

*My dearest best friend (buddy) Jack,*

*One of my best memories with you was sharing a tent at Bateleur camp. We were in the wild bush of South Africa. You were 7 and I was 44. We both were lying on our cot in a closed tent listening to the sounds of the wild. Lions were roaring, hyenas were laughing and elephants were crushing trees. We had each other and we felt secure and safe. We kept looking at each other and we laughed thinking that anytime a hyena could come in our tent and take us away.*

*I think about our tent experience and I think about your outdoor ed Solo tonight. It's a solo experience, But you should know that I am always with you wherever you are. Oh, by the way, there are no hyenas in Colorado. Your safe.*

*I have spent a lot of my time in the outdoors alone thinking about important things in my life. I often ask myself, "What is important" and "where can I make a contribution?" These questions stimulate a lot of thinking and thinking is what we have in common. You and I do a lot of deep thinking.*

*You especially have a great gift of creativity. When you write you give all of us a insight and we begin to think in a different way. My favorite piece of yours is"*

*"To stimulate the irregular mind"*

Now, Here is the something's I would like to share with you as you reflect on what is important. There are two areas I would like to share with you.

The first part:

You will be facing important challenges this year and years to come. Relax, take them one at a time, however, do not become complacent. You should always have a plan and give it all you are capable of. This year, 2008, is already more than half way through. You may want to think about school, your Cate application, Tennis and doing whatever makes you happy.

The second part:

When times get tough, you may look for someone who will listen to you. I want you to always feel comfortable to talk to me, lean on me and use me to test out ideas or help solve problems. You may not use my advice and that's OK. What is important is that we always feel comfortable and safe with each other. At your Bats Mitzvah, I said:

- Live a life of happiness
- Never stop learning
- Be safe and trust your instincts

Have a great hike and I am looking forward to seeing you and hearing all about base camp when I get back on September 23<sup>rd</sup>.

XXXXO

I love you

Best buddy -DAD

PS. Hope you found the smarties