

Bios and Bylines



Walter Boomsma--writer, essayist, and observer of everyday life. Thoughtful non-fiction that invites you to slow down, look closer, and find meaning in the world around you.

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Byline – word count 20

Walter Boomsma is an educator, author, and community advocate who enjoys exploring the connections between learning, communication, and human experience.

Byline – word count 25

Walter Boomsma is an educator, speaker, and author of *Small People—Big Brains*. He shares stories and insights that inspire curiosity, kindness, and lifelong learning.

Byline – word count 57, AI-generated

Walter Boomsma's words not only entertain but also enlighten, serving as a testament to his commitment to both the written word and the transformative power of knowledge. Whether delving into the realms of fiction or non-fiction, Boomsma's work is a testament to the enduring impact of a storyteller who understands the delicate dance between intellect and imagination.

Byline – word count 78

Walter Boomsma is an educator, writer, and community advocate dedicated to inspiring curiosity and fostering connections among people. With a background in teaching and public speaking, he blends practical wisdom with a deep appreciation for lifelong learning. His work often explores themes of personal growth, communication, and community engagement, encouraging readers to think differently and discover meaning in everyday experiences. Through his writing and outreach, Walter strives to spark conversations that lead to understanding, empathy, and positive change.

Byline-word count 116, AI-generated

Walter Boomsma, a seasoned wordsmith with a passion for education, seamlessly weaves his diverse experiences into the fabric of his writing. Drawing from a rich background in teaching, Boomsma's narratives reflect a deep understanding of human connection and the intricacies of learning. His works, whether in the form of enlightening essays or captivating short stories, resonate with a profound appreciation for the beauty found in everyday life.

With an engaging writing style that effortlessly bridges the gap between the profound and the accessible, Boomsma invites readers on a journey of exploration and introspection. Beyond his literary pursuits, Boomsma has dedicated years to education, leaving an indelible mark on the minds of those he has inspired.

Byline-wordcount 143

Walter Boomsma is an educator, speaker, and author of *Small People—Big Brains*. He shares stories and insights that inspire curiosity, kindness, and lifelong learning.

One of his favorite newsletter articles involved a doctor's visit. The receptionist's five-year-old daughter demonstrated amazingly simple problem-solving skills and taught him to write his name.

That experience was the seed of this first book, published in 2013. *Small People—Big Brains* includes stories about simplicity, exploration, and wonder—things kids are good at. (Available online from Amazon and many bookstores.)

Walter Boomsma's words not only entertain but also enlighten, serving as a testament to his commitment to both the written word and the transformative power of knowledge. Whether delving into the realms of fiction or non-fiction, Boomsma's work is a testament to the enduring impact of a storyteller who understands the delicate dance between intellect and imagination.

Byline-word count 148

Walter Boomsma claims his writing career began in grade school. "I took great pleasure in writing letters to my grandmother and learned to enjoy putting words on paper. While she may not always have been objective, she seemed to enjoy reading them."

An adult career as a consultant in individual and organizational development offered many writing opportunities, ranging from employee handbooks to newsletters to complete training courses.

One of his favorite newsletter articles involved a doctor's visit. The receptionist's five-year-old daughter demonstrated amazingly simple problem-solving skills and taught him to write his name. That experience was the seed of this first book, published in 2013. "*Small People—Big Brains*" includes stories about simplicity, exploration, and wonder—things kids are good at.

He thinks he's getting better at all three. He lives in rural Maine, where life is more straightforward, and he plays with kids whenever possible.

Bio, word count 457

As a grade school student, I took great pleasure in writing letters to my grandmother and found I enjoyed putting words on paper. I recall one piece I wrote in junior high regarding how to set up an aquarium. The basis was all the mistakes one would make in the process. The teacher loved it. I remember her love of it more than I remember the actual piece.

I was fortunate to have several teachers who encouraged my craft and some who didn't. During junior high, I remember one teacher's comment on an essay I wrote. She was horribly upset that I'd misspelled the word "truly" several times. Her concern was the repetition of the mistake. I wanted to note that if I thought I'd spelled it right the first time, why would I question it the next time? And why didn't she criticize me for overusing the word? I confess, however, that I learned how simple errors can detract from the message. I also never spelled truly wrong again.

During high school, Mr. Russo sharpened my writing skills. I recall many of his scribbles in the margin... often accusing me of dysentery of the pen and advising me to put my head "squarely on

the chopping block” when I took a controversial position. (A chapter in *Small People — Big Brains* is devoted to his tutelage.)

I do owe a debt of gratitude to Professor Bailey, a college professor who assigned something profoundly simple. He made us keep a journal. We had to write a paragraph every day. The big disappointment was that he never collected it. A number of years passed before I fully appreciated the magic of the assignment. I think it was in part, “Better to write for oneself and have no public than to write for the public and have no self.”

In 1985, I began working as an independent consultant in individual and organizational development. It was perhaps providential that I learned at least one powerful lesson about problem-solving from a first grader. We could learn management concepts by watching kids play. Kids tend to make things simple and direct. Unfortunately, I couldn’t find a team of kids that I could take on the road with me.

When I semi-retired in 2002, I moved to Maine to find some of the simplicity that kids understand. I somewhat accidentally (or perhaps “fatefully”) found myself working on a volunteer basis with kids and later as a substitute teacher.

I published my first book, “*Small People—Big Brains*,” in 2013. Several books followed, and I continue to write on simplicity and personal growth. The kids haven’t run out of things to teach me. They may be small people, but they really do have big brains.