



MAXIMS FOR MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS
VOLUME 1, ISSUE 3

Timeless Truths for Everyday Living





Timeless Truths for Everyday Living

Volume 1, Issue 3

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

1.3.1 ***The only way to have a friend is to be a friend.***

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

1.3.2 ***My great concern is not whether you have failed but whether you are content with your failure.***

– Abraham Lincoln, 16th U.S. president and liberator of the slaves (1809-1865)

1.3.3 ***Growing older is mandatory. Growing up is optional.***

– Unknown

1.3.4 ***To be upset about what you don't have is to waste what you do have.***

– Ken Keyes, American advocate of personal growth and peace (1921-1995)

1.3.5 ***We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors; we borrow it from our children.***

– Haida Indian saying

1.3.6 ***We cannot hold a torch to light another's path without brightening our own.***

– Ben Sweetland, author

1.3.7 ***Bad officials are elected by good citizens who do not vote.***

– George Jean Nathan, American drama critic (1882-1958)

1.3.8 ***All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good people do nothing.****

– Edmund Burke, British statesman and political philosopher (1729-1797)

1.3.9 ***The point is not to pay back kindness but to pass it on.***

– Julia Alvarez, American author (b. 1950)

1.3.10 ***Life is never so bad at its worst that it is impossible to live; it is never so good at its best that it is easy to live.***

– Gabriel Heatter, American radio commentator (1890-1972)

1.3.11 ***It would be nicer to be popular if being nicer made you popular.***

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

1.3.12 ***The three hardest tasks in the world are neither physical feats nor intellectual achievements, but moral acts: to return love for hate, to include the excluded, and to say, I was wrong.***

– Sydney J. Harris, British-born American journalist (1917-1986)

1.3.13 ***After all is said and done, more is said than done.***

– American proverb

1.3.14 ***You gain strength, courage and confidence by every experience in which you really stop to look fear in the face. You must do the thing which you think you cannot do.***

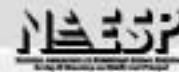
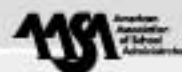
– Eleanor Roosevelt, American humanitarian, author, and First Lady (1884-1962)

1.3.15 ***Worry does not empty tomorrow of its sorrow; it empties today of its strength.***

– Corrie ten Boom, Dutch humanitarian whose family hid persecuted Jews during World War II (1892-1983)

1.3.16 ***One thing I know. The only ones among you who will be really happy are those who will have sought and found how to serve.***

– Albert Schweitzer, Alsatian-German theologian, philosopher, and mission doctor (1875-1965)



- 1.3.17 ***There is as much risk in doing nothing as in doing something.***
– Trammell Crow, American real estate magnate (b. 1923)
- 1.3.18 ***Real knowledge is to know the extent of one's ignorance.***
– Confucius, Chinese philosopher (551 B.C.-479 B.C.)
- 1.3.19 ***Anger is only one letter short of danger.***
– Unknown
- 1.3.20 ***What does not destroy me, makes me strong.***
– Friedrich Nietzsche, German philosopher (1844-1900)
- 1.3.21 ***Some people see things as they are and say, "Why?" I dream things that never were and say, "Why not?"****
– George Bernard Shaw, Irish playwright and critic (1856-1950)
- 1.3.22 ***You will never find time for anything. You must make it.***
– Charles Buxton, British lawyer, editor, and statesman (1875-1942)
- 1.3.23 ***Experimenting with drugs is like target practice where your head is the bull's-eye.***
– Michael Josephson, American ethicist, author, and radio commentator; founder of CHARACTER COUNTS! and the Josephson Institute (b. 1942)
- 1.3.24 ***Do all the good you can,
By all the means you can,
In all the ways you can,
In all the places you can,
At all the times you can,
To all the people you can,
As long as ever you can.***
– John Wesley, English religious leader (1703-1791)
- 1.3.25 ***Those who fling dirt at others dirty themselves most.****
– Thomas Fuller, British scholar, preacher, and author (1608-1661)
- 1.3.26 ***If you don't like something, change it. If you can't change it, change your attitude. Don't complain.***
– Maya Angelou, African-American poet and author (b. 1928)
- 1.3.27 ***Where the heart is willing it will find a thousand ways, but where it is unwilling it will find a thousand excuses.***
– Dayak proverb (Borneo)

- 1.3.28 ***Life is too short to be little.***
– Benjamin Disraeli, British prime minister and novelist (1804-1881)
- 1.3.29 ***You cannot shake hands with a clenched fist.***
– Indira Gandhi, Indian prime minister (1917-1984)
- 1.3.30 ***Finish each day and be done with it. You have done what you could; some blunders and absurdities have crept in; forget them as soon as you can. Tomorrow is a new day; you shall begin it serenely and with too high a spirit to be encumbered with your old nonsense.***
– Ralph Waldo Emerson, American philosopher and writer (1803-1882)
- 1.3.31 ***You miss 100 percent of the shots you don't take.***
– Wayne Gretzky, Canadian hockey player (b. 1961)
- 1.3.32 ***A truth that's told with bad intent beats all the lies you can invent.***
– William Blake, English poet, painter, and mystic (1757-1827)
- 1.3.33 ***Do not judge others until you have stood in their place.****
– Hillel, Jewish scholar and rabbi (c. 60 B.C.-c. 10 A.D.)
- 1.3.34 ***Life is 10 percent what happens to me and 90 percent how I react to it.***
– Charles Swindoll, American pastor and author (b. 1934)
- 1.3.35 ***Would those of you who say it can't be done, stop bothering those of us who are doing it?***
– Unknown
- 1.3.36 ***Learn from the mistakes of others. There is not enough time for us to make all the mistakes ourselves.***
– Harriet Hall, actress
- 1.3.37 ***Others will not value what you have until you do.***
– Michael Josephson, American ethicist, author, and radio commentator; founder of CHARACTER COUNTS! and the Josephson Institute (b. 1942)
- 1.3.38 ***We exist temporarily through what we take, but we live forever through what we give.***
– Douglas M. Lawson, American fundraising consultant (b. 1936)

1.3.39 **Live so that you wouldn't be ashamed to sell the family parrot to the town gossip.**

– Will Rogers, American entertainer (1879-1935)

1.3.40 **What I've learned about being angry with people is that it generally hurts you more than it hurts them.**

– Oprah Winfrey, African-American TV talk show host, actress, and entrepreneur (b. 1954)

1.3.41 **A smooth sea never made a skilled mariner.**

– English proverb

1.3.42 **Ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country.**

– John F. Kennedy, 35th U.S. president (1917-1963)

1.3.43 **I count those braver who overcome their desires than those who conquer their enemies, for the hardest victory is over self.**

– Aristotle, Greek philosopher (384 B.C.-322 B.C.)

1.3.44 **I prefer to be true to myself, even at the hazard of incurring the ridicule of others, rather than to be false, and to incur my own abhorrence.**

– Frederick Douglass, African-American abolitionist, public speaker, and writer (c. 1818-1895)

1.3.45 **Don't ever do anything just so someone will like you for the moment. Soon the moment will be over and you may have done something that will change your life.**

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

1.3.46 **May you live all the days of your life.**

– Jonathan Swift, Anglo-Irish author and satirist (1667-1745)

1.3.47 **Always keep your composure. You can't score from the penalty box, and to win, you have to score.**

– Bobby Hull, Canadian hockey player (b. 1939)

1.3.48 **Watch your thoughts; they become words. Watch your words; they become actions. Watch your actions; they become habits. Watch your habits; they become character. Watch your character; it becomes your destiny.**

– Unknown

1.3.49 **Most folks are about as happy as they make up their minds to be.**

– Abraham Lincoln, 16th U.S. president and liberator of the slaves (1809-1865)

1.3.50 **Unshared joy is an unlighted candle.**

– Spanish proverb

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

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O
S
S
A
R
Y

abhorrence – hatred; disgust

absurdities – things that are silly or unreasonable

blunders – mistakes

clenched – tightly closed

composure – self-control

content – satisfied

encumbered – weighed down; held back

endure – to continue on; to survive hardship

extent – range

hazard – danger

ignorance – lack of knowledge

incurring – bringing upon oneself; meeting with

indifference – lack of interest; apathy

intent – purpose; aim; goal

mandatory – required

mariner – one who navigates a ship; sailor

obligations – duties; responsibilities

ridicule – humor that mocks or belittles

serenely – peacefully

sought – looked for

triumph – victory

willing – eager

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

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