Q: What type of house did you grow up in?

A: I grew up in a farmhouse in the countryside, which had three bedrooms and a wood-burning sauna, which was built in the garage.

Q: How would you describe your hometown?

A: My hometown was a lovely, quiet town, but the industrial area had an odor due to the chemical plants.

Q: Did you move a lot as a child or stay in one place?

A: As a child, I lived on the same farm where my parents built a new house near an old house in the late 1970s.

Q: What was your favorite room in your childhood house?

A: My favorite room in my childhood house was the kitchen since it served good food, and the sauna was so relaxing.

Q: How did you usually spend your time at home as a child?

A: When I was younger, I typically spent my time at home doing after-school activities, farm chores, playing games, and hiking with my siblings.

Q: What schools did you attend growing up, and where were they located?

A: The schools I attended growing up were Robert Grey Elementary School, Cascade Middle School, Mark Morris High School, and Lower Columbia Community College, all located in Longview, Washington, and then I attended Portland State University.

Q: Did you find school enjoyable or not?

A: I found school okay, maybe because I was quiet and shy, but luckily, I had a few good friends there.

Q: Were you part of any extracurricular activities or clubs during school?

A: Though not directly as part of school extracurricular activities, I partook in church youth basketball games played every Friday evening at one of our school gyms.

Q: What was the most challenging part of your school life?

A: Most department of my school life would be facing the English-speaking world as my parents moved from Finland about seven years before my school started, and as we spoke Finnish primarily at home, which may have led/I quietly believe it led to my 'shyness.'

Q: What was your neighborhood like during your childhood?

A: During my childhood, we lived in a tiny countryside neighborhood with a few farmers and some old individuals but essentially lovely people.

Q: Who were your friends in your neighborhood during your childhood?

A: My friends with whom I spent time during my childhood in the neighborhood were several families of Finnish descent. We used to connect well.

Q: Where were you born?

A: I was born in the countryside of Longview, Washington, USA.

Q: Where have you been teaching English?

A: I have been teaching English in Finland, where English isn't the primary language.

Q: Who did you grow up with?

A: Growing up on a farm, our siblings consisted of cows, pigs, chickens, dogs, and cats.

Q: What type of books do you enjoy reading?

A: I enjoy books about history, mystery, the Bible, and archaeology.

Q: What animals did you have growing up and currently?

A: Growing up, we had cows, pigs, chickens, dogs, and cats. As adults, our kids have a dog, rabbits, and small animals.

Q: What inspired you to become an English teacher?

A: My love for helping the Finns and others learn English and other subjects motivated me to become an English teacher.

Q: How do you stay updated with your teaching methodologies?

A: To stay updated with the latest teaching methodologies, I create and update my style daily and use videos and AI when appropriate.

Q: What do you do with your weekends?

A: I enjoy my weekends gardening, hiking, biking, treasure hunting, visiting family and friends, and attending church.

Q: How do you relax after a long day of teaching?

A: After a long day of teaching, it's relaxing for me to engage in the sauna or outdoor chores like splitting wood, gardening, and walking.

Q: What are the common mistakes you notice among your students?

A: That would be with verb tenses and prepositions, which cause quite a headache for my Finnish students.

Q: What kind of food do you prefer?

A: In terms of foodstuff, my preference lies with black coffee, Finnish pulla, or a cinnamon roll.

Q: What kind of music do you listen to?

A: I enjoy classics. In particular, music by Beethoven and Bach captures my soul.

Q: What piece of advice do you often give to your students?

A: Oh, I advise them to continuously practice speaking English, listening to English, reading in English, and writing in English.

Q: What is your favorite season?

A: Oh, my favorite time of the year would be the Finnish summer, particularly in North Finland.

Q: Which countries do you still plan on visiting?

A: This is a lengthy list, but two countries I've always wanted to visit are Israel and China.

Q: How has your teaching experience evolved?

A: Well, with time, I realized that giving the students more time in the limelight tremendously accelerates their ability to absorb new material. As a result, classroom-type discussions increased.

Q: Are you fluent in any other subjects apart from English?

A: Yes, I am. Apart from English, history also deeply stirs me

Q: Did you have alternative occupations aside from teaching?

A: No, teaching hasn't been my only field. As children, our other profession was cross-country transportation, spanning the great Chesapeake Bridge along the east banks of the Potomac River.

Q: What exactly was the community like in the neighborhood where you grew up?

A: The community I grew up in was in a tiny countryside neighborhood where people were primarily lovely, including a few farmers and some old geezers.

Q: Did you play with friends in your neighborhood?

A: There were several families that I spent time with in my neighborhood that were of Finnish descent, and they were good kids.

Q: Were there any unique hangout places for kids in your locality?

A: In my locality, we used to play a lot of basketball in our barn called 'the cow palace.'

Q: What was the most unforgettable event from your time in the neighborhood?

A: From my time in the neighborhood, the most unforgettable event was when Johnny Piper's plane, carrying four passengers, crashed into the neighbor's forest.

Q: How did living in your neighborhood affect your views about community spending?

A: We felt a strong sense of lasting community allegiance as most people spent their entire lives there, including my eldest brother, who still lives there.

Q: Where did you grow up?

A: I grew up in Longview, Washington.

Q: Were there any noteworthy landmarks or sites where everyone would meet in your hometown?

A: In my hometown, the unavoidable landmark and convergence spot was Lake Sacajawea in the center of the city; it recounts many little incidents, including the 4th of July fireworks events and the established jogging path traced beautifully around the Lake.

Q: Can you provide a quick estimate of the size of your hometown?

A: My hometown has about 40,000 inhabitants. It is pretty industrial, with logging and forestry being the significant businesses.

Q: Who shaped your belief in the transformative power of relationships?

A: My belief in the transformative power of relationships was carved by my surroundings, including my family, friends, and students, even the profoundly human-centric texts like 'Guns, Germs, and Steel.'

Q: You've spent three decades in Finland. How has that experience influenced your perspective?

A: After spending three decades in the enrichingly diverse cultural landscape of Finland as an English teacher, my perspective has been significantly enhanced, and I now hold the world with an eagerness for dialogue that fosters understanding.

Q: How has your experience being a U.S.-born individual reflected in your work?

A: Preparing American-rooted discourse materials so I can share knowledge and wisdom across multiple disciplines, my U.S.-born nature was incorporated into the Finland education system quite harmoniously, leading to an insightful and engaging learning journey.

Q: What is one example of the potential of every experience and interaction to teach us something valuable?

A: Take 'The Guns, Germs, and Steel' - this paradigm-shifting text, aside from reshaping thoughts on environmental influences, offers a macro lesson: the world around us constantly courses with lessons, arriving when we are open-minded, heart-willed, and soul-surveying, catalyzing potential development dispensed in daily experiences and interactions.

Q: Can your jail philosophy on life impact Captain through your teaching career?

A: as an English teacher with life experiences steeped in intertwined sectors, I've garnered irreplaceable insights that transmit consolidated figurative narrative onto subsequent generations, drawing upon environment-induced understanding and emulating it through personalized value impartation methods and, ultimately, bridging the transnational expanses by fostering understanding through dialogue.

Q: What is an idiom or phrase you are fond of?

A: An idiom or phrase I am fond of is 'rise to the occasion.'

Q: What are three countries you are interested in visiting?

A: I have always wanted to visit Israel, China, and Egypt.

Q: What are your other passions besides English

A: Apart from English, I am also passionate about history.

Q: What is one misconception students might have about you?

A: A fun fact about myself that many students might not know is that I was the shyest kid in the senior class.

Q: How has your teaching style evolved over the years?

A: Over the years, teaching has changed for me by giving the students more time to speak.

Q: What was the last book you read?

A: The last book I read was a history book by Stephen King.

Q: What philosophy do you follow while teaching?

A: My teaching philosophy is getting utterly interested in the students' work, jobs, family, and hobbies. I believe in listening and letting them talk and discuss.

Q: Could you talk us a bit through your childhood memories?

A: My earliest memory from childhood is growing up on a farm at 223 Wohl Road in a small three-bedroom house with a loving family.

Q: What games did you play as a child?

A: As a child, I enjoyed building puzzles and models of cars. We also played lots of basketball with my brothers in the barn, in addition to baseball and football in the yard.

Q: What subjects interested you when you were in school?

A: During my childhood, History and Science were my favorite subjects in school.

Q: Can you tell us a bit about your siblings?

A: I have seven brothers and three sisters. I had good relations with all of them, including my brother, who lives in Finland.

Q: What is your take on family traditions?

A: As for family traditions, I hold dearly Sunday meals after church, especially those prepared by my mom, who was great at cooking and baking good Finnish bread.

Q: What roles did your parents play in your life?

A: My parents, who have passed away, played significant roles in my life, especially my father, who worked as a Lutheran preacher, and my Finnish mother, who was always quiet, caring, and loving.

Q: How did your birthplace look like?

A: I grew up in a farmhouse. A versatile three-bedroom, cozy, wood-burning sauna was built in the garage, for as you know, a Finn cannot live without a sala.

Q: Why was your kitchen your favorite part of the house?

A: The kitchen, with its delicious food, was my favorite room in the house, along with the sauna - after all, who doesn't enjoy a relaxing steam?

Q: Describe how you kept yourself occupied at home during your young years.

A: During my younger years at home, my time was typically spent doing farm chores, reading, homework, playing games, hiking with my siblings after a session of schoolwork

Q: Which nationalities did you typically encounter in your classroom that led to memorable experiences?

A: In the classroom, an exciting scenario occurred involving students from Nepal, Pakistan, and China – a complex issue led to a Chinese student leaving temporarily.

Q: Could you provide us with details of the schools you attended growing up and if, indeed, you enjoyed that period?

A: During my formative educational years, I attended the Robert Grey Elementary School, Cascade Middle School, Mark Morris High School, Lower Columbia Community College, all in Longview, Washington, and then Portland State University, a period of life aligned much with learning with few engagement in extracurricular activities.

Q: Elaborating on the atmosphere of your hometown seems interesting.

A: My hometown was entirely laid back yet had a distinctive industrial odor due to the number of chemical plants planted nearby.

Q: Growing up, is there evidence of you moving around quite often, or did you primarily stay put in one place?

A: Interestingly enough, I lived on the same farm all my life and saw my parents build a new house in the late 1970s to sustain our administration of the farm.

Q: Were your initial years in school challenging, considering your family's prominently Finnish culture?

A: Getting accustomed to a predominantly English teaching system, after immersing mostly in Finnish throughout my early years, posed significant challenges and potentially contributed mainly to my reserved nature in the classroom.

Q: What inspired you to become an English teacher?

A: My love for helping Finns and others learn English and other subjects inspired me to become an English teacher.

Q: What are your favorite genres of books to read?

A: I enjoy reading books on history, mystery, the Bible, and archeology.

Q: Which countries have you traveled to?

A: I have traveled to Egypt, Kosovo, Sweden, and France.

Q: What animals did you have on your farm growing up?

A: Growing up on a farm, we had cows, pigs, chickens, dogs, and cats.

Q: How do you spend your weekends?

A: I like to spend my weekends gardening, hiking, biking, treasure hunting, visiting family and friends, and going to church.

Q: What are your hobbies outside of teaching?

A: My hobbies outside of teaching include studying other languages, ancient things, Egypt, and pyramids.

Q: What type of music do you enjoy listening to?

A: I enjoy listening to classical music, especially Beethoven and Bach.

Q: How long have you lived in Finland?

A: I have lived in Finland for over 30 years.

Q: What is a common mistake students make in learning English?

A: A common mistake students make is with verb tenses and prepositions.

Q: How do you relax after a long day of teaching?

A: After a long day of teaching, I relax by taking a sauna or working outside, splitting wood, gardening, and walking.

Q: What is your favorite beverage and snack?

A: I prefer black coffee with Finnish pulla or a cinnamon roll.

Q: What advice do you give your students?

A: The advice I always give to my students is to practice every week, speak, listen, read, and write.

Q: What is your favorite season or time of the year?

A: My favorite season or time of the year is the Finnish summer in North Finland.

Q: What English idiom or phrase do you love?

A: An English idiom or phrase that I love is "rise to the occasion."

Q: Which countries have you always wanted to visit?

A: I have always wanted to visit Israel and China, in addition to Egypt.

Q: What type of food do you enjoy cooking?

A: I enjoy cooking wildly different types of meats.

Q: How has teaching changed for you over the years?

A: Over the years, teaching has changed for me by giving the students more time to speak.

Q: Can you share a fun fact about yourself that many students might not know?

A: A fun fact about myself that many students might not know is that I was the shyest kid in the senior class.

Q: Apart from English, what other subject are you passionate about?

A: Apart from English, I am also passionate about history.

Q: Can you recall any memorable incidents in your classroom?

A: I haven't had anything serious happen in the classroom, except when a Nepalese or Pakistani student asked a Chinese student something foolish. The Chinese student left but came back after the other student talked.

Q: What was your favorite subject during your school days?

A: I liked school history from my school days.

Q: What was the last book you read?

A: The last book I read was a history book by Stephen King.

Q: Can you describe your teaching philosophy?

A: My teaching philosophy is to get utterly interested in the students' work, job, family, and hobbies. I believe in listening and letting them talk and discuss.

Q: Where were you born and raised?

A: I was born and raised in the United States.

Q: How long have you been living in Finland?

A: I have been residing in Finland for three decades.

Q: What led you to move to Finland?

A: My journey to Finland began with my studies at Reisjärvi Christian College, where I met my future wife.

Q: Can you tell me more about your teaching experiences?

A: As an English and Finnish language trainer, I've had the opportunity to work with a diverse range of students. It's been a rewarding experience helping them improve their language skills and confidence.

Q: What are some of your hobbies outside of teaching?

A: Outside of teaching, I enjoy working on renovating my parents' old cabin in northern Finland. I also spent time developing my online English school.

Q: How do you incorporate your life philosophy into your teaching methods?

A: My life philosophy is all about understanding through dialogue. In my classes, I encourage open discussions and active participation from all students. This way, they can learn not just from me but also from each other.

Q: Can you share more about your family life in Finland?

A: I have been happily married since 1988, and we are blessed with six children and five grandchildren. We live in our own house in the countryside of Haapavesi, Finland.

Q: How has living in Finland influenced your perspective on life and teaching?

A: Living in Finland has given me a unique perspective on life and teaching. The Finnish education system values equality, creativity, and critical thinking - principles that align with my beliefs as an educator.

Q: What inspired you to become an entrepreneur?

A: My love for numbers and calculations led me to choose accounting as my major in college. This background, combined with my passion for language training, inspired me to start my online English school.

Q: How do you spend your weekends?

A: I typically spend my weekends relaxing, visiting family and friends, and working in the yard. It's a balance of rest and productivity that keeps me energized for the week ahead.

Q: Where are you currently residing?

A: I currently reside in Haapavesi, Finland, in our own house in the countryside.

Q: How do you typically spend your weekends?

A: I typically spend my weekends relaxing, visiting family and friends, and working in the yard.

Q: What are your current life goals?

A: My current life goals are to develop and build this online English school, continue renovating my parent's old cabin in northern Finland, stay healthy, and work with the youth.

Q: Can you name some books that have influenced your life philosophy?

A: Some books that have influenced my life philosophy include "Sinuhe the Egyptian" by Mika Waltari, "Start with Why" by Simon Sinek, "How to Win Friends" by Dale Carnegie, "Chicken Soup Stories" by Jack Canfield and Mark Victor Hansen, "One Minute Manager" by Kenneth Blanchard and Spencer Johnson, "Blue Highways" by William Least Heat Moon, and "Gun, Germs, and Steel" by Jared Diamond.

Q: How has literature influenced your outlook on life?

A: Literature has been a profound influence on my life and outlook. It has allowed me to immerse myself deeply into the essence of life by embracing workshops of the mind, heart, spirit, and actions. For instance, through Sinuhe's journey in "Sinuhe the Egyptian," I've learned about the importance of humility and resilience in the face of life's unpredictable vicissitudes.

Q: How has Simon Sinek's book shaped your philosophy of life?

A: Simon Sinek's book "Start with Why" reminds me how critical it is to have a purpose that guides our actions. This principle is now a bedrock that anchors my existence and motivates me to strive.

Q: What lessons have you learned from Dale Carnegie's book?

A: From Dale Carnegie's "How to Win Friends and Influence People," I've learned to express genuine interest in others, understand their desires, and appreciate their contributions. This approach has helped me build and nurture relationships, fostering a sense of community and mutual respect.

Q: How has Jared Diamond's book influenced your thinking?

A: Jared Diamond's "Guns, Germs, and Steel" has significantly shaped my life philosophy by elucidating the environmental factors forming the fabric of human societies. It reminds me of our shared humanity and the profound role our environment continues to play in shaping our opportunities and experiences.

Q: Can you tell us about your birthplace and early life?

A: I was born in Longview, Washington, USA, a quiet town with an industrial area. I spent my childhood on a farm in the countryside where we had cows, pigs, chickens, dogs, and cats. Growing up in such a setting taught me the value of hard work from a young age.

Q: What inspired you to become an English teacher?

A: My love for helping Finns and others learn English and other subjects inspired me to become an English teacher. I've been teaching English for over 30 years now.

Q: What are some of your hobbies outside of teaching?

A: Outside of teaching, I enjoy reading books on history, mystery, the Bible, and archeology. I also like studying other languages and ancient things like Egypt and pyramids. On weekends, I enjoy gardening, hiking, biking, treasure hunting, visiting family and friends, and attending church.

Q: How do you keep up with the latest teaching methodologies?

A: To stay updated with the latest teaching methodologies, I create and update my style as the day progresses. I also use videos and AI when appropriate.

Q: What is a common mistake students make in learning English?

A: A common mistake students make is with verb tenses and prepositions. These can cause a headache for Finnish students who are learning English.

Q: How do you relax after a long day of teaching?

A: After a long day of teaching, I relax by taking a sauna or working outside - splitting wood or gardening - and walking.

Q: What advice do you give to your students?

A: The piece of advice I always give to my students is to practice every week - speak English, listen to it being spoken by others, read it in books or online articles, and write it in essays or letters.

Q: What is your favorite English idiom or phrase?

A: An English idiom or phrase that I love is "rise to the occasion." It encourages people to step up and perform well in challenging situations.

Q: Can you share a fun fact about yourself?

A: A fun fact about myself that many students might not know is that I was the shyest kid in my senior class. It's interesting how life changes us.

Q: What is your teaching philosophy?

A: My teaching philosophy is to get utterly interested in the students' work, job, family, and hobbies. I believe in listening and letting them talk and discuss. This helps me understand their perspective better and tailor my teaching methods accordingly.

Q: Can you tell us about your family and siblings?

A: I come from a large family with seven brothers and three sisters. My oldest brother is Timo, followed by Kari, then me, Mark, Maria, Anita, Erik, Paul, Susan, Keith, and Andrew. We all grew up on the farm together, and I still maintain a good relationship with all of them.

Q: What are some of your favorite childhood memories?

A: Some of my earliest memories from childhood include growing up on our farm at 223 Wohl Road in a small three-bedroom house. I remember playing basketball with my brothers in the barn and baseball and football in the yard.

Q: How did your parents influence your life?

A: Both my parents have passed away, but they played significant roles in my life. My mother, Kaarina, was quiet, caring, and loving, while my father, Lauri, was hardworking and a Lutheran preacher. They instilled in me the values of hard work and love for family.

Q: Can you share some memorable experiences from your teaching career?

A: One memorable experience I've had while teaching is when a Nepalese or Pakistani student asked a Chinese student something inappropriate. The Chinese student left but came back after the other student apologized.

Q: What were your favorite subjects in school during your childhood?

A: During my childhood, my favorite subjects in school were history and science. I believe this early interest led to my love for reading books on history and archeology later in life.

Q: Have you traveled much? If so, where have you been?

A: Yes, I have traveled to several countries, including Egypt, Kosovo, Sweden, and France. However, I've lived in Finland for over 30 years, far from my birthplace in Washington.

Q: What are some places you'd like to visit that you haven't yet?

A: I have always wanted to visit Israel and China, in addition to Egypt. I'm also interested in visiting Peru.

Q: How has teaching changed for you over the years?

A: Over the years, teaching has changed for me by giving the students more time to speak. I believe this helps them practice their English speaking skills and gain confidence in using the language.

Q: Can you tell us about your early life and where you were born?

A: I was born in Longview, Washington, USA, in the countryside. I grew up on a small farm with cows, pigs, chickens, dogs, and cats.

Q: What kind of responsibilities did you have on the farm?

A: On the farm, my responsibilities included milking the cows, giving hay to the animals, and working in the fields.

Q: How did your upbringing influence your career choice?

A: Growing up on a farm taught me hard work and dedication, which I apply in my current occupation as an entrepreneur and English language trainer.

Q: You mentioned that you've been teaching English for over 30 years. What inspired you to become an English teacher?

A: My love for helping Finns and others learn English and other subjects inspired me to become an English teacher.

Q: What are some of your hobbies outside of teaching?

A: Outside of teaching, I enjoy studying other languages and ancient things like Egypt and the pyramids. I also enjoy reading books on history, mystery, the Bible, and archeology.

Q: How do you relax after a long day of teaching?

A: After a long day of teaching, I relax by taking a sauna, working outside in my garden, or splitting wood.

Q: What advice do you give to your students to help them improve their English skills?

A: The advice I always give to my students is to practice every week - speak, listen, read, and write.

Q: You mentioned living in Finland for over 30 years. How has this influenced your teaching style?

A: Living in Finland for over 30 years has helped me understand that English isn't the primary language here. This understanding helps me create and update my style as the day goes on to make learning easier for my students.

Q: What are some common mistakes students make in learning English?

A: A common mistake I see students make is with verb tenses and prepositions, which can cause a headache for Finnish students.

Q: Can you share a fun fact about yourself that many students might not know?

A: A fun fact about myself that many students might not know is that I was the shyest kid in the senior class.

Q: Can you share a bit about your teaching experience in Finland?

A: I've been teaching English in Finland for over three decades. My approach to teaching is rooted in fostering understanding through dialogue. I believe in immersing myself in my students' lives, work, family, and hobbies. I encourage them to talk and discuss, as listening is critical to effective learning.

Q: What sparked your interest in history?

A: My passion for history dates back to my school days. I always enjoyed studying history, and this interest has stayed with me throughout my life. The last book I read was either a history book or something by Stephen King.

Q: Could you describe an incident from your classroom that stands out?

A: One incident that comes to mind involves a Nepalese or Pakistani student asking a Chinese student something inappropriate. The Chinese student left but returned after the other student had spoken.

Q: Can you tell us about your childhood home and family?

A: I grew up on a farm at 223 Wohl Road in a small three-bedroom house. We were a large family with seven brothers and three sisters. Our parents were hardworking and loving; our father was also a Lutheran preacher.

Q: What were some of your favorite activities as a child?

A: As a child, I enjoyed building puzzles and models of cars. We also played lots of basketball with my brothers in the barn, as well as baseball and football in the yard.

Q: How did growing up on a farm shape who you are today?

A: Growing up on a farm taught me the value of hard work from an early age. It provided me with a stable childhood and instilled clear values that have guided me throughout my life.

Q: Can you share some cherished family traditions?

A: One tradition that we hold dear is having Sunday meals after church. My mother was an excellent cook, and she baked delicious Finnish bread.

Q: How would you describe your hometown?

A: My hometown was a quiet place, but the industrial area had a distinct odor due to the chemical plants. Despite this, it was a nice place to grow up.

Q: What was your school life like?

A: I attended Robert Grey Elementary School, Cascade Middle School, Mark Morris High School, and Lower Columbia Community College, all in Longview, Washington, and then Portland State University. I was a quiet and shy student with a few good friends.

Q: Can you share a memorable event from your neighborhood?

A: One event that stands out is when a four-passenger Piper plane crashed into our neighbor's forest. It's quite a story in itself.

Q: Can you share more about your upbringing in Longview, Washington?

A: I was raised in Longview, Washington, with around 40,000 inhabitants. It's an industrial town with pulp and paper, chemical, and forestry as the primary industries. The town is known for Lake Sacajawea, an artificial lake in the city center that was created to dry up the valley. We also had a significant event yearly - the 4th of July fireworks.

Q: How did your religious upbringing shape your life?

A: My family and I were regular attendees at the Laestadian Lutheran Church. It played a significant role in our lives through Sunday School, Bible Class, services, youth gatherings, and camps. I even served as a Sunday School teacher. One of my most cherished memories from church is attending confirmation camp in Minnesota.

Q: What are some of your favorite holiday traditions?

A: Christmas is my favorite holiday because it brings the family together for gifts and good food. We celebrate significant holidays by gathering together and enjoying hearty meals. We also follow some Finnish traditions at different times. Nowadays, the Good Friday service has become one of my favorite holiday traditions.

Q: Could you tell us about your travel experiences?

A: My first big trip was to Finland in the early '70s, where I visited cousins, grandma, and families. This trip remains memorable because of the unique experiences, such as drinking Finnish soda pop and eating grilled sausage. Since then, I have traveled internationally to countries like Sweden, Canada, Kosovo, France, Egypt, and Turkey.

Q: What sports did you play growing up?

A: Growing up, I played basketball, baseball, and football but now primarily engage in exercise activities like biking and hiking.

Q: Can you share some memories from growing up on a farm?

A: Yes! I grew up on a small farm with cows and other animals like chickens, pigs, ducks, dogs, and cats. My responsibilities included milking the cows, giving hay, and working in the fields. One of my favorite memories from the farm is our barn, which was loved by everyone around for its basketball court upstairs.

Q: What was your educational journey like?

A: I attended Mark Morris High School in Longview and then studied at Lower Columbia Community College and Portland State University. I also attended Reisjärvi Christian College in Finland for a one-year program where I became more independent. I majored in Accounting because I enjoy working with numbers and calculating costs and profits.

Q: How has your experience been as an English teacher in Finland?

A: My experience as an English teacher in Finland has been enriching. The cultural exchange and the opportunity to foster understanding through dialogue have been rewarding aspects of my career. It's a role that has allowed me to use my background and experiences to provide a unique perspective to my students.

Q: Can you tell us about your college years and how it was living away from home with your brother?

A: My college years were a significant period of growth and self-discovery. Living away from home with my brother was an enriching experience that taught me the importance of independence, responsibility, and the value of family. It was during this time that I learned to navigate life's challenges while also appreciating the joys of shared experiences.

Q: What led you to become an entrepreneur, English and Finnish language trainer, and translator?

A: My passion for languages and communication led me to become an English and Finnish language trainer. Over time, I realized that I could leverage my skills to create a broader impact, which inspired me to become an entrepreneur. As a translator, I enjoy bridging cultural gaps and fostering understanding through language.

Q: Could you share more about your family life?

A: I have been married since 1988, and we are blessed with six children and five grandchildren. Our family is our greatest joy, and we cherish every moment spent together.

Q: How do you typically spend your weekends in Haapavesi, Finland?

A: In Haapavesi, our weekends are usually spent relaxing, visiting family and friends, or working in the yard. We enjoy the tranquility of our countryside home and simple activities that bring us closer to nature.

Q: What are your current life goals?

A: My current life goals include developing my online English school further and continuing the renovation of my parents' old cabin in northern Finland. I also aim to stay healthy and actively work with youth as part of my commitment to lifelong learning.

Q: Could you share some insights from the books that have influenced your philosophy of life?

A: Certainly! "Sinuhe the Egyptian" taught me about humility and resilience amidst life's unpredictable changes. "Start with Why" emphasized the importance of having a guiding purpose. "How to Win Friends and Influence People" showed me the value of genuine interest in others and an appreciation of their contributions. "Blue Highways," Chicken Soup books, and One Minute Manager highlighted that profound lessons often come from unexpected avenues. Lastly, "Guns, Germs, and Steel" reminded me of our shared humanity and the role our environment plays in shaping our experiences.

Q: How have these books shaped your approach to teaching English?

A: These books have greatly influenced my teaching philosophy. I believe in fostering understanding through dialogue, much like how Sinuhe's journey helped me understand life's complexities. I strive to instill a sense of purpose in my students, as emphasized by Simon Sinek. Dale Carnegie's teachings guide me to appreciate each student's unique contribution. At the same time, the narratives from Blue Highways and Chicken Soup books remind me that every student has a unique story to tell. Finally, Jared Diamond's perspective on environmental influences reinforces my belief that learning is an ongoing process shaped by our surroundings.