

# You Have a Brain: A Teen's Guide to Think Big

By Ben Carson M.D.


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Throughout his life, renowned neurosurgeon Dr. Benjamin Carson has needed to overcome many obstacles: His father leaving the family; being considered stupid by his classmates in grade school; growing up in inner-city Detroit; and having a violent temper. But Dr. Carson didn't let his circumstances control him, and instead discovered eight principles that helped shape his future.

In *You Have a Brain: A Teen's Guide to Think Big*, Dr. Carson unpacks the eight important parts of Thinking Big—Talent, Honesty, Integrity, Niceness, Knowledge, Books, In-Depth learning, and God—and presents the stories of people who demonstrated those things in his life. By applying the idea of T.H.I.N.K. B.I.G. to your life, and by looking at those around you as well, you too can overcome obstacles and work toward achieving your dreams.

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### Editorial Review

#### Review

The title of *You Have a Brain: A Teen's Guide to T.H.I.N.K. B.I.G* centers on the advice Ben Carson's mother gave him and his brother: you have a brain—use it. The well-known neurosurgeon Dr. Benjamin Carson has overcome the obstacles of his father's leaving the family, being considered stupid by his classmates in grade school, and having a violent temper. He articulates eight principles that helped shape his future and which make up thinking big: Talent, Honesty, Insight, being Nice, Knowledge, Books, In-Depth Learning, and God. Writing for a teen audience, Carson amply demonstrates that the effective use of one's brain does trump peer pressure. In his experience, "peers" were actually People Encouraging Errors, Rudeness and stupidity. Carson also makes clear that his own battle with an out-of-control temper required help from God, though using his brain to recognize the need was essential. Gregg Lewis is the author or coauthor of more than 50 books, and Deborah Shaw Lewis has authored or coauthored more than a dozen books; the two are the parents of five children. As a team they have worked with Dr. Carson and are able to articulate insights in a fashion that encourages personal assessment. Leroy Hommerding, CLJ (*Christian Library Journal*)

#### About the Author

Dr. Benjamin Carson was the renowned Professor of Neurosurgery, Plastic Surgery, Oncology, and Pediatrics, and the Director of Pediatric Neurosurgery at Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions. He is also the author of five bestselling books—*Gifted Hands*, *Think Big*, *The Big Picture*, *Take the Risk*, *America the Beautiful*, and *One Nation*. He and his wife, Candy, cofounded the Carson Scholars Fund ([www.carsonscholars.org](http://www.carsonscholars.org)), established to counteract America's crisis in education by identifying and rewarding academic role models in the fourth through eleventh grades, regardless of background, who also demonstrate humanitarian qualities. Ben and Candy are the parents of three grown sons and reside in Florida.

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