

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: Beth Watt, MD



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

CBC Radio journalist.

**Which talent would you most like to have?**

Fluency in two other languages (e.g., French and Spanish).

**What do you consider your greatest achievement?**

Raising two individual, independent sons with my husband, Peter.

**Who are your heroes?**

Julia Child, Oscar Peterson, and Stephen Lewis.

**What is your idea of perfect happiness?**

Baking bread and cakes—with teenagers to gobble them up—after a night on call delivering babies.

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Dr Watt is a GP in Fort Langley.

**What is the trait you most deplore in yourself?**

Fighting the clock.

**What characteristic do your favorite patients share?**

Hope and courage.

**Which living physician do you most admire?**

Dr Atul Gawande—he is a big thinker.

**What is your favorite activity?**

Planning and traveling to explore food cultures (e.g., Vietnam, Borneo, Kuala Lumpur, Mexico City, Puebla, and New York City).

**Which words or phrases do you most overuse?**

At the end of the office day, “There it is,” and, when talking to students, “You will get tangled up.”

**What technical advance do you most anticipate?**

Blood serotonin levels.

**What is your most marked characteristic?**

Cautious optimism.

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

Sense of humor and strength of character.

**Who are your favorite writers?**

Dorie Greenspan, Alice Waters, and Richard Sax.

**What is your greatest regret?**

Not planting grapes on the Naramata Bench 20 years ago.

**How would you like to die?**

Skiing on Burnt Stew Basin (a ski run on Whistler Mountain) on a “blue-bird” day.

**What is your motto?**

Same as Wallace and Gromit: “Hang in there, everything’s under control.”

**Submit a Proust Questionnaire**—your colleagues will appreciate it.



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