

Answer **one** of the following questions. Think outside the box: take a risk and go somewhere unexpected. Be serious if the moment calls for it but feel comfortable being playful if that suits you, too.

What makes you happy?

I am nostalgic for a past that I never experienced. It seems that the older something is, the more I enjoy it. I cherish all that is “classic”: classic movies and musicals, the classic vinyl radio station in my dad’s car, classic literature, and classic style. My music taste ranges from the 1600s to the 1960s and includes all of the numbers from *Singin’ in the Rain*, especially Gene Kelly and Donald O’Connor’s tap dancing number. You just don’t see dancing like that anymore. I’m like your most elderly relative. You know, the one who always points at the television screen and says, “You just don’t see dancing like that anymore.” I believe this is called being an “old soul” or, as my friends have diagnosed me, an “*actual* old person.”

That which excites me is what other teenagers see as having plummeted into obsolescence. There is something about my mother’s old books with yellowed pages, smelling of vanilla, that entices me to read them. The pathetic sound effects that accompany the appearance of a UFO on the *Twilight Zone* are music to my ears as I imagine sitting in front of that gloriously small TV box with its dials and antennae.

I wish my list of things that make me happy was as simple as “Raindrops on roses and whiskers on kittens” - and let’s face it: I was just waiting to reference a Julie Andrews musical - but I cannot hide who I am. I am seventeen going on seventy.