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Conversations with My Daughter Dad, what is “Gay”?

February of 2008 Driving from the National Air and Space Museum - Steven F. Udvar-hazy Center in Chantilly, VA
Part-1

T: Dad, what is gay?

Dad: Gay?

T: What does it mean?

Dad: Gay?

T: Do you know what it means?

Dad: Gay... has several meanings...the meaning of the word – gay, really, depends on the sentence where it's used...

T: Oh!

Dad: One definition for gay means happy!

T: Happy?

Dad: That's the meaning of the word “Gay” in “Old English”. Another meaning of gay... *Interrupts*

T: Why was an airplane called happy?

Dad: ENOLA GAY – you mean - from the museum? *National Air and Space Museum*

T: Yes... Why you sound so surprised - *imitates my voice* - “ENOLA GAY”?

Dad: It's funny how some people have nicknames for their cars, boats and airplanes. It is so, so, so funny!

T: You're silly again, dad!

Dad: So, so, so funny! - I love you!

T: You're strange man, dad! *Chuckles*

Continues...

T: Dad, what else gay means?

Dad: Oh! Well, happy is one; colorful is another...

I pause...

Dad: And, nowadays – gay – means when two women or two men love each other.

T: Like being BFFs (*Best Friends Forever*)

Dad: Not exactly! You and your best friend are not considered gay because you're best friends. Even though, being best friends, is important to any relationship. Let's talk about this later; I'm sure we will have this conversation again.

T: Okay, dad!
