

Looking as a Skill

If you don't want "looking" as your skill, then how about "pay attention?" (Unless you're out of attention, and what you really should be doing is treating your attention with respect)

Favorite childhood book

Identifying your favorite childhood book reveals as much about your calling, or who you are. As Guinness says in his book, "The Call: Finding and Fulfilling the Central Purpose of Your Life," that "calling reverses the way most people think...instead of 'You are what you do,' calling says 'Do what you are.'"

Want to improve how skillfully you look? Start with taking a good look at who you are. Look at yourself. That may and should strike you as odd advice for the topic of how to develop the skill of looking. But paying attention to who you are will help you pay more attention to where you are. Why? Because how you see yourself influences what you are when you look.

Walker in the City

David Finn (professional photographer) was affected by a single photograph he took in NYC out the window of a car of a person walking while reading a book. Only after Finn had developed the film for this photograph did he notice a second person who was sitting on the stoop as the reader-walker went by. Finn considered this a major revelation. "I had never looked so intently at the scenes of daily life before. And as I looked through my viewfinder, my mind gave new meaning to what I was seeing. I saw more than what was there because I was paying such close attention to what I was photographing. Finn no longer saw himself as merely a photographer, but rather as a "walker in the city." This different look at himself transformed his ability to look outside himself.

Six Looking Glasses

"Rose-colored glasses" is a useful approach for seeing things as better than they currently are. This view looks past the readily apparent flaws to observe the opportunities that could be and maybe should be there. Rose-colored glasses look ahead to improve the scene by uncovering hidden opportunities.