



MAXIMS FOR MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS
VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

Timeless Truths for Everyday Living





Timeless Truths for Everyday Living

Volume 1, Issue 1

*Read all the maxims in this handout.
Which ones speak to you?*

1.1.1 *Some people grumble because roses have thorns; I am thankful that the thorns have roses.*

– Jean Baptiste Alphonse Karr, French journalist and author (1808-1890)

1.1.2 *Whoever gossips to you will gossip about you.*

– Spanish proverb

1.1.3 *The secret of getting ahead is getting started.*

– Unknown

1.1.4 *Everything you do sends a message about who you are and what you value.*

– Michael Josephson, American ethicist, author, and radio commentator; founder of CHARACTER COUNTS! and the Josephson Institute (b. 1942)

1.1.5 *The smallest good deed is better than the grandest good intention.*

– Unknown

1.1.6 *The pessimist sees difficulty in every opportunity. The optimist sees opportunity in every difficulty.*

– Sir Winston Churchill, British prime minister and author (1874-1965)

1.1.7 *Whether you think you can or not, you are right.*

– Henry Ford, American businessman and founder of the Ford Motor Company (1863-1947)

1.1.8 *If you don't want anyone to know, don't do it.*

– Chinese proverb

1.1.9 *The day you quit school, you condemn yourself to a future of poverty.**

– Jaime Escalante, Bolivian-born American high school teacher, inspiration for the movie *Stand and Deliver* (b. 1930)

1.1.10 *Whatever is worth doing is worth doing well.*

– Earl of Chesterfield (Sir Philip Dormer Stanhope), English member of Parliament, author of *Letters to His Son* (1694-1773)

1.1.11 *You have not lived a perfect day unless you have done something for someone who will never be able to repay you.*

– Unknown

1.1.12 *What you are thunders so loudly that I cannot hear what you say to the contrary.*

– Ralph Waldo Emerson, American philosopher and writer (1803-1882)

1.1.13 *Anger is a wind which blows out the lamp of the mind.*

– Robert G. Ingersoll, American lecturer, author, and politician (1833-1899)

1.1.14 *Noncooperation with evil is as much a duty as is cooperation with good.*

– Mohandas "Mahatma" Gandhi, leader for independence of India, pioneer of nonviolent civil disobedience (1869-1948)

1.1.15 *Necessity is not a fact; it's an interpretation.*

– Friedrich Nietzsche, German philosopher and author (1844-1900)

1.1.16 *Don't sacrifice a good life for a good time.*

– Michael Josephson, American ethicist, author, and radio commentator; founder of CHARACTER COUNTS! and the Josephson Institute (b. 1942)

1.1.17 *To educate a person in mind and not in morals is to educate a menace to society.**

– Theodore Roosevelt, adventurer and Nobel Prize-winning 26th U.S. president (1858-1919)

1.1.18 *The moment of victory is much too short to live for that and nothing else.*

– Martina Navratilova, Czech-born American tennis champion (b. 1956)

1.1.19 ***What is popular is not always right, and what is right is not always popular.***
– Unknown

1.1.20 ***If it's painful for you to criticize your friends, you're safe in doing it; if you take the slightest pleasure in it, that's the time to hold your tongue.***
– Alice Duer Miller, American author (1874-1942)

1.1.21 ***Lives of great people all remind us / We can make our lives sublime, / And, departing, leave behind us / Footprints on the sand of time.****
– Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, American poet (1807-1882)

1.1.22 ***How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world.***
– Anne Frank, Jewish girl who kept a diary while hiding from the Nazis during World War II (1929-1945)

1.1.23 ***My interest is in the future because I am going to spend the rest of my life there.***
– Charles F. Kettering, American inventor (1876-1958)

1.1.24 ***A man's true wealth is the good he does in this world.***
– Muhammad, founder of Islam (c. 570-632)

1.1.25 ***Boredom is the feeling that everything is a waste of time; serenity, that nothing is.***
– Thomas Szasz, author and professor of psychiatry (b. 1920)

1.1.26 ***The whole problem with the world is that fools and fanatics are always so certain of themselves, but wiser people so full of doubts.***
– Bertrand Russell, English mathematician, philosopher, and Nobel Prize-winning author (1872-1970)

1.1.27 ***Do not follow where the path may lead. Go instead where there is not a path and leave a trail.***
– Ralph Waldo Emerson, American philosopher and writer (1803-1882)

1.1.28 ***A life without cause is a life without effect.***
– Unknown

1.1.29 ***If you change your mind, you can change your life.***
– William James, American philosopher and psychologist (1842-1910)

1.1.30 ***Our souls are not hungry for fame, comfort, wealth or power. Those rewards create almost as many problems as they solve. Our souls are hungry for meaning, for the sense that we have figured out how to live so that our lives matter, so that the world will be at least a little bit different for our having passed through it.***
– Harold Kushner, American rabbi and author of *When Bad Things Happen to Good People*

1.1.31 ***Today is the first day of the rest of your life.***
– Charles Dederich, American founder of self-help community for drug abusers (1913-1997)

1.1.32 ***Those who fight fire with fire burn their houses down twice as fast.****
– Vietnamese proverb

1.1.33 ***The true measure of people is how they treat others who can do them absolutely no good.****
– Ann Landers (Esther Pauline Friedman), American advice columnist (1918-2002)

1.1.34 ***Not everything that is good for you is fun and not everything that is fun is good for you.***
– Michael Josephson, American ethicist, author, and radio commentator; founder of CHARACTER COUNTS! and the Josephson Institute (b. 1942)

1.1.35 ***Dreams are what get you started. Discipline is what keeps you going.***
– Jim Ryun, American Congressman and former world record holder in the mile run (b. 1947)

1.1.36 ***If you haven't got the time to do it right, when will you find the time to do it over?***
– Jeffrey Mayer, American business consultant and author

1.1.37 ***Temptation usually comes in through a door that has deliberately been left open.***
– Unknown

- 1.1.38 **Doing the best at this moment puts you in the best place for the next moment.**
– Oprah Winfrey, African-American TV talk show host, actress and entrepreneur (b. 1954)
- 1.1.39 **One unable to dance blames the unevenness of the floor.**
– Malay proverb
- 1.1.40 **Do what you can, with what you have, where you are.**
– Theodore Roosevelt, adventurer and Nobel Prize-winning 26th U.S. president (1858-1919)
- 1.1.41 **To ignore evil is to become an accomplice to it.**
– Martin Luther King, Jr., African-American Baptist minister and Nobel Prize-winning leader of the civil rights movement (1929-1968)
- 1.1.42 **Excuses are the nails used to build a house of failure.**
– Don Wilder and Bill Rechin, comic strip creators
- 1.1.43 **Insanity is doing the same thing over and over and expecting different results.**
– attributed to Albert Einstein, German-born physicist, Nobel Prize-winning formulator of the theory of relativity, and peace advocate (1879-1955)
- 1.1.44 **Saying is one thing, and doing is another.**
– Michel de Montaigne, French writer, inventor of the essay (1533-1592)
- 1.1.45 **Destiny is not a matter of chance; it is a matter of choice. It is not a thing to be waited for; it is a thing to be achieved.**
– William Jennings Bryan, American politician and diplomat and three-time presidential candidate (1860-1925)

- 1.1.46 **Take time to work. It is the price of success. / Take time to think. It is the source of power. / Take time to play. It is the secret of perpetual youth. / Take time to read. It is the foundation of wisdom. / Take time to be friendly. It is the road to happiness. / Take time to dream. It is hitching your wagon to a star. / Take time to love and be loved. It is the privilege of the gods. / Take time to look around. It is too short a day to be selfish. / Take time to laugh. It is the music of the soul.**
– Traditional English prayer
- 1.1.47 **The early bird catches the worm, but the second mouse gets the cheese.**
– Unknown
- 1.1.48 **The fragrance always stays in the hand that gives the rose.**
– Hada Bejar, actress
- 1.1.49 **Neither the intensity of your feelings nor the certainty of your convictions is any assurance that you are right.**
– Michael Josephson, American ethicist, author, and radio commentator; founder of CHARACTER COUNTS! and the Josephson Institute (b. 1942)
- 1.1.50 **To carry a grudge is like being stung to death by only one bee.**
– Unknown

* We have modified this maxim slightly so that it applies to both genders.

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accomplice – one associated with another especially in wrongdoing
assurance – guarantee
contrary – opposite
convictions – strong beliefs
deed – something that is done; action
fanatic – one who has excessive enthusiasm and intense devotion
intention – what one has in mind to do; plan

menace – one who represents a threat; danger
noncooperation – failure or refusal to cooperate
optimist – one who focuses on the positive
perpetual – continuing forever; ongoing
pessimist – one who focuses on the negative
serenity – the state of being untroubled; peace
sublime – awe-inspiring, lofty, or grand
thunders – speaks loudly; roars

Some definitions are from the Merriam-Webster online dictionary, www.m-w.com.

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