

## A Valentine's Day Gift

You've heard, I'm sure, that advice is cheap. We all know that many people give it freely. So freely, that those of us on the receiving end, pay little attention. Since today is Valentine's Day, I started thinking about how advice is sometimes a true gift.

Let me introduce you to **Thomas Transport**, **Star Singer**, and **Polly Politico**. Consider how their advice can give you high hopes and inspire you to dream!

### 1- Thomas Transport

Character	Dream	Challenge	Solution	Advice
Like Orville and Wilbur Wright, <b>Thomas Transport</b> is an inventor	Combine technologies from land, sea, and air transports into a brand new vehicle	Others say that Thomas's new vehicle can't be built, because it has never been built before	Builders of other modes of transport have scrap parts to offload and might pay him to take it away	Another's junk can be your treasure

### 2- Star Singer

Character	Dream	Challenge	Solution	Advice
<b>Star Singer</b> was one of the invisible homeless who lost her job, lost her home, and lived in	She will someday buy one of those homes with a "for sale" sign On a wintry day, she will	Hungry Too proud to ask for help	Star found community cupboards and volunteered as payment for food She saw others with needs and offered a	Pick up the pieces Start over Give back

A Valentine's Day Gift (Vocal Variety Speech)

<b>Character</b>	<b>Dream</b>	<b>Challenge</b>	<b>Solution</b>	<b>Advice</b>
her car	see smoke coming from the chimney and feel the warmth		smile and a song She started entertaining for free and then found paid gigs One of these days, Star will buy her home and fill a community cupboard for others in need	

### 3 - Polly Politico

<b>Character</b>	<b>Dream</b>	<b>Challenge</b>	<b>Solution</b>	<b>Advice</b>
<b>Polly Politico</b> dreams of one day being President	In her early 20s, she ran for mayor of her small town She dreamed of the young, old, disenfranchised, and privileged involved in revitalizing her town	You're too young You never ran for public office before You have no degree Who would vote for you?	Made cold calls door-to-door at all kinds of events and meetings Invited everyone she knew to campaign for her (with flyers, bake sales, low-cost fund-raisers) Media became interested The more people heard, the more they liked her	Lost the election "Win or lose, keep on playing!" Remember her name – you may vote her into office as President of the U.S!

## 4 - You

Character	Dream	Challenge	Solution	Advice
You	Have a dream Have high hopes that you will make it happen	Cast your obstacles as challenges, opportunities, minor inconvenience, or slight irritations	Remove, erase, delete, change direction, climb, go around, go under, go over, go through, transform, sell, donate, invest	On Valentines, accept the gifts (advice) from Thomas, Star, and Polly

My gift to you on Valentine's Day? Some words from the song, High Hopes, written by Cahn/VanHeusen. May they inspire you to face your challenges and reach your dreams!

Once there was a silly old ram  
Thought he'd punch a hole in a dam  
No one could make that ram, scam  
He kept buttin' that dam  
'cause he had high hopes, he had high hopes  
He had high apple pie, in the sky hopes  
So any time you're feelin' bad  
'stead of feelin' sad  
Just remember that ram  
Oops there goes a billion kilowatt dam