

The Proust Questionnaire has its origins in a parlor game popularized by Marcel Proust, the French essayist and novelist, who believed that, in answering these questions, an individual reveals his or her true nature.

## Proust questionnaire: L. Allen Wilson, MD



**What profession might you have pursued, if not medicine?**  
Biologist.

**Which talent would you most like to have?**  
Classical guitar mastery.

**What do you consider your greatest achievement?**  
1985 Nobel Peace Prize, International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War.

**Who are your heroes?**  
The Dalai Lama, Mahatma Gandhi, Nelson Mandela.

**What is your idea of perfect happiness?**  
Acceptance of what is.

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Dr Wilson is a retired ophthalmologist, happy to have practised in Penticton.

**What is your greatest fear?**  
Failure.

**What is the trait you most deplore in yourself?**  
Cynicism—it's mellowing with age.

**What characteristic do your favorite patients share?**  
A good sense of humor.

**What is your favorite activity?**  
Photography.

**On what occasion do you lie?**  
To save face, for self and others.

**Which words or phrases do you most overuse?**  
What if... ?

**What medical advance do you most anticipate?**  
Accurate artificial sight, with external occipital cortex stimulation.

**What is your most marked characteristic?**  
Persistence.

**What do you most value in your colleagues?**  
Compassion.

**Who are your favorite writers?**  
Scott Kiloby, John Vaillant, Derek Lundy.

**What is your greatest regret?**  
Lack of medical volunteerism.

**How would you like to die?**  
In my sleep.

**What is your motto?**  
Reality is always kinder than the stories we tell about it.

**Tell us a bit about yourself.** Please complete and submit a Proust Questionnaire—your colleagues will appreciate it.



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