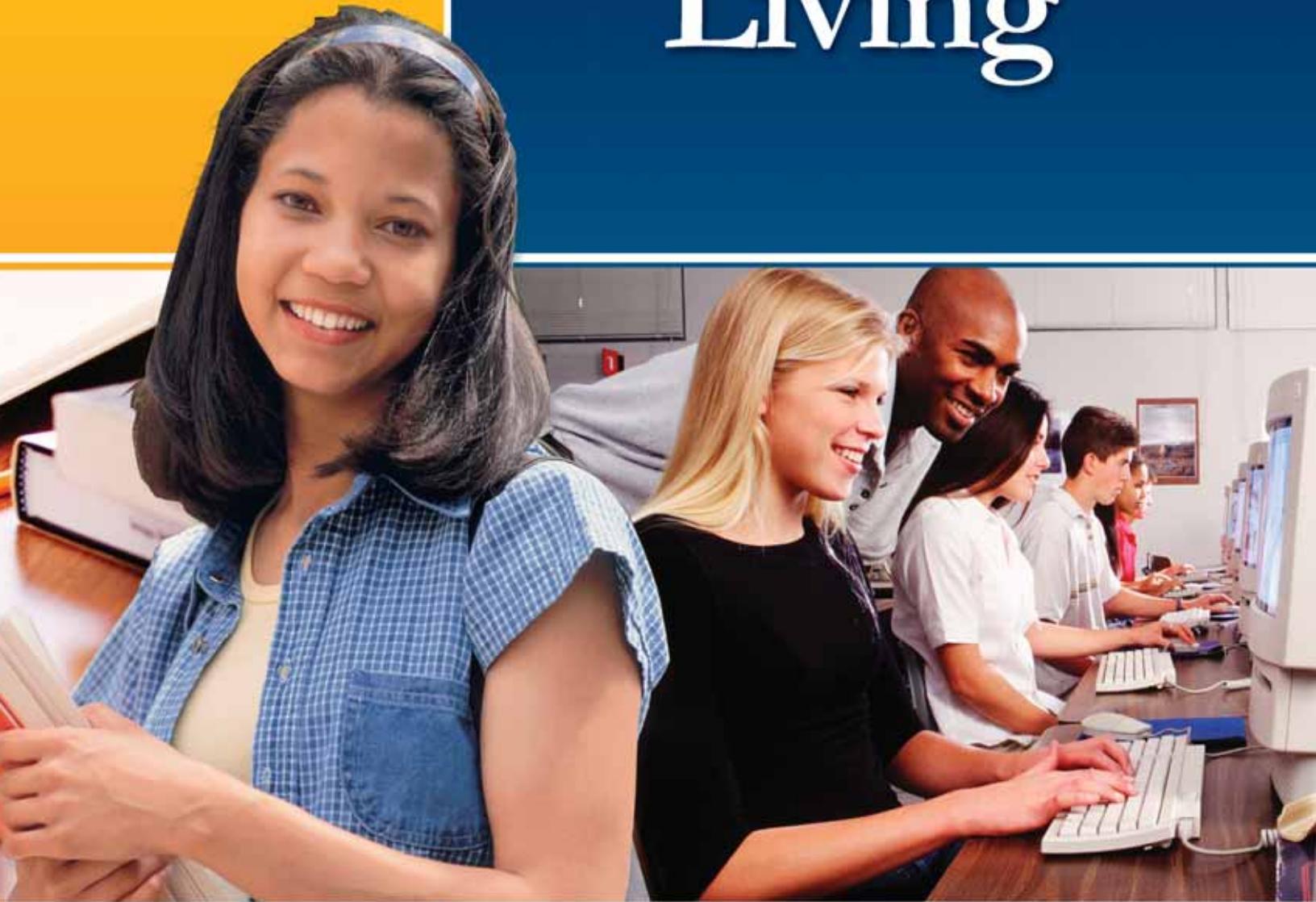


MAXIMS FOR MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS  
VOLUME 1, ISSUE 4



# Timeless Truths for Everyday Living





# Timeless Truths for Everyday Living

Volume 1, Issue 4

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

1.4.1 ***My best friend is the one who brings out the best in me.***

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

1.4.2 ***It's not the load that breaks you down; it's the way you carry it.***

– Lena Horne, African-American singer and actress (b. 1917)

1.4.3 ***You don't have to be sick to get better.***

– Unknown

1.4.4 ***Yesterday is history. Tomorrow is a mystery. Today is a gift; that's why they call it the present.***

– Unknown

1.4.5 ***We must all suffer from one of two pains: the pain of discipline or the pain of regret. The difference is discipline weighs ounces while regret weighs tons.***

– Jim Rohn, American motivational speaker, author, and business consultant

1.4.6 ***Prejudice is the child of ignorance.***

– William Hazlitt, English essayist and critic (1778-1830)

1.4.7 ***There is no wrong time to do the right thing.***

– H. Jackson Brown, American writer (b. 1940)

1.4.8 ***Be the change you wish to see in the world.***

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

1.4.9 ***There is nothing harder than the softness of indifference.***

– Juan Montalvo, Ecuadorean essayist and political writer (1832-1889)

1.4.10 ***Mistakes are a fact of life. It is the response to error that counts.***

– Nikki Giovanni, African-American poet (b. 1943)

1.4.11 ***One who asks is a fool for a moment, but one who does not ask remains a fool forever.\****

– Chinese proverb

1.4.12 ***Start by doing what is necessary, then do what is possible, and suddenly you are doing the impossible.***

– St. Francis of Assisi, founder of the Franciscan order (c. 1181-1226)

1.4.13 ***Lucky is being ready for chance.***

– J. Frank Dobie, American teacher, folklorist, and author (1888-1964)

1.4.14 ***While we are free to choose our actions, we are not free to choose the consequences of our actions.***

– Stephen Covey, American author, speaker, and leadership consultant (b. 1932)

1.4.15 ***Blessed are those who can give without remembering and take without forgetting.***

– Princess Elizabeth Bibesco, English writer (1897-1945)

1.4.16 ***Dost thou love life? Then do not squander time, for that is the stuff life is made of.***

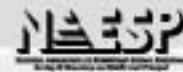
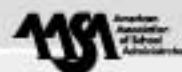
– Benjamin Franklin, American Founding Father, inventor, and statesman (1706-1790)

1.4.17 ***You cannot do a kindness too soon because you never know how soon it will be too late.***

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

1.4.18 ***We judge ourselves by our best intentions and most noble acts but we will be judged by our last worst act.***

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



- 1.4.19 ***There is no pillow so soft as a clear conscience.***  
– French proverb
- 1.4.20 **God, give us grace to accept with serenity the things that cannot be changed, courage to change the things which should be changed, and the wisdom to distinguish the one from the other.**  
– Reinhold Niebuhr, American theologian (1892-1971)
- 1.4.21 ***If nothing is ventured, nothing is gained.***  
– Sir John Heywood, English playwright (c. 1497-1575)
- 1.4.22 **It is the mark of a true education to be able to entertain a thought without accepting it.**  
– Aristotle, Greek philosopher and pre-scientist (384 B.C.-322 B.C.)
- 1.4.23 ***The tissue of the life to be  
We weave with colors all our own,  
And in the field of destiny  
We reap as we have sown.***  
– John Greenleaf Whittier, American poet and abolitionist (1807-1892)
- 1.4.24 **If you can't feed a hundred people, then feed just one.**  
– Mother Teresa, Albanian-born Indian missionary nun, recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize (1910-1997)
- 1.4.25 ***The way you see people is the way you treat them, and the way you treat them is what they become.***  
– Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, German author, statesman, and scientist (1749-1832)
- 1.4.26 **A society grows great when old people plant trees in whose shade they know they shall never sit.\***  
– Greek proverb
- 1.4.27 ***No one could make a greater mistake than those who did nothing because they could do only a little.\****  
– Edmund Burke, British statesman and political philosopher (1729-1797)
- 1.4.28 **Things turn out best for people who make the best of the way things turn out.**  
– John Wooden, American college basketball coach (b. 1910)

- 1.4.29 ***It is better to deserve honors and not have them than to have them and not deserve them.***  
– Mark Twain, American humorist and author (1835-1910)
- 1.4.30 **The older I get, the greater power I seem to have to help the world; I am like a snowball — the further I am rolled the more I gain.**  
– Susan B. Anthony, American women's suffragist (1820-1906)
- 1.4.31 ***The truth is that our finest moments are most likely to occur when we are feeling deeply uncomfortable, unhappy or unfulfilled. For it is only in such moments, propelled by our discomfort, that we are likely to step out of our ruts and start searching for different ways or truer answers.***  
– M. Scott Peck, American physician and author (b. 1936)
- 1.4.32 **You don't do drugs; drugs do you.**  
– Unknown
- 1.4.33 ***A ship in port is safe, but that is not what ships are built for.***  
– Grace Murray Hopper, American rear admiral and computer scientist (1906-1992)
- 1.4.34 **It is easy to dodge our responsibilities, but we cannot dodge the consequences of dodging our responsibilities.**  
– Sir Josiah Stamp, British financier (1880-1941)
- 1.4.35 ***Yes and no are very powerful words. Mean them when you say them. Respect them when you hear them.***  
– Michael Josephson, American ethicist, author, and radio commentator; founder of CHARACTER COUNTS! and the Josephson Institute (b. 1942)
- 1.4.36 **To know what is right and not do it is the worst cowardice.**  
– Confucius, Chinese philosopher (551 B.C.-479 B.C.)
- 1.4.37 ***We cannot live only for ourselves. A thousand fibers connect us with others; and among those fibers, as sympathetic threads, our actions run as causes, and they come back to us as effects.\****  
– Herman Melville, American novelist (1819-1891)

1.4.38 **What shall you profit, if you shall gain the whole world and lose your own soul?**  
– Bible, Mark 8:36

1.4.39 ***It's never crowded along the "extra mile."***  
– Wayne Dyer, American psychotherapist, author, and lecturer (b. 1940)

1.4.40 **Anger is as a stone cast into a wasp's nest.**  
– Malabar (India) proverb

1.4.41 ***The right to swing my fist ends where the other person's nose begins.\****  
– Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr., American legal philosopher and U.S. Supreme Court justice (1841-1935)

1.4.42 **Life is what happens to you while you're busy making other plans.**  
– John Lennon, British singer-songwriter, member of the Beatles (1940-1980)

1.4.43 ***Education is a social process. Education is growth. Education is not a preparation for life; education is life itself.***  
– John Dewey, American philosopher, psychologist, and educator (1859-1952)

1.4.44 **The most beautiful discovery true friends make is that they can grow separately without growing apart.**  
– Unknown

1.4.45 ***A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step.***  
– Lao Tzu, Chinese philosopher (c. 6th century B.C.)

1.4.46 **The problem with the rat race is that even if you win you're still a rat.**  
– Lily Tomlin, American comedienne and actress (b. 1939)

1.4.47 ***Our privileges can be no greater than our obligations. The protection of our rights can endure no longer than the performance of our responsibilities.***  
– John F. Kennedy, 35th U.S. president (1917-1963)

1.4.48 **Never underestimate the power of temptation to disarm your better senses. Throughout the ages good people surrendered their honor for the empty promise that wealth or power would bring fulfillment and their dignity, good name and self-esteem for the passing pleasures of sex and drugs.**  
– Michael Josephson, American ethicist, author, and radio commentator; founder of CHARACTER COUNTS! and the Josephson Institute (b. 1942)

1.4.49 ***The money you have gives you freedom; the money you pursue enslaves you.***  
– Jean Jacques Rousseau, Swiss-French political philosopher and writer (1712-1778)

1.4.50 **Pain is inevitable; suffering is optional.**  
– Buddhist proverb

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

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S  
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Y**

**cast** – thrown

**disarm** – to remove weapons; to make safe

**distinguish** – tell the difference between; differentiate

**dodge** – to avoid

**dost** – do

**enslaves** – forces into slavery

**entertain** – to keep in mind; to consider

**fulfillment** – deep satisfaction

**ignorance** – lack of knowledge

**inevitable** – unavoidable

**intentions** – what one has in mind to do; plans

**propelled** – moved forward

**reap** – to harvest; to gather

**serenity** – peace

**sown** – planted; set in motion

**squander** – to waste

**sympathetic** – interdependent

**ventured** – risked or gambled

Some definitions are from the Merriam-Webster online dictionary, [www.m-w.com](http://www.m-w.com).

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

