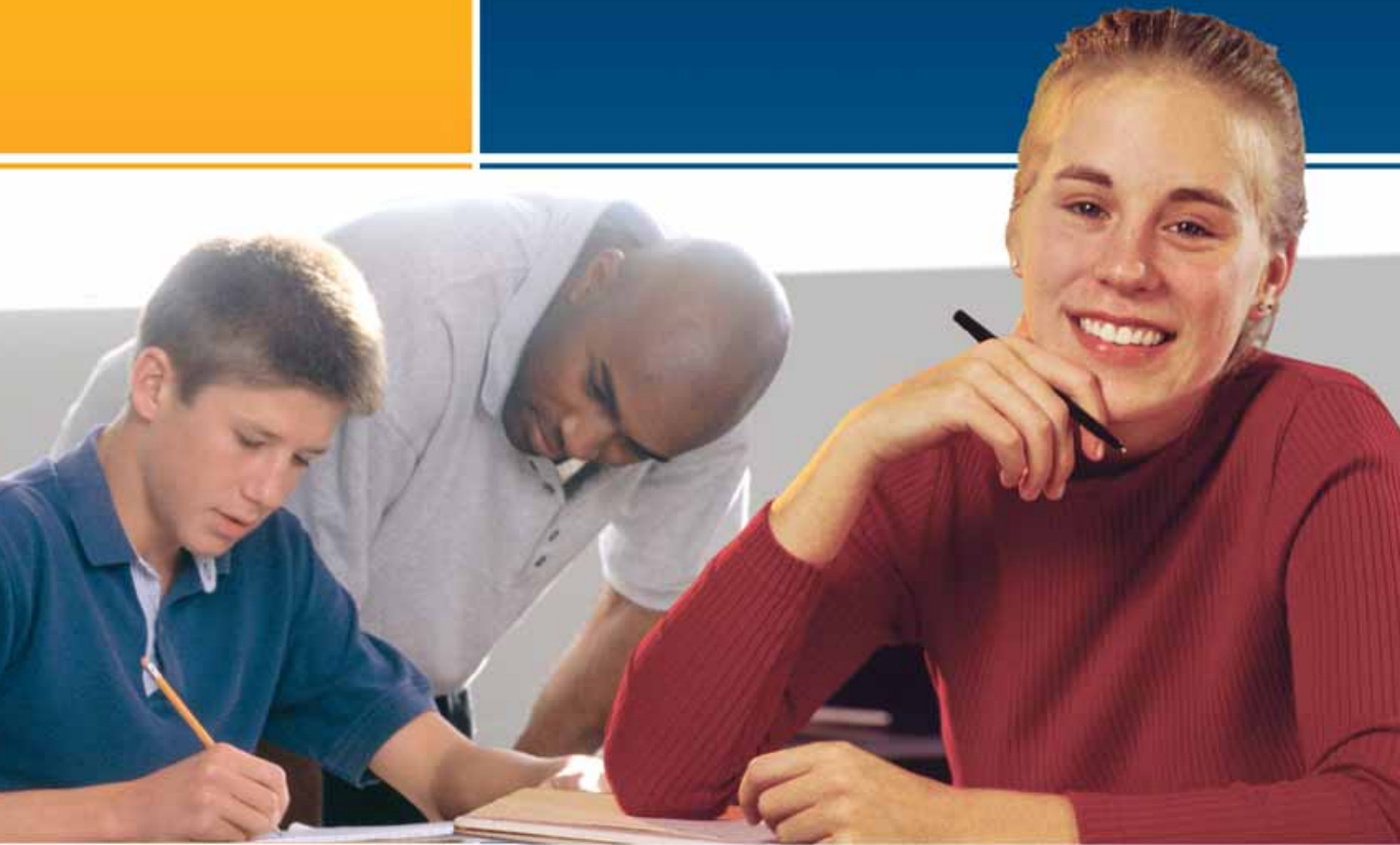




MAXIMS FOR MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS
VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2

Timeless Truths for Everyday Living





Timeless Truths for Everyday Living

Volume 1, Issue 2

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

1.2.1 **An eye for an eye only ends up making the whole world blind.**

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

1.2.2 **Gossip needn’t be false to be evil — there’s a lot of truth that shouldn’t be passed around.**

– Unknown

1.2.3 **Friendship is like a bank account. You can’t continue to draw on it without making deposits.**

– Unknown

1.2.4 **Your life is your ship. You are the captain. Don’t let anyone else take the wheel.**

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

1.2.5 **If you want to be successful, don’t give or take excuses.**

– Florence Nightingale, English pioneer of nursing and health care reform (1820-1910)

1.2.6 **Where there’s a will, there’s a way.**

– Unknown

1.2.7 **Oh what a tangled web we weave, When first we practice to deceive!**

– Sir Walter Scott, Scottish novelist and poet (1771-1832)

1.2.8 **Wisdom is knowing what to do next; virtue is doing it.**

– David Starr Jordan, American scientist, Stanford University president, and peace activist (1851-1931)

1.2.9 **Rather fail with honor than succeed by fraud.**

– Sophocles, Greek playwright (496 B.C.-406 B.C)

1.2.10 **A person who angers you conquers you.***

– Elizabeth Kenny, Australian nurse, pioneer in polio treatment (1886-1952)

1.2.11 **The path of least resistance is what makes rivers run crooked.**

– Elbert Hubbard, American businessman and author (1856-1915)

1.2.12 **It is not what we eat but what we digest that makes us strong; not what we gain but what we save that makes us rich; not what we read but what we remember that makes us learned; and not what we profess but what we practice that gives us integrity.**

– Francis Bacon, English statesman, writer and philosopher of science (1561-1626)

1.2.13 **It is better to light a candle than to curse the darkness.**

– Motto of the Christopher Society, which promotes positive media messages and stories

1.2.14 **When things go wrong, don’t go with them.**

– Elvis Presley, American popular singer (1935-1977)

1.2.15 **It is better to be hated for what you are than to be loved for something you are not.**

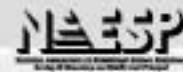
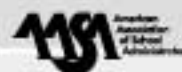
– Andre Gide, French writer, Nobel Prize-winning author (1869-1951)

1.2.16 **There’s a big difference between what you have a right to do and what is right to do.**

– Potter Stewart, American Supreme Court justice (1915-1985)

1.2.17 **Fame is a vapor, popularity an accident, riches take wing, and only character endures.**

– Horace Greeley, American newspaper editor and politician (1811-1872)



1.2.18 ***It's never too late to be what you might have been.***

– George Eliot (Mary Anne Evans), British novelist (1819-1880)

1.2.19 ***Failing to plan is planning to fail.***

– John Wooden, American college basketball coach (b. 1910)

1.2.20 ***Other people's opinion of you does not have to become your reality.***

– Les Brown, African-American entrepreneur, motivational speaker, and author

1.2.21 ***There are two things you don't want to be: a user or someone who is used.***

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

1.2.22 ***Habits are first cobwebs, then cables.***

– Spanish proverb

1.2.23 ***Feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and not giving it.***

– William Arthur Ward, American scholar, author, pastor, and teacher (1921-1997)

1.2.24 ***I will not permit people to narrow and degrade my soul by making me hate them.****

– Booker T. Washington, African-American educator, reformer, and founder of the Tuskegee Institute (1856-1915)

1.2.25 ***Every choice moves us closer to or farther away from something. Where are your choices taking your life?***

– Eric Allenbaugh, American leadership consultant and author

1.2.26 ***Too many people are ready to carry the stool when the piano needs to be moved.***

– Unknown

1.2.27 ***Integrity without knowledge is weak and useless, and knowledge without integrity is dangerous and dreadful.***

– Samuel Johnson, English author and creator of one of the first dictionaries (1709-1784)

1.2.28 ***The strong man is not the good wrestler; the strong man is only the one who controls himself when he is angry.***

– Muhammad, founder of Islam (c. 570-632)

1.2.29 ***It is nice to be important, but it is more important to be nice.***

– Sir John Marks Templeton, American-born British financier (b. 1912)

1.2.30 ***If you're not part of the solution, you're part of the problem.***

– Eldridge Cleaver, African-American civil rights activist and writer (1935-1998)

1.2.31 ***We don't see things as they are. We see them as we are.***

– Anaïs Nin, French-born American author (1903-1977)

1.2.32 ***Talk doesn't cook rice.***

– Chinese proverb

1.2.33 ***Manners are a sensitive awareness of the feelings of others. If you have that awareness, you have good manners, no matter what fork you use.***

– Emily Post, American etiquette expert (1872-1960)

1.2.34 ***In matters of style, swim with the current; in matters of principle, stand like a rock.***

– Thomas Jefferson, Founding Father and 3rd U.S. president (1743-1826)

1.2.35 ***Life is a grindstone. Whether it grinds us down or polishes us up depends on us.***

– L. Thomas Holdcroft, writer and theology professor

1.2.36 ***There are two ways of spreading light: to be the candle or the mirror that reflects it.***

– Edith Wharton, American novelist (1862-1937)

1.2.37 ***I expect to pass through this world but once. Any good, therefore, that I can do or any kindness I can show to any fellow creature, let me do it now. Let me not defer or neglect it for I shall not pass this way again.***

– Stephen Grellet, Quaker clergyman (1773-1855)

1.2.38 ***If each person sweeps in front of his or her own door, the whole street is clean.***

– Yiddish proverb

1.2.39 ***Character cannot be developed in ease and quiet. Only through experience of trial and suffering can the soul be strengthened, vision cleared, ambition inspired, and success achieved.***

– Helen Keller, blind and deaf American author and educator (1880-1968)

- 1.2.40 ***A bone to the dog is not charity. Charity is the bone shared with the dog when you are just as hungry as the dog.***
– Jack London, American author (1876-1916)
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- 1.2.41 ***I am only one, but still I am one. I cannot do everything, But still I can do something; And because I cannot do everything I will not refuse to do the something that I can do.***
– Edward Everett Hale, American clergyman and author (1822-1909)
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- 1.2.42 ***Don't wait for your ship to come in. Swim out to it.***
– Unknown
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- 1.2.43 ***Winners are losers who got up and gave it one more try.***
– Dennis DeYoung, American songwriter, member of the rock band Styx (b. 1947)
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- 1.2.44 ***The surest way to ruin your life is to spend tomorrow's happiness for today's pleasure.***
– Michael Josephson, American ethicist, author, and radio commentator; founder of CHARACTER COUNTS! and the Josephson Institute (b. 1942)
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- 1.2.45 ***The vision must be followed by the venture. It is not enough to stare up the steps — we must step up the stairs.***
– Vance Havner, American preacher (1901-1986)

- 1.2.46 ***In Germany they came first for the Communists, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Communist. Then they came for the Jews, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Jew. Then they came for the trade unionists, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a trade unionist. Then they came for the Catholics, and I didn't speak up because I was a Protestant. Then they came for me, and by that time no one was left to speak up.***
– Martin Niemoeller, German submarine commander, pastor, and pacifist (1892-1984)
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- 1.2.47 ***I complained that I had no shoes, until I met someone who had no feet.****
– Persian proverb
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- 1.2.48 ***What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us.***
– Ralph Waldo Emerson, American philosopher and writer (1803-1882)
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- 1.2.49 ***If you don't want temptation to follow you, don't act as if you are interested.***
– Richard L. Evans, American religious leader and broadcaster (1906-1971)
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- 1.2.50 ***I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.***
– Maya Angelou, African-American poet and author (b. 1928)

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

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current – the part of a fluid body (such as air or water) moving continuously in a certain direction
degrade – to make inferior; to corrupt
defer – to delay
dreadful – horrible
endures – lasts for a long time
gratitude – thankfulness
integrity – acting consistently with a code of moral values
neglect – to abandon; to ignore
principle – fundamental belief

resistance – opposition
take wing – fly away
thou – you
trade unionists – laborers united to negotiate for better working conditions and wages
trial – a test of faith, patience, or stamina
vapor – something insubstantial or passing
venture – a risk or gamble
virtue – a commendable quality or trait
will – determination, resolve

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

Foundations for Life is a national program of the Josephson Institute and its CHARACTER COUNTS! project.