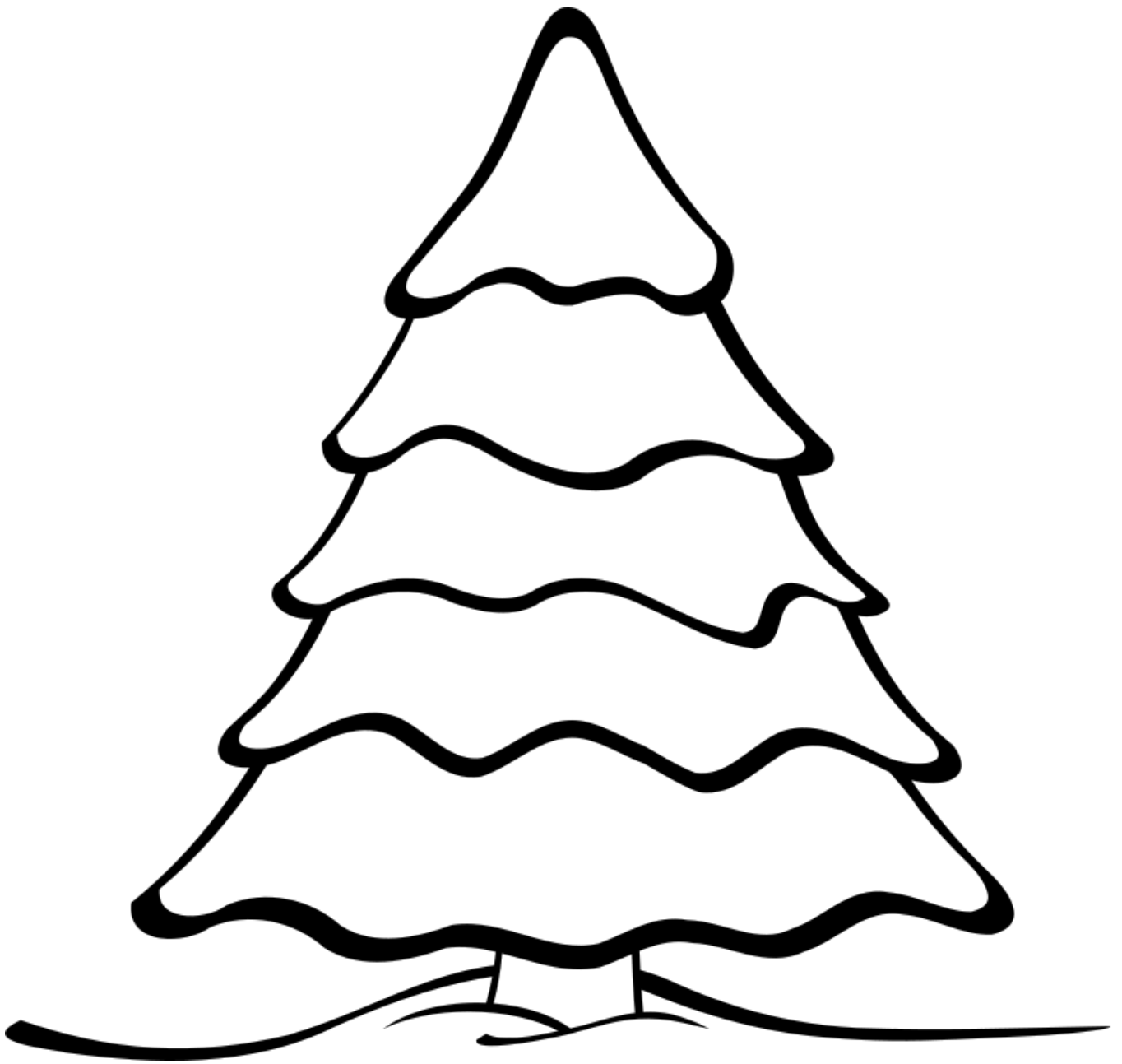
Materials

- Shallow pan with edges
- Milk
- Oil
- Food coloring
- Toothpicks or skewers
- Paper

Directions

1. Pour milk into shallow pan
2. Pour a thin layer of oil on top of the milk
3. Add a few drops of food coloring
4. Pop the drops of food coloring with a toothpick or skewer
5. Swirl the colors around to make beautiful designs
6. Place a sheet of paper over the top and transfer the design to make a print
7. Lay flat and allow to dry

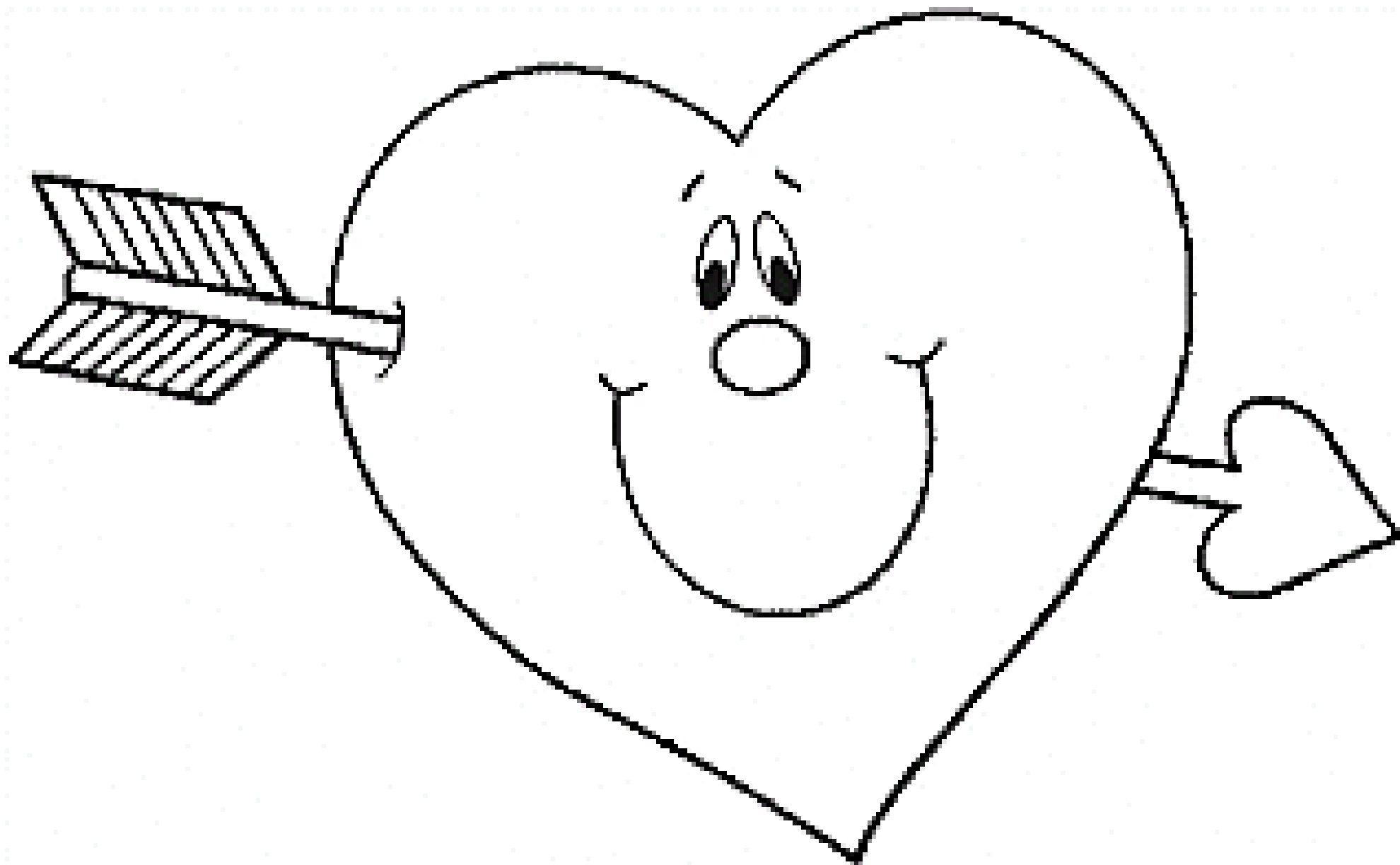






Happy Groundhog Day!





Happy St. Patrick's Day!

Slide on over to our website

Generationhomeschool.weelby.com (or click [HERE](#))

And download your FREE St. Patrick's Day Mini-Unit Study

Click Resources > Mini Unit Studies > St. Patrick's Day

Over 15 pages of holiday plans and lessons to help learn more about St.
Patrick's Day!



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