

You're Amazing, but not a Genius

If you don't think that you read the headline correctly, go ahead and look again.

How dare Mama Kay extoll such virtues. Be honest. That's what you are thinking.

Classifying someone one way or another is a little lesson for you to take away from Mama Kay's story. Be careful with labels.

Wise parents and teachers sparingly use the word, amazing, if they want their children to reach higher levels. Leading a child to believe that he is always great prohibits the learning curve from being operative.

As for the word, genius, occasionally, you and I can get a pat on the back for achieving some great feat. It makes you feel your worth. Truthfully, only that geeky kid in your high school class who knew just about everything beyond the textbook and teacher was the real genius. Not you.

Here's how I came about being a genius for a day or two.

During this COVID quarantine, you and I have done many activities to amuse ourselves to pass the time.

Mama Kay started doing the Spelling Bee in The New York Times and realized to her dismay that she needed to polish up a bit from her days in the classroom. That stuff slips away if it is not put to use like multiplication tables and rote spelling.

As she played the game, she upped and upped her levels from nice, good, to amazing and then finally genius. Frankly, it didn't take long. (Please don't think that I am bragging here.)

"Genius," she yelled out. "I'm a genius."

The glorious win didn't give Mama Kay a free pass, or name recognition outside the house. Nor did the victory get announced on Facebook. Twitter.

Believing in yourself, and accepting failure as part of learning marks you as a winner.