

# BEST LIFE QUOTES

The boy and girl going hand in hand through a meadow; the mother washing her baby; the sweet simple things in life. We have almost lost track of them. On the one side, we overintellectualize everything; on the other hand, we are overmechanized. We can understand the danger of the atomic bomb, but the danger of our misunderstanding the meaning of life is much more serious.

--Edward Steichen

The coolness of sheets, the warmth of blankets, the look of the little blue flames dancing on the top of a fire of hard coal, the taste of bread, or milk, or honey, or wine or of oil, of well-baked potatoes, or earth-tasting turnips!—the taste of the airs, dry or moist, that blow in through our opened windows, the look of the night-sky, the sounds of twilight or of dawn, the hoarse monotone of a distant pine-wood or of pebble-fretted waves—all these things as one feels them are materials, eternal and yet fleeting, of the art of being alive upon the earth.

—John Cowper Powys

I still think the most important things that happen to us are the smallest things—eating supper together, bedtime, planting flowers, sitting on a porch on summer nights, feeding the birds....those small things make the difference between a rich and good life or an empty one.

--Cynthia Rylant

The preciousness of life becomes especially profound when you've held a dying child in your arms and look into the faces of parents, their eyes weary from sleepless hours of pacing waiting rooms. I've witnessed the unbendable spirit of the children, whose strength and optimism burns within them. Only then do you understand the real and fragile beauty of life.

--Marlo Thomas

When I was 5 years old, my mother always told me that happiness was the key to life. When I went to school, they asked me what I wanted to be when I grew up. I wrote down 'happy'. They told me I didn't understand the assignment, and I told them they didn't understand life.

—John Lennon

No man has tasted the full flavor of life until he has known poverty, love, and war.

--O. Henry

Life is like a blanket too short. You pull it up and your toes rebel, you yank it down and shivers meander about your shoulder; but cheerful folks manage to draw their knees up and pass a very comfortable night.

--Marion Howard

The great use of a life is to spend it for something that outlasts it.

--William James

A man who dares to waste one hour of time has not discovered the value of life.

--Charles Darwin

One of the most tragic things I know about human nature is that all of us tend to put off living. We are all dreaming of some magical rose garden over the horizon instead of enjoying the roses that are blooming outside our windows today.

—Dale Carnegie

'I have done my best.' That is about all the philosophy of living one needs.

--Lin Yutang

I think dogs are the most amazing creatures; they give unconditional love. For me they are the role model for being alive.

--Gilda Radner

Good life starts only when you stop wanting a better one.

--Laurence J. Peter

The entire sum of existence is the magic of being needed by just one person.

--Vi Putnam

This is your life – not your parents', teachers' or significant other's. If you ever find yourself on a path that just doesn't feel safe anymore, you have every right to stop the car, get out – change your shoes and start walking.

—Jennifer Elisabeth

The majority prove their worth by keeping busy. A busy life is the nearest thing to a purposeful life.

--Eric Hoffer

If you ask me what I came into this life to do, I will tell you: I came to live out loud.

—Emile Zola

This life's hard, man, but it's harder if you're stupid!

—Steven Keats  
in *The  
Friends of  
Eddie Coyle*

Life is 10% what happens to us and 90% how we react to it.

—Dennis P. Kimbro

Life isn't about waiting for the storm to pass...It's about learning to dance in the rain.

—Vivian Greene

The bulk of mankind are schoolboys through life.

—Thomas Jefferson

As we bustle, bumble and elbow our way through life, we inevitably but unintentionally mangle the lives of others. Reflecting, I regret the damage but acknowledge that I've been injured also at the hands of others. I only hope those I've bruised have been as resilient as I and have survived as I have survived.

—Dan L. Miller

A life of leisure and a life of laziness are two things. There will be sleeping enough in the grave.

—Benjamin Franklin

Lost wealth may be replaced by industry, lost knowledge by study, lost health by temperance or medicine, but lost time is gone forever.

—Samuel Smiles

One day your life will flash before your eyes. Make sure it is worth watching.

—Gerard Way

Life is all memory, except for the one present moment that goes by you so quickly you hardly catch it going.

--Tennessee Williams

When you're born you get a ticket to the freak show. When you're born in America, you get a front-row seat.

--George Carlin

My kids wouldn't dare say they were bored to me. I would kill them! How dare you!  
You have the gift of life. You've got to get out there and eat it!

--Meryl Streep

I left the womb for this?

--Bumper Sticker

There was never yet an uninteresting life. Such a thing is an impossibility. Inside of  
the dullest exterior there is a drama, a comedy, and a tragedy.

--Mark Twain

A life is not important except in the impact it has on others.

--Jackie Robinson

It may be that your sole purpose in life is simply to serve as a warning to others.

--Jill Shalvis

Most people are hidden most of the time, their appearances are brief and controlled,  
their movements secret, the outlines of their lives obscured.

--Jonathan Raban

Whatever you may be sure of, be sure of this—you are dreadfully like other people.

--James Russell Lowell

That it will never come again  
Is what makes life so sweet.

--Emily Dickinson

Life is a grindstone. Whether it grinds you down or polishes you up depends on  
what you are made of.

—Jacob M. Braude

Not only is life a bitch, it has puppies.

--Adrienne Gusoff

There are no classes in life for beginners; right away you are always asked to deal  
with what is most difficult.

—Rainer Maria Rilke

Life is like a bank. You can't take out what you haven't put in.

--Unknown

The first half of our lives is ruined by our parents and the second half by our children.

--Clarence S. Darrow

The basic fact about human existence is not that it is a tragedy, but that it is a bore. It is not so much a war as an endless standing in line.

--H. L. Mencken

Life is ever  
Since man was born,  
Licking honey  
From a thorn.

--Louis Ginsberg

Is not life a hundred times too short for us to bore ourselves?

--Friedrich Nietzsche

Life is like playing a violin in public and learning the instrument as one goes on.

--Samuel Butler

The mass of men lead lives of quiet desperation.

--Henry David Thoreau

One day a wealthy family man took his son on a trip to the country so he could have his son see how poor country people were. They stayed one day and one night in the farm of a very humble farm house. At the end of the trip and back home the father asked the son, 'What did you think of the trip?' The son replied, 'Very nice, Dad.'

Father: 'Did you notice how poor they were?'

Son: 'Yes.'

Father: 'What did you learn?'

Son: 'I learned that we have one dog in the house and they have four. We have a fountain in the garden and they have a stream that has no end. We have imported lamps in the garden, they have the stars. Our garden goes to the edge of our property, they have the entire horizon as their back yard.'

At the end of the son's reply the father was speechless and his son added: 'Thank you dad for showing me how poor we really are.'

Isn't it true that all depends on the crystal you use to see life.

—Unknown

This is the true joy in life, the being used for a purpose recognized by yourself as a mighty one; the being thoroughly worn out before you are thrown on the scrap heap; the being a force of Nature instead of a feverish, selfish little clod of ailments and grievances complaining that the world will not devote itself to making you happy.

--George Bernard Shaw

Love your life, poor as it is. You may perhaps have some pleasant thrilling, glorious hours, even in a poorhouse. The setting sun is reflected from the windows of the almshouse as brightly as from the rich man's abode.

--Henry David Thoreau

## **GOOD BONES**

Life is short, though I keep this from my children.  
Life is short, and I've shortened mine  
in a thousand delicious, ill-advised ways,  
a thousand deliciously ill-advised ways  
I'll keep from my children. The world is at least  
fifty percent terrible, and that's a conservative  
estimate, though I keep this from my children.  
For every bird there is a stone thrown at a bird.  
For every loved child, a child broken, bagged,  
sunk in a lake. Life is short and the world  
is at least half terrible, and for every kind  
stranger, there is one who would break you,  
though I keep this from my children. I am trying  
to sell them the world. Any decent realtor,  
walking you through a real shithole, chirps on  
about good bones: This place could be beautiful,  
right? You could make this place beautiful.

—Maggie Smith

Life is an endless process of self-discovery.

--James Gardner

Life is now in session. Are you present?

--John C. Maxwell

Not life, but a good life, is to be chiefly valued.

--Socrates

In life it is not necessarily where you are *going* that counts; it's what you leave behind.

--Dan L. Miller

Life itself can't give you joy,  
Unless you really will it;  
Life just gives you time and space—  
It's up to you to fill it.

--*Optimist*

Do not dream your experiences—experience your dreams. One reality is worth a thousand dreams.

--Frank C. Ross

*This I believe.* I believe that we are brought into life for a purpose, and that this purpose is improvement. That is the law of nature. Improvement means mental and physical fitness. Without these, we are discarded.

--Edward R. Murrow

Live every day of your life as though you expected to live forever.

--Douglas MacArthur

The supreme duty of every man is to make a life...anyone can make a living.

--*Lion Magazine*

No life is so hard but you can't make it easier by the way you take it.

--Ellen Glasgow

Nothing left loose ever does anything creative. No horse gets anywhere until he is harnessed. No steam or gas ever drives anything until it is confined. No Niagara is ever turned into light and power until it is tunneled. No life ever grows until it is focused, dedicated, disciplined.

--Clifford Northcote

Time wasted is existence; used, it is life.

--Unknown

Man, unlike the animals, has never learned that the sole purpose of life is to enjoy it.

--Samuel Butler

It is not true that life is one damn thing after another—it's one damn thing over and over.

--Edna St. Vincent Millay

Not a shred of evidence exists in favor of the idea that life is serious.

--Brendan Gill

Life is not a spectacle or a feast: it is a predicament.

--George Santayana

Life can only be understood backwards; but it must be lived forwards.

--Sören Kierkegaard

No objects of value...are worth risking the priceless experience of waking up one more day.

--Jack Smith

One's real life is often the life one does not lead.

--Oscar Wilde

There is no wealth but life.

--John Ruskin

The game of life is not so much in holding a good hand as playing a poor hand well.

--H. T. Leslie

There is no meaning to life except the meaning man gives his life by the unfolding of his powers.

--Erich Fromm

Many people's tombstones should read, 'Died at 30. Buried at 60.'

--Nicholas Murray Butler

Life consists in what a man is thinking of all day.

--Ralph Waldo Emerson

People in the West are always getting ready to live.

--Chinese Proverb

Life, as it is called, is for most of us one long postponement.

--Henry Miller

Life is a progress from want to want, not from enjoyment to enjoyment.

--Samuel Johnson

You only live once—but if you work it right, once is *enough*.

--Joe E. Lewis

Growth is the only evidence of life.

--Cardinal Newman

The art of living is more like that of wrestling than of dancing. The main thing is to stand firm and be ready for an unforeseen attack.

--Marcus Aurelius

It is not the years in your life but the life in your years that counts.

--Adlai Stevenson

Life is absolutely super and wonderful. There shouldn't be any sadness in it. People should be aware of all things at all times, they should experience the extremities of life, fulfill themselves completely. Why does everyone want to go to sleep when the only thing left is to stay awake?

--Edward Albee

Life is action and passion; therefore, it is required of a man that he should share the passion and action of his time at peril of being judged not to have lived.

--Oliver Wendell Holmes

I wish to live because life has within it that which is good, that which is beautiful, and that which is love. Therefore, since I have known all of these things, I have found them to be reason enough and—I wish to live. Moreover, because this is so, I wish others to live for generations and generations and generations and generations.

--Lorraine Hansberry

After all, life, for all its agonies of despair and loss and guilt, is exciting and beautiful, amusing and artful and endearing, full of liking and love, at times a poem and a high adventure, at times noble and at times very gay; and whatever (if anything) is to come after it—we shall not have this life again.

--Rose Macaulay

The meaning of life is adventure.

--Alfred North Whitehead

Life is an onion which one peels crying.

--French Proverb

Those who cannot live fully often become destroyers of life.

--Anaïs Nin

Man's main task in life is to give birth to himself, to become what he potentially is. The most important product of his effort is his own personality.

--Erich Fromm

It seems a token and habit of older age to feel very deeply the charm there is in every display of life: I love it yearly more and more—in the antics and questions of children, in the roaming of a baby's surprised eyes, in the sparrows (now as I write) cracking seeds on the balcony...in the white shimmer of apple-blossom I saw yesterday at Clamart, and in the garden there in the dusk, when we walked under the chestnuts.

--Stephen Mackenna

I love the beauty of life intensely; columbine flowers, for example, the way they dangle, or the delicate way a young girl sits and wonders, or the rage with which a man turns and kicks a fool dog that suddenly attacks him—beautiful that, the swift fierce turn and lunge of a kick, then the quivering pause for the next attack; or even the slightly silly glow that comes over some men as they are getting tipsy—it still is a glow, beautiful; or the swift look a woman fetches me when she would really like me to go off with her, but she is troubled; or the real compassion I saw a woman express for a man who slipped and wrenched his foot: life, the beauty, the beauty of life!

--D. H. Lawrence

However well organized the foundations of life may be, life must always be full of risks.

--Havelock Ellis

We begin to live when we have conceived life as tragedy.

--W. B. Yeats

What a miserable thing life is: you're living in clover, only the clover isn't good enough.

--Bertolt Brecht

Life's like a play: it's not the length, but the excellence of the acting that matters.

--Seneca

Life is one long process of getting tired.

--Samuel Butler

Life in itself is neither good nor evil; it is the scene of good or evil, as you make it.

--Montaigne

Life is seldom as unendurable as, to judge by facts, it logically ought to be.

--Brooks Atkinson

The life of every man is a diary in which he means to write one story, and writes another; and his humblest hour is when he compares the volume as it is with what he vowed to make it.

--James M. Barrie

Life is one vast tangled conglomeration, inflamed with passion.

--Ugo Betti

There are men here and there to whom the whole of life is like an after-dinner hour with a cigar; easy, pleasant, empty, perhaps enlivened by some fable of strife to be forgotten before the end is told.

--Joseph Conrad

Man pines to live but cannot endure the days of his life.

--Edward Dahlberg

Life is like a B-picture script. It is that corny. If I had my life story offered to me to film, I'd turn it down.

--Kirk Douglas

The art of life is to know how to enjoy a little and to endure much.

--William Hazlitt

Life is a continued struggle to be what we are not, and to do what we cannot.

--William Hazlitt

Life has a value only when it has something valuable as its object.

--Hegel

To live is to climb the Andes: the more one climbs the steeper become the precipices.

--Eugenio Maria  
de Hostos

The best way to prepare for life is to begin to live.

--Elbert Hubbard

No man is quick enough to enjoy life.

--Martial

Life is strewn with so many dangers, and can be the source of so many misfortunes, that death is not the greatest of them.

--Napoleon I

One lives in the hope of becoming a memory.

--Antonio Porchia

It is more fitting for a man to laugh at life than to lament over it.

--Seneca

Life is too short for men to take it seriously.

--George Bernard Shaw

If your daily life seems poor, do not blame it; blame yourself, tell yourself that you are not poet enough to call forth its riches.

--Rainer Maria Rilke

However mean your life is, meet it and live it; do not shun and call it hard names. It is not so bad as you are. It looks poorest when you are richest. The fault-finder will find faults even in Paradise. Love your life.

--Henry David Thoreau

Enjoy your own life without comparing it with that of another.

--Marquis de Condorcet

The art of living lies not in eliminating but in growing with troubles.

--Bernard M. Baruch

You can't tell how good it is to be alive, till you are facing death, because you don't live till then.

--John Galsworthy

Nothing seems so tragic to one who is old as the death of one who is young, and this alone proves that life is a good thing.

--Zoe Akins

Be a life long or short, its completeness depends on what it was lived for.

--David Starr Jordan

There is nothing of which men are so fond, and withal so careless, as life.

--La Bruyere

The fear of death is the greatest compliment we pay to life.

--Unknown

The life of a woman can be divided into three epochs; in the first she dreams of love, in the second she experiences it, in the third she regrets it.

--St. Prosper

The world is not a mere bog in which men and women trample themselves in the mire and die. Something magnificent is taking place here amid the cruelties and tragedies, and the supreme challenge to intelligence is that of making the noblest and best in our curious heritage prevail.

--Charles A. Beard

Life is probation, and the earth no goal  
But starting-point of man.

--Robert Browning

All life is an experiment. The more experiments you make the better.

--Ralph Waldo Emerson

Life is a preparation for the future; and the best preparation for the future is to live as if there were none.

--Elbert Hubbard

Life is a mission. Every other definition of life is false, and leads all who accept it astray. Religion, science, philosophy, though still at variance upon many points, all agree in this, that every existence is an aim.

--Giuseppe Mazzini

Life is a leaf of paper white  
Whereon each one of us may write  
His word or two, and then comes night.

--J. R. Lowell

Life is like a library owned by an author. In it are a few books which he wrote himself, but most of them were written for him.

--Harry Emerson Fosdick

No power of genius has ever yet had the smallest success in explaining existence. The perfect enigma remains.

--Ralph Waldo Emerson

Life is short to the fortunate, long to the unfortunate.

--Apollonius

Twenty years a boy, twenty years a youth, twenty years a man, twenty years an old man.

--Pythagoras

There is one reason why we cannot complain of life: it keeps no one against his will.

--Seneca

One's real life is so often the life that one does not lead.

--Oscar Wilde

Life is far too important a thing ever to talk seriously about.

--Oscar Wilde

The life of man is like a game with dice: if you don't get the throw you want, you must show your skill in making the best of the throw you do get.

--Terence

To have had an unhappy life is to have failed in life. It is the one consummate error.

--Llewelyn Powys

The secret of life is not to do what one likes, but to try to like that which one has to do.

--Dinah Maria  
Mulock Craik

All of the animals excepting man know that the principal business of life is to enjoy it.

--Samuel Butler  
the Younger

A little work, a little sweating, a few brief, flying years; a little joy, a little fretting, some smiles and then some tears; a little resting in the shadow, a struggle to the height, a futile search for El Dorado, and then we say Good Night.

--Walt Mason

Life holds more disappointment than satisfaction.

--Theophrastus

I tell you we're in a blessed drain-pipe, and we've got to crawl along it till we die.

--H. G. Wells

Our life is only an unending desire to dip our lips curiously in the cup of every sensation.

--Stephane Mallarme

Living is misfortune, death a kindness.

--Giacomo Leopardi

Life, looked at dispassionately, is such a hollow and a stupid farce.

--Mikhail Lermontov

Life is one long struggle in the dark.

--Lucretius

Life as we find it is too hard for us; it entails too much pain, too many disappointments, impossible tasks. We cannot do without palliative remedies.

--Sigmund Freud

The condition of man...is a condition of war of everyone against everyone.

--Thomas Hobbes

Life is half spent before we know what it is.

--George Herbert

Life is an incurable disease.

--Abraham Cowley

There are but three events in a man's life: birth, life and death. He is not conscious of being born, he dies in pain, and he forgets to live.

--Jean de La Bruyere

This world is a comedy to those that think, a tragedy to those that feel.

--Horace Walpole

Be not afraid of life. Believe that life *is* worth living, and your belief will help create the fact.

--William James

Birth, and copulation, and death.

That's all the facts when you come to brass tacks.

--T. S. Eliot

Your life will be rich for others only as it is rich for you.

--David McCord

Life is the totality of those functions which resist death.

--Marie Francois Xavier  
Bichat

We live, as we dream—alone.

--Joseph Conrad

A man lives not only his personal life, as an individual, but also, consciously or unconsciously, the life of his epoch and his contemporaries.

--Thomas Mann

Life is just one damned thing after another.

--Frank Ward O'Malley

Human life is everywhere in a state in which much is to be endured, and little to be enjoyed.

--Samuel Johnson

The art of life is to know how to enjoy a little and to endure much.

--William Hazlitt

All that a man hath will he give for his life.

--*Job* 2:4

It is a brave act of valor to condemn death; but where life is more terrible than death, it is then the truest valor to dare to live.

--Sir Thomas Browne

We are born crying, live complaining, and die disappointed.

--Thomas Fuller

Life's but a walking shadow, a poor player  
That struts and frets his hour upon the stage  
And then is heard no more: it is a tale  
Told by an idiot, full of sound and fury,  
Signifying nothing.

--William Shakespeare

A great deal of cant is talked about the mystery of life, as if life were somehow more mysterious than the rest of Nature....Life is neither more nor less mysterious than is the attraction of the magnet, the density of a paving-stone, or the colour of a tie: our presence in the midst of Nature's achievements does not affect her estimate of them. She prices all her wonderful goods at the same value, like the stock of a six-pence-halfpenny bazaar, nothing under and nothing over: she makes them all out of the one stuff, constructing it with a grain of sand, a drop of water, a micro-organism, or a nerve-cell, all with equal ease.

--Stephen Paget

Fix'd like a plant on his peculiar spot,  
To draw nutrition, propagate, and rot.

--Alexander Pope

Along a parabola life like a rocket flies,  
Mainly in darkness, now and then on a rainbow.

--Andrei Voznesenski

Our life is what our thoughts make it.

--Marcus Aurelius

Most people get a fair amount of fun out of their lives, but on balance life is suffering, and only the very young or the very foolish imagine otherwise.

--George Orwell

Half the agony of living is waiting.

--Alexander Rose

We never live; we are always in the expectation of living.

--Voltaire

How small a portion of our life it is that we really enjoy! In youth we are looking forward to things that are to come; in old age we are looking backward to things that are gone past; in manhood, although we appear indeed to be more occupied in things that are present, yet even that is too often absorbed in vague determinations to be vastly happy on some future day when we have time.

--Charles Caleb Colton

Life is composed of two parts: that which is past—a dream; and that which is to come—a wish.

--Arabic Proverb

Can't nothin' make your life work if you ain't the architect.

--Terry McMillan

Measurement of life should be proportioned rather to the intensity of the experience than to its actual length.

--Thomas Hardy

The true meaning of life is to plant trees, under whose shade you do not expect to sit.

--Nelson Henderson

Life is a long preparation for something that never happens.

--William Butler Yeats

Life is like a game of cards. The hand that is dealt you represents determinism; the way you play it is free will.

--Jawaharlal Nehru

Life is made up of sobs, sniffles and smiles, with sniffles predominating.

--O. Henry

Life is the only art that we are required to practise without preparation, and without being allowed the preliminary trials, the failures and botches, that are essential for the training of a mere beginner.

--Lewis Mumford

Real life is to most men, a long second best, a perpetual compromise between the ideal and the possible.

--Bertrand Russell

The character of human life, like the character of the human condition, like the character of all life, is 'ambiguity:' the inseparable mixture of good and evil, the true and false, the creative and destructive forces—both individual and social.

--Paul Tillich

The great business of life is to be, to do, to do without and to depart.

--John Morley

Life is an irreversible process and for that reason its future can never be a repetition of the past.

--Walter Lippman

Life is the quest for joy.

--J. Donald Walters

Life is like an enormous darkened room in which somebody keeps moving the furniture; you can't tell from moment to moment whether you're about to plop into your favorite easy chair or a potted cactus.

--Eric V. Copage

Life is partly what you make it, and partly how you take it.

--Unknown

Life is like a big red apple...only by taking a bite of it can I enjoy it's crisp, juicy sweetness. An apple can't be enjoyed to it's fullest by sitting and watching it.

--Unknown

Life is what happens while you are making other plans.

--Allen Saunders

I am convinced that my life belongs to the whole community; and as long as I live, it is my privilege to do for it whatever I can, for the harder I work the more I live. I rejoice in life for its own sake. Life is no brief candle for me, it is a sort of splendid torch which I got hold of for a moment, and I want to make it burn as brightly as possible before turning it over to future generations.

--George Bernard Shaw

If I were asked to give what I consider  
the single most useful bit of advice  
for all humanity,  
it would be this:

Expect trouble as an inevitable part of life  
and when it comes,  
hold your head high,  
look it squarely in the eye and say,  
'I will be bigger than you.  
You cannot defeat me.'

—Ann Landers

The quality of a person's life is in direct proportion to their commitment to excellence, regardless off their chosen field of endeavor.

--Vince Lombardi

Life is a process. We are all works in process—green tomatoes ripening on the windowsill of life.

--H. Jackson Brown, Jr.

Nothing is finer or better than a single life.

--Horace

The man who gets most out of life is not the one who has lived longest, but the one who has felt life most deeply.

--Jean Jacques Rousseau

Knowledge, love, power—there is the complete life.

--Henri Frédéric Amiel

Man arrives as a novice at each age of his life.

--Nicolas Chamfort

Life is not having been told the man has just waxed the floor.

--Ogden Nash

Up to a point a man's life is shaped by environment, heredity, and movements and changes in the world about him. Then there comes a time when it lies within his grasp to shape when it lies within his grasp to shape the clay of his life into the sort of thing he wishes to be. Only the weak blame parents, their race, their times, lack of good fortune, or the quirks of fate. Everyone has it within his power to say, 'This I am today, that I will be tomorrow.'

--Louis L'Amour

Look at life: the insolence and idleness of the strong, the ignorance and brutishness of the weak, horrible poverty everywhere, overcrowding, degeneration, drunkenness, hypocrisy, lying—Yet in all the houses on the streets there is peace and quiet; of the fifty thousand people who live in our town there is not one who would cry out, who would assert his indignation aloud. We see the people who go to market, eat by day, sleep by night, babble nonsense, marry, grow old, good-naturedly drag their dead to the cemetery, but we do not see or hear those who suffer, and what is terrible is life goes on somewhere behind the scenes. Everything is peaceful and quiet and only mute statistics protest.

--Anton Chekhov

The man who regards his own life and that of his fellow creatures as meaningless is not merely unfortunate, but almost disqualified for life.

--Albert Einstein

Man is born to live, not to prepare for life.

--Boris Pasternak

Life is a series of surprises, and would not be worth taking or keeping if it were not.

--Ralph Waldo Emerson

Only those are fit to live who do not fear to die; and none are fit to die who have shrunk from the joy of life and the duty of life.

--Theodore Roosevelt

Life is a long lesson in humility.

--J. M. Barrie

Life is like an onion; you peel it off one layer at a time and sometimes you weep.  
--Carl Sandburg

I believe the second half of one's life is meant to be better than the first half. The first half is finding out how you do it. And the second half is enjoying it.  
--Frances Lear

Life is not the way it's supposed to be. It's the way it is. The way you cope with it is what makes the difference.  
--Unknown

Life has a practice of living you if you don't live it.  
--Philip Larkin

Each man must look to himself to teach him the meaning of life. It is not something discovered; it is something moulded.  
--Antoine de  
Saint-Exupéry

Work and love—these are the basics; waking life is a dream controlled.  
--George Santayana

To survive the day is triumph enough for the walking wounded among the great many of us.  
--Studs Terkel

To be what we are, and to become what we are capable of becoming, is the only end in life.  
--Baruch Spinoza

Wish not so much to live long as to live well.  
--Benjamin Franklin

Life is a series of experiences, each one of which makes us bigger, even though sometimes it is hard to realize this.  
--Henry Ford

The love of life is necessary to the vigorous prosecution of any undertaking.  
--Dr. Samuel Johnson

The tragedy of life is not so much what men suffer, but rather what they miss.  
--Thomas Carlyle

If life were predictable, it would cease to be life and be without flavor.  
--Eleanor Roosevelt

Life is what we make it—always has been; always will be.  
--Grandma Moses

Living is a constant process of deciding what we are going to do.  
--José Ortega y Gasset

The purpose of life is the expansion of happiness.  
--Maharishi Mahesh Yogi

Those who say life is worth living at any cost have already written for themselves an epitaph of infamy, for there is no cause and no person they will not betray to stay alive.  
--Sidney Hook

In three words I can sum up everything I've learned about life. It goes on.  
--Robert Frost

No one's free, even the birds are chained to the sky.  
--Bob Dylan

From birth to age eighteen, a girl needs good parents. From eighteen to thirty-five, she needs good looks. From thirty-five to fifty-five, she needs a good personality. From fifty-five on, she needs good cash.  
--Sophie Tucker

There's an old joke. Two elderly women are at a Catskills mountain resort, and one of them says, 'Boy, the food at this place is really terrible.' The other one says, 'Yeah, and such small portions.' Well, that's essentially how I feel about life. Full of loneliness and misery and suffering and unhappiness, and it's all over much too quickly.  
--Woody Allen

Life is a God-damned, stinking, treacherous game and nine hundred and ninety-nine out of a thousand are bastards.  
--Theodore Dreiser

One of things that has helped me as much as any other is not how long I am going to live but how much I can do while living.

--George Washington  
Carver

Life is a struggle from beginning to end. During the first half of life we battle the anxieties and emotional crises that accompany growth to emotional maturity.

Once we reach emotional and fiscal stability and achieve our professional and physical peak at mid-life, we then spend the last half of our lives in physical discomfort and a general state of atrophy.

--Dan L. Miller

Pain is life—the sharper, the more evidence of life.

--Charles Lamb

There is more to life than increasing its speed.

--Mahatma Gandhi

Life is the childhood of our immortality.

--Johann Wolfgang  
von Goethe

When we remember we are all mad, the mysteries disappear and life stands explained.

--Mark Twain

However mean your life is, meet and live it; do not shun it and call it hard names. It is not so bad as you are. It looks poorest when you are richest. The fault-finder will find faults even in paradise. Love your life, poor as it is. You may perhaps have some pleasant, thrilling, glorious hours, even in a poorhouse. The setting sun is reflected from the windows of the almshouse as brightly as from the rich man's abode; the snow melts before its doors as early in the spring. Cultivate property like a garden herb, like sage. Do not trouble yourself much to get new things, whether clothes or friends....Things do not change; we change. Sell your clothes and keep your thoughts....Superfluous wealth can buy superfluities only.

—Henry David Thoreau

The meaning of life is that nobody knows the meaning of life.

—Woody Allen

There is always inequity in life. Some men are killed in a war, and some men are wounded, and some men are stationed in the Antarctic and some are stationed in San Francisco. It's very hard in military or personal life to assure complete equality. Life is unfair.

--John Fitzgerald  
Kennedy

Nothing is finer or better than a single life.

--Horace

I can teach anybody how to get what they want out of life. The problem is that I can't find anybody who can tell me what they want.

--Mark Twain

I worry that our lives are like soap operas. We can go for months and not tune in to them, then six months later we look in and the same stuff is still going on.

--Jane Wagner

By showing us live coverage of every bad thing happening everywhere in the world, cable news makes life seem like it's just an endless string of disasters —when, for most people in most places today, life is fairly good.

—Gregg Easterbrook

The two most important days in your life are the day you are born and the day you find out why.

—Mark Twain

Fear not that thy life shall come to an end, but rather fear that it shall never have a beginning.

--John Henry Cardinal  
Newman

Life is like a B-grade movie. You don't want to leave in the middle of it, but you don't want to see it again.

--Ted Turner

Tensions are vital to life. One should never completely relax unless one wants to feel the poetry of slowly dying.

--Charles Chaplin

We don't understand that life is heaven, for we have only to understand that and it will at once be fulfilled in all its beauty.

--Fyodor Dostoyevsky

Life in the twentieth century is like a parachute jump: you have to get it right the first time.

--Margaret Mead

The world is a vast temple dedicated to Discord.

--Voltaire

The best you get is an even break.

--Franklin P. Adams

Humanity is composed but of two categories, the invalids and the nurses.

--Richard Brinsley  
Sheridan

Youth is a blunder; manhood a struggle; old age a regret.

--Benjamin Disraeli

Behold, we live through all things,—famine, thirst,  
Bereavement, pain; all grief and misery,  
All woe and sorrow; life inflicts its worst  
On soul and body,—but we cannot die,  
Though we be sick, and tired, and tired, and faint, and worn,  
Lo, all things can be borne!

--Elizabeth Akers Allen

Life appears like a long shipwreck of which the debris are friendship, glory, and love. The shores of existence are strewn with them.

--Mme. de Staël

Most human beings today waste some twenty-five to thirty years of their lives before they break through the actual and conventional lies which surround them.

--Isadora Duncan

I could not, at any age, be content to take my place in a corner by the fireside and simply look on. Life was meant to be lived. Curiosity must be kept alive. The fatal thing is the rejection. One must never, for whatever reason, turn his back on life.

--Eleanor Roosevelt

Alone I walked the ocean strand,  
A pearly shell was in my hand;  
I stooped and wrote upon the sand  
My name—the year—the day.

As onward from the spot I passed,  
One lingering look behind I cast,  
A wave came rolling high and fast,  
And washed my lines away.

--Hannah Flagg Gould

Life's under no obligation to give us what we expect.

--Margaret Mitchell

I wanted a perfect ending....Now I've learned, the hard way, that some poems don't rhyme, and some stories don't have a clear beginning, middle and end. Life is about not knowing, having to change, taking the moment and making the best of it, without knowing what's going to happen next. Delicious ambiguity.

--Gilda Radner

A little work, a little sleep, a little love and it's all over.

--Mary Roberts Rinehart

Life is like a dog-sled team. If you ain't the lead dog, the scenery never changes.

--Lewis Grizzard

Life is either a daring adventure or nothing.

--Helen Keller

What hunger is in relation to food, zest is in relation to life.

--Bertrand Russell

It's a great thing to talk about or read in books, but when it comes to living it, life is pretty awful.

--Jean Anouilh

You don't get to choose how you're going to die. Or when. You can only decide how you're going to live. Now.

--Joan Baez

Life is a shit sandwich and every day you take another bite.

--Joe Schmidt

Life is a shadow and a mist; it passes quickly by, and is no more.

--Madagascan Proverb

The quality of life is in the mind, not in material.

--Malcolm S. Forbes

Though we seem grieved at the shortness of life in general, we are wishing every period of it at an end. The minor longs to be at age, then to be a man of business, then to make up an estate, then to arrive at honors, then to retire.

—Joseph Addison

The average man takes life as a trouble. He is in a chronic state of irritation at the whole performance. He does not learn to differentiate between troubles and difficulties, usually, until some real trouble bowls him over. He fusses about pin-pricks until a mule kicks him. Then he learns the difference.

--Herbert N. Casson

Those who compare the age in which their lot has fallen with a golden age which exists only in imagination may talk of degeneracy and decay, but no man who is correctly informed as to the past will be disposed to take a morose or desponding view of the present.

--Thomas Macaulay

Life is a romantic business. It is painting a picture, not doing a sum; but you have to make the romance, and it will come to the question how much fire you have in your belly.

--Oliver Wendell Holmes

A man is sane morally at 30, rich mentally at 40, wise spiritually at 50—or never.

--William Osler

Life cannot wait until the sciences may have explained the universe scientifically. We cannot put off living until we are ready. The most salient characteristic of life is its coerciveness: it is always urgent, 'here and now' without any possible postponement. Life is fired at us point blank.

--Jose Ortega y Gasset

Actually, the process of birth continues. The child begins to recognize outside objects, to react affectively, to grasp things and to co-ordinate his movements, to walk. But birth continues. The child learns to speak, it learns to know the use and function of things, it learns to relate itself to others, to avoid punishment and gain praise and liking. Slowly, the growing person learns to love, to develop reason, to look at the world objectively. He begins to develop his powers; to acquire a sense of identity, to overcome the seduction of his senses for the sake of an integrated life....The whole life of the individual is nothing but the process of giving birth to himself, indeed, we should be fully born, when we die—although it is the tragic fate of most individuals to die before they are born.

--Erich Fromm

The utmost span of a man's life is a hundred years. Half of it is spent in night, and of the rest half is lost by childhood and old age. Work, grief, longing and illness make up what remains.

--Bhartrihari

The four ages of man: bossed by mother, bossed by sister, bossed by wife, bossed by daughter.

--Evan Esar

Many of us who walk to and fro upon our usual tasks are prisoners drawing mental maps of escape.

--Loren Eiseley

Life...is like a cup to tea; the more heartily we drink, the sooner we reach the dregs.

--James M. Barrie

The lifelong process of caregiving is the ultimate link between caregivers of all ages. You and I are not just in a phase we will outgrow. This is life—birth, death, and everything in between....The care continuum is the cycle of life turning full circle in each of our lives. And what we learn when we spoon-feed our babies will echo in our ears as we feed our parents. The point is not to be done. The point is to be ready to do again.

--Paula C. Lowe

Life is a hospital in which every patient wants to change his bed for another's.

—Charles Baudelaire

When a person puts his best foot forward and gets it stepped on—that's life.

—Laurence J. Peter

We never live, we are always going to live.

--Voltaire

The world makes no sense, and neither do most of the people in it.

--Unknown

The tombstones of a great many people should read: *Died at thirty, buried at sixty.*

--Nicholas Murray Butler

The tragedy of life is not so much what men suffer, but rather what they miss.

--Thomas Carlyle

Every life is a wreck among whose ruins we have to discover what the person should have been.

--José Ortega y Gasset

The mass of men lead lives of quiet desperation. What is called resignation is confirmed desperation. From the desperate city you go into the desperate country, and have to console yourself with the bravery of minks and muskrats. A stereotyped but unconscious despair is concealed even under what are called the games and amusements of mankind. There is no play in them, for this comes after work. But it is a characteristic of wisdom not to do desperate things.

--Henry David Thoreau

I think you have to be willing to settle for the messiness of experience. That may be what we mean by life.

--Daniel J. Boorstin

Life is a great school. It thrashes and bangs and teaches you.

--Nikita S. Khrushchev

I heard a bit of good news today. We shall pass this way but once.

--George Price

You all of a sudden realize that you are being ruled by people you went to high school with. You all of a sudden catch on that life is nothing *but* high school...class officers, cheer-leaders, and all.

--Kurt Vonnegut

One thing that has always haunted me about people is that strange absent look of solitude they have when they're walking down the street or just standing around. It's like the ferocious loneliness of the desert.

--Raphael Soyer

Life is a great big canvas, and you should throw all the paint on it you can.

--Danny Kaye

Learning to live is learning to let go.

--Sogyal Rimpoche

Life is like riding a bicycle; you don't fall off unless you stop pedaling.

--Claude Pepper

You cannot control the length of your life, but you can control its breadth, depth and height.

--Evan Esar

Life is like a pudding: it takes both the salt and the sugar to make a really good one.

--Joan W. Blos

Folks keep growing from one person into another all their lives.

--Carol Ryrie Brink

Life is a bowl of spaghetti...every now and then you get a meatball.

--Sharon Creech

Rat race is a perfect name for it. We're always going and going and going, and never asking where....It seems like we're always searching for something to satisfy us, and never finding it.

--S. E. Hinton

Life is like the baseball season, where even the best team loses at least a third of its games and even the worst team has its days of brilliance. The goal is not to win every game but to win more than you lose, and if you do that often enough, in the end you may find you have won it all.

--Harold S. Kushner

Life is an unbearable gift sometimes. Unbearably beautiful and unbearably painful, but always a gift.

--Justine Randal

Life is not about accomplishment; it's all about doing, participating, progressing, growing, learning.

--Mike Hernacki

I was halfway through life before I discovered that it is a do-it-yourself job.

--Unknown

Life being what it is, one dreams of revenge.

--Henri de  
Toulouse-Lautrec

If you want a picture of the future, imagine a boot stamping on a human face—forever.

--George Orwell

We are here on earth to fart around. Don't let anyone tell you any different.

--Kurt Vonnegut

Life is like a trumpet. If you don't put anything into it, you don't get anything out of it.

-- W. C. Handy

Life is too short to be small.

--Benjamin Disraeli

And in the end, it's not the years in your life that count. It's the life in your years.

--Abraham Lincoln

Life is a tragedy for those who feel, and a comedy for those who think.

— Jean de La Bruyère

Life is a dream for the wise, a game for the fool, a comedy for the rich, a tragedy for the poor.

--Sholom Aleichem

Life is a sexually transmitted disease and the mortality rate is one hundred percent.

--R. D. Laing

Life is what happens when you're not watching television.

--Jason Love

Life is like a sewer. What you get out of it depends on what you put in.

--Tom Lehrer

What is important in life is life, and not the result of life.

--Johann Wolfgang  
von Goethe

Life, in my estimation, is a biological misadventure that we terminate on the shoulders of six strange men whose only objective is to make a hole in one with you.

--Fred Allen

While we have the gift of life, it seems to me the only tragedy is to allow part of us to die—whether it is our spirit, our creativity or our glorious uniqueness.

--Gilda Radner

Life is a wretched gray Saturday, but it has to be lived through.

--Anthony Burgess

The art of life lies in a constant readjustment to our surroundings.

--Okakura Kakuzo

If you're quiet, you're not living. You've got to be noisy and colorful and lively.

--Mel Brooks

Life is like a ten speed bicycle. Most of us have gears we never use.

--Charles M. Schulz

Life is like an ice-cream cone; you have to lick it one day at a time.

--Charles M. Schulz

Life was a funny thing that happened to me on the way to the grave.

--Quentin Crisp

You fall out of your mother's womb, you crawl across open country under fire, and drop into your grave.

--Quentin Crisp

The purpose of life is to be happy, to matter, to be productive, to be useful, to have it make a difference that you lived at all.

--Leo Rosten

That...is how the world moves: Not like an arrow, but a boomerang.

Ralph Ellison

Life is like a roll of toilet paper; the closer it gets to the end, the faster it goes.

--Andy Rooney

Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take but by the moments that take our breath away.

--Vicki Corona

Life is change. Growth is optional. Choose wisely.

--Karen Kaiser Clark

If people concentrated on the really important things in life, there'd be a shortage of fishing poles.

--Doug Larson

Life is change. Growth is optional. Choose wisely.

--Karen Kaiser Clark

Life is occupied in both perpetuating itself and in surpassing itself; if all it does is maintain itself, then living is only not dying.

--Simone de Beauvoir

One's life has value so long as one attributes value to the life of others, by means of love, friendship, indignation and compassion.

--Simone de Beauvoir

All life is preparation for something that probably will never happen.

--William Butler Yeats

One sad thing about this world is that the acts that take the most out of you are usually the ones that other people will never know about.

--Anne Tyler

True life is lived when tiny changes occur.

--Leo Tolstoy

To be what we are, and to become what we are capable of becoming, is the only end of life.

--Robert Louis Stevenson

Life is easier to take than you'd think: all that is necessary is to accept the impossible, do without the indispensable, and bear the intolerable.

--Kathleen Norris

Life is a wonderful thing to talk about, or to read about in history books—but it is terrible when one has to live it.

--Jean Anouilh

The life you have led doesn't need to be the only life you'll have.

--Anna Quindlen

The key to life is accepting challenges. Once someone stops doing this, he's dead.

--Bette Davis

Life is divided into the horrible and the miserable.

--Woody Allen

In the end, we decide if we're remembered for what happened to us or for what we did with it.

--Randy K. Milholland

It does not do to dwell on dreams and forget to live.

--J. K. Rowling

Life is 'trying things to see if they work.'

-- Ray Bradbury

Life isn't a dress rehearsal.

--Kerry Packer

Nobody in life gets exactly what they thought they were going to get, but if you work really hard and you're kind, amazing things will happen.

--Conan O'Brien

## **Life is...**

Life is an opportunity, benefit from it.

Life is beauty, admire it.

Life is bliss, taste it.

Life is a dream, realize it.

Life is a challenge, meet it.

Life is a duty, complete it.

Life is a game, play it.

Life is a promise, fulfill it.

Life is a sorrow, overcome it.

Life is a song, sing it.

Life is a struggle, accept it.

Life is a tragedy, confront it.

Life is an adventure, dare it.

Life is luck, make it.

Life is too precious, do not destroy it.

Life is life, fight for it.

--Mother Teresa

Only a life lived for others is a life worthwhile.

--Albert Einstein

The longer I live, the more beautiful life becomes.

--Frank Lloyd Wright

The quality of life is determined by its activities.

--Aristotle

Life is one audition after another.

--Unknown

Life is a coin. You can spend it anyway you wish,  
But you can only spend it once.

--Lillian Dickson

Life never presents us with anything which may not be looked upon as a fresh starting point.

--Andre Gide

Beginnings are usually scary and endings are usually sad, but it's everything in between that makes it all worth living.

--Bob Marley

Do you love life? Then do not squander time; that's the stuff life is made of.

--Benjamin Franklin

No man ever threw away a life while it was worth keeping.

--David Hume

It is natural to revive fond memories, but one can't dwell in the past and stay whole. Seek to keep the past in its place, and strive to make the present more pleasant.

--Dan L. Miller

Life is never fair, and perhaps it is a good thing for most of us that it is not.

--Oscar Wilde

Now there are very few rules to improv, but one of the things I was taught early on is that you are not the most important person in the scene—everybody else is. And if everybody else is more important than you are, you will naturally pay attention to them and serve them. No one is leading.... You cannot win in improv. And life is an improvisation.

--Stephen Colbert

We're on a random walk through life. Some parents, due to an accident of fate, can wind up with kids with autism or some other condition,. I have three normal kids. But at any moment, a normal kid can dive into a pool and hit his head and become paralyzed. Life is random. We can't explain it.

--Jonah Shacknai

Is there any plan for our lives? No, there may not be. Maybe we are, ourselves—maybe we make the plan. We act out. We make our own meaning. And when the time comes, the man will come in and take you away.

--Martin Scorsese

My own view is that this planet is used as a penal colony, lunatic asylum and dumping ground by a superior civilization, to get rid of the undesirable and unfit. I can't prove it, but you can't disprove it either.

--Christopher Hitchens

My life is my message.

--Gandhi

Life is like a wheel. Sooner or later, it always comes around to where you started.

--Stephen King

I am fighting to stay alive not because I fear death but because I love life.

--Edie Sundby,  
Cancer Survivor

The key to a happy life is to focus on doing good, not doing well.

--Erma Bombeck

All of life is interrelated. All persons are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly affects all indirectly. I can never be what I ought to be until you are what you ought to be, and you can never be what you ought to be until I am what I ought to be. This is the interrelated structure of reality.

--Dr. Martin  
Luther  
King, Jr.

Life moves pretty fast. If you don't stop and look around once in a while, you could miss it.

--Ferris Bueller from  
*Ferris Bueller's  
Day Off*

Get busy living, or get busy dying.

--Stephen King

Life forms illogical patterns. It is haphazard and full of beauties which I try to catch as they fly by, for who knows whether any of them will ever return?

--Margot Fonteyn

It should be our care not so much to live a long life as a satisfactory one.

--Seneca

Those who fear life are already three parts dead.

--Bertrand Russell

We have two lives: The life we learn with and the life we live with after that.

--Bernard Malamud

Let no one underestimate the need of pity. We live in a stony universe whose hard, brilliant forces rage fiercely.

--Theodore Dreiser

Change is not merely necessary to life—it is life.

--Alvin Toffler

I have always had a dread of becoming a passenger in life.

--Princess Margaret

Happy the man, and happy he alone,  
He, who can call to-day his own:  
He who, secure within, can say,  
To-morrow do thy worst, for I have lived today.

--John Dryden

Good friends, good books and a sleepy conscience: this is the ideal life.

--Mark Twain

Remember that life is not measured in hours but in accomplishments.

--James A. Pike

The sole meaning of life is to serve humanity.

--Leo Tolstoy

If you look at what you have in life,  
You'll always have more.  
If you look at what you don't have in life,  
You'll never have enough.

--Oprah Winfrey

Life is like a five-act play, and the last act can be full of surprises.

--Unknown

Experience is a hard teacher because she gives the test first, the lesson afterwards.

--Vernon Sanders Law

Most people live their life around what other people do.

--Tom Scholz

Challenges are what make life interesting; overcoming them is what makes life meaningful.

--Joshua J. Marine

Life is full of obstacle illusions.

--Grant Frazier

Life is a banquet, and most poor suckers are starving to death.

--Rosalind Russell

When we hold back on life, life holds us back.

--Mary Manin Boggs

We like to say that each person is like a snowflake: Unique, precious and sooner or later covered in exhaust and dog urine. Yet all of our lives...we pass through roughly the same milestones. It is a process we call the life cycle because it reminds us of a popular stationary exercise bike that is exhilarating but grueling, and winds up leaving you off exactly where you started.

--*Earth (The Book) A  
Visitor's Guide to  
the Human Race*

Man's loneliness is but his fear of life.

--Eugene O'Neill

One should count each day a separate life.

--Seneca

Where there is love there is life.

--Mahatma Gandhi

Few things demonstrate the cyclical nature of life more clearly than the renewal of spring.

--Greg Henry Quinn

When making your choice in life, do not neglect to live.

--Samuel Johnson

## THE HUMAN SEASONS

Four Seasons fill  
the measure of the year;  
There are four seasons  
in the mind of man;  
He has his lusty Spring,  
when fancy clear  
Takes in all beauty  
with an easy span:  
He has his Summer,  
when luxuriously  
Spring's honied cud  
of youthful thought he loves  
To Ruminare,  
and by such dreaming high  
Is nearest unto heaven:  
quiet coves  
His soul has in its Autumn,  
when his wings  
He furlerth close;  
contented so to look  
On mists in idleness—  
to let fair things  
Pass by unheeded  
as a threshold brook.  
He has his Winter too  
of pale misfeature,  
Or else he would forego  
his mortal nature.

--John Keats

This is our purpose: to make as meaningful as possible this life that has been bestowed upon us; to live in such a way that we may be proud of ourselves; to act in such a way that some part of us lives on.

--Oswald Spengler

Life is not long, and too much of it must not pass in idle deliberation how it shall be spent.

--Samuel Johnson

Words can never adequately convey the incredible impact of our attitudes toward life. The longer I live the more convinced I become that life is 10 percent what happens to us and 90 percent how we respond to it.

--Charles R. Swindoll

The reason we want to go on and on is because we live in an impoverished present.

--Alan Watts

God gave us the gift of life; it is up to us to give ourselves the gift of living well.

--Voltaire

Life is like a camera. Just focus on what's important and capture the good times, develop from the negatives and if things don't work out, just take another shot.

—Ziad K. Abdelnour

Self-consciousness is the enemy of all art, be it acting, writing, painting or living itself, which is the greatest art of all. Creativity, at heart, is the essence of man's being.

—Ray Bradbury

I have a hundred times wished that one could resign life as an officer resigns a commission.

—Robert Burns

Man must finally awaken...to discover his total solitude, his radical strangeness. He knows now that, like a nomad, he stands at the margin of the universe where he must live. A universe deaf to his music, as indifferent to his hopes as to his sufferings—or to his crimes.

—Jacques Monod

The most decisive actions of our life—I mean those that are most likely to decide the whole course of our future—are, more often than not, unconsidered.

—Andre Gide

Sometimes even to live is an act of courage.

—Lucius Annaeus Seneca

My life is composed of a lot of hours that I wish would hurry up, just to get to a couple hours that I wish would last way longer.

—Unknown

Civilization is a stream with banks. The stream is sometimes filled with blood from people killing stealing, shouting and doing the things historians usually record, while on the banks, unnoticed people build homes, make love, raise children, sing songs, write poetry and even whittle statues. The story of civilization is the story of what happened on the banks.

—Will Durant

Life is like unto a long journey with a heavy burden.

—Ieyasu Tokugawa

I like living. I have sometimes been wildly, despairingly, acutely miserable, racked with sorrow, but through it all I still know quite certainly that just to be alive is a grand thing.

—Agatha Christie

The aims of life are the best defense against death.

—Primo Levi

Life is the continuous adjustment of internal relations to external relations.

—Herbert Spencer

Most people live ninety percent in the past, seven percent in the present, and that only leaves three percent for the future.

—John Steinbeck

If you end up with a boring miserable life because you listened to your mom, your dad, your teacher, your priest, or some guy on television telling you how to do your shit, then you deserve it.

—Frank Zappa

When we hold back on life, life holds us back.

—Mary Manin Boggs

The secret of man's being is not only to live but to have something to live for.

—Feodor Mikhailovich  
Dostoyevsky

The greatest use of life is to spend it for something that will outlast it.

—William James

Life is like a beautiful melody, only the lyrics are messed up.

—Hans Christian  
Andersen

To live means to finesse the processes to which one is subjugated.

—Bertolt Brecht

Life is not meant to be easy, my child; but take courage—it can be delightful.

—George Bernard Shaw

The measure of a life, after all, is not its duration, but its donation.

—Corrie Ten Boom

Life is made up not of great sacrifices or duties, but of little things, in which smiles and kindness and small obligations given habitually are what preserve the heart and secure comfort.

—Humphry Davy

Living is strife and torment, disappointment and love and sacrifice, golden sunsets and black storms. I said that some time ago, and today I do not think I would add one word.

—Laurence Olivier

As far as we can discern, the sole purpose of human existence is to kindle a light in the darkness of mere being.

—Carl Jung

Most people have never learned that one of the main aims in life is to enjoy it.

—Samuel Butler

The proper function of man is to live, not to exist. I shall not waste my days in trying to prolong them. I shall use my time.

—Jack London

Life.....is a series of dogs.

—George Carlin

The one fact that I would cry from every housetop is this: The Good Life is waiting for us—here and now.

—B. F. Skinner

Life has no meaning the moment you lose the illusion of being eternal.

—Jean-Paul Sartre

We must be willing to get rid of the life we've planned, so as to have the life that is waiting for us.

—Joseph Campbell

This we know: All things are connected like the blood that unites us, we did not weave the web of life, we are merely a strand in it. Whatever we do to the web, we do to ourselves.

—Chief Seattle

You will find that life is a game, sometimes serious, sometimes fun, but a game that must be played with true team-spirit.

—Shelagh Delaney

No man is a failure who enjoys life.

—William Feather

Our life is the creation of our mind.

—Buddha

We don't see life as it is; we see a version distorted by our hopes, fears, and other attachments.

Greg Lukianoff and  
Jonathan Haidt

You only live twice,  
Or so it seems.  
One life for yourself  
And one for your dreams.

—John Barry

The purpose of life is not to be happy. It is to be useful, to be honorable, to be compassionate, to have it make some difference that you have lived and lived well.

—Ralph Waldo Emerson

All that really matters is that the people you love are happy and healthy.  
Everything else is just sprinkles on the sundae.

—Paul Walker

For a long time it had seemed to me that life was about to begin—real life. But there was always some obstacle in the way, something to be gotten through first, some unfinished business, time still to be served, or a debt to be paid. Then life would begin. At last it dawned on me that these obstacles were my life.

—Alfred D. Souza

It is not what we get. But who we become, what we contribute... that gives meaning to our lives.

—Tony Robbins

The meaning of life... I think the meaning of life is, I think it's love.

—Julie Benz

There are only two days in the year that nothing can be done. One is called *yesterday* and the other is called *tomorrow*, so today is the right day to love, believe, do and mostly live.

—Dalai Lama

It's a shallow life that doesn't give a person a few scars.

—Garrison Keillor

Not how long, but how well you have lived is the main thing.

—Lucius Annaeus Seneca

What is life? It is the flash of a firefly in the night. It is the breath of a buffalo in the wintertime. It is the little shadow which runs across the grass and loses itself in the sunset.

—Crowfoot

Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance, you must keep moving.

—Albert Einstein

I don't believe people are looking for the meaning of life as much as they are looking for the experience of being alive.

—Joseph Campbell

Everything around you that you call life was made up by people...and you can change it.

—Steve Jobs

Life is like an overlong drama through which we sit being nagged by the vague memories of having read the reviews.

—John Updike

My entire life can be summed up in one sentence... 'Well, that didn't go as planned.'

—Darynda Jones

Never be defined by your past. It was a lesson, not a life sentence.

—*Facebook.com / Lifebooks*

Life is inherently risky. There is only one big risk you should avoid at all costs, and that is the risk of doing nothing.

—Denis Waitley

What is the point of being alive if you don't at least try to do something remarkable?

—John Green

There are three stages of life. In the first stage, you believe in Santa Claus; in the second, you don't believe in Santa; and in the third, you are Santa Claus.

—Pinchas Cohen

Sex is not only the basis of life, it is the reason for life.

—Norman Lindsay

Life would be so wonderful if we only knew what to do with it.

—Greta Garbo

Life's like a play: it's not the length, but the excellence of the acting that matters.

—Lucius Annaeus  
Seneca

Man's main task in life is to give birth to himself, to become what he potentially is.

—Erich Fromm

Life has no meaning. Each of us has meaning and we bring it to life. It is a waste to be asking the question when you are the answer.

—Joseph Campbell

A good life is when you smile often, dream big, laugh a lot & realize how blessed you are for what you have.

—Unknown

What do you want meaning for? Life is desire, not meaning!

—Charlie Chaplin

To live is to function. That is all there is in living.

—Oliver Wendell  
Holmes Jr.

Don't go through life, grow through life.

—Eric Butterworth

Yesterday is history. Tomorrow is a mystery. And today? Today is a gift. That's why we call it the present.

—Alice Morse Earle

To live without Hope is to Cease to live.

—Fyodor Dostoevsky

Life is a succession of lessons enforced by immediate reward, or, oftener, by immediate chastisement.

—Ernest Dimmet

Sometimes, you need to talk to a three year old so you can understand life again.

—Unknown

Your life is the same wherever you go.

—Gary Kemp

Comfort zones are plush lined coffins. When you stay in your plush lined coffins, you die.

—Stan Dale

The life of man is solitary, nasty, brutish, and short.

—Thomas Hobbes

What would be the use of immortality to a person who cannot use well a half hour?

—Ralph Waldo Emerson

## 11 THINGS YOU DID NOT AND WILL NOT LEARN IN SCHOOL!

Rule 1: Life is not fair - get used to it!

Rule 2: The world won't care about your self-esteem.

The world will expect you to accomplish something BEFORE you feel good about yourself.

Rule 3: You will NOT make \$60,000 a year right out of high school. You won't be a vice-president with a car phone until you earn both.

Rule 4: If you think your teacher is tough, wait till you get a boss.

Rule 5: Flipping burgers is not beneath your dignity.

Your Grandparents had a different word for burger flipping: they called it opportunity.

Rule 6: If you mess up, it's not your parents' fault, so don't whine about your mistakes, learn from them.

Rule 7: Before you were born, your parents weren't as boring as they are now. They got that way from paying your bills, cleaning your clothes and listening to you talk about how cool you thought you were. So before you save the rain forest from the parasites of your parent's generation, try delousing the closet in your own room.

Rule 8: Your school may have done away with winners and losers, but life HAS NOT. In some schools, they have abolished failing grades and they'll give you as MANY TIMES as you want to get the right answer. This doesn't bear the slightest resemblance to ANYTHING in real life.

Rule 9: Life is not divided into semesters. You don't get summers off and very few employers are interested in helping you FIND YOURSELF. Do that on your own time.

Rule 10: Television is NOT real life. In real life people actually have to leave the coffee shop and go to jobs.

Rule 11: Be nice to nerds. Chances are you'll end up working for one.

—Bill Gates

The purpose of life is to live it, to taste experience to the utmost, to reach out eagerly and without fear for newer and richer experience.

—Eleanor Roosevelt

You only live twice. Once when you are born and once when you look death in the face.

—Ian Fleming

We thought it was a rough patch, but it turned out to be our life.

—Bruce Eric Kaplan

The supreme irony of life is that hardly anyone gets out of it alive.

—Robert A. Heinlein

You either get **bitter** or you get **better**. It's that simple. You either take what has been dealt to you and allow it to make you a better person, or you allow it to tear you down. **The choice** does not belong to fate, it **belongs to you**.

—Josh Shipp

Baseball is a lot like life. The line drives are caught, the squibbles go for base hits. It's an unfair game.

—Rod Kanehl

It was Chrysis' theory of life that all human beings—save a few who seemed to possess some secret from the gods—merely endured the slow misery of existence, hiding as best they could their consternation that life had no wonderful surprises after all and that its most difficult burden was the incommunicability of love.

—Thornton Wilder

Life falls away from people who neglect  
To seek its marvels; early are destroyed  
The willful stupid and the willful blind.

—Helene Mullins

We do not commonly live our life out to the full; we do not fill all our pores with our blood; ... We live but a fraction of our life. Why do we not let on the flood, raise the gates, and set all our wheels in motion? He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.

—Henry David Thoreau

It is through creating, not possessing, that life is revealed.

—Vida D. Scudder

It matters not where or how far you travel—the farther commonly the worse—but how much alive you are. All that a man has to say or do that can possibly concern mankind, is in some shape or other to tell the story of his love—to sing, and if he is fortunate and keeps alive, he will be forever in love.

—Henry David Thoreau

Man is the most vicious of all animals, and life is a series of battles ending in victory or defeat.

—Donald J. Trump

Life's like a ball game. You gotta take a swing at whatever comes along before you wake up and find out it's the ninth inning.

—Martin Goldsmith

If you don't make the time to work on creating the life you want, you're eventually going to be forced to spend a LOT of time dealing with a life you don't want.

—Kevin Ngo

Every true man, sir, who is a little above the level of the beasts and plants does not live for the sake of living, without knowing how to live; but he lives so as to give a meaning and a value of his own to life.

—Luigi Pirandello

Life in the twentieth century is like a parachute jump: you have to get it right the first time.

—Margaret Mead

My life feels like a test I didn't study for.

—[someecards.com](http://someecards.com)

In three words I can sum up everything I've learned about life: It goes on.

—Robert Frost

It is better to create than to be learned; creating is the true essence of life.

—Barthold Georg  
Niebuhr

Just living is not enough. ... One must have sunshine, freedom and a little flower.

—Hans Christian  
Andersen

I like nonsense—it wakes up the brain cells. Fantasy is a necessary ingredient in living. It's a way of looking at life through the wrong end of a telescope... and that enables you to laugh at all of life's realities.

--Dr. Seuss

Next to creating a life, the finest thing a man can do is save one.

—Abraham Lincoln

The great mass of human beings are not acutely selfish. After the age of about thirty they almost abandon the sense of being individuals at all—and live chiefly for others, or are simply smothered under drudgery.

—George Orwell

If we listened to our intellect, we'd never have a love affair. We'd never have a friendship. We'd never go into business, because we'd be cynical. Well, that's nonsense. You've got to jump off cliffs all the time and build your wings on the way down.

--Ray Bradbury

To live is the rarest thing in the world. Most people exist, that's all.

—Oscar Wilde

Life is like playing the violin in public and learning the instrument as one goes on.

—Samuel Butler

It is the continual rush of time, so violent that it appears to be screaming, that deprives our actual lives of so much dignity and meaning.

—Tennessee Williams

As you walk down the fairway of life you must smell the roses, for you only get to play one round.

—Ben Hogan, Famous Golfer

Who the hell wants to live forever? Most of us, apparently; but it's idiotic. After all, there is such a thing as life-saturation: the point when everything is pure effort and total repetition.

--Truman Capote

Life is the sum of your choices.

—Albert Camus

Never part with your illusions. Without your dreams you may continue to exist, but you have ceased to live.

—Mark Twain

Life is a gift so open it up and play with it.

—Unknown

We are all functioning at a small fraction of our capacity to live fully in its total meaning of loving, caring, creating and adventuring. Consequently, the actualizing of our potential can become the most exciting adventure of our lifetime.

—Herbert Otto

There is no cure for birth and death save to enjoy the interval. The dark background which death supplies brings out the tender colors of life in all their purity.

—George Santayana

It's a funny thing about life; if you refuse to accept anything but the best, you very often get it.

—W. Somerset Maugham

Life is just a mirror, and what you see out there, you must first see inside yourself.

—Jacob Bigelow

My life is a my song; I choose to dance to it with Light, Laughter and Love.

—Unknown

Life is like a 10-speed bike. We all have gears we never use.

--Charles Schultz

Man is a goal-seeking animal. His life only has meaning if he is reaching out and striving for his goals.

—Aristotle

We carry adolescence around in our bodies all our lives. We get through the Car Crash Age alive and cruise through our early twenties as cool dudes, wily, dashing, winsome...shooting baskets, the breeze, the moon, and then we try to become caring men, good husbands, great fathers, good citizens.

--Garrison Keillor

Most of life is routine—dull and grubby, but routine is the momentum that keeps a man going. If you wait for inspiration, you'll be standing on the corner after the parade is a mile down the street.

—Ben Nicholas

The unfortunate, yet truly exciting thing about your life, is that there is no core curriculum. The entire place is an elective.

—Jon Stewart

I realize that if I were stable, prudent and static; I'd live in death. Therefore, I accept confusion, uncertainty, fear and emotional ups and downs; because that's the price I'm willing to pay for a fluid, perplexed and exciting life.

—Carl Rogers

Imagination is everything. It is the preview of life's coming attractions.

--Albert Einstein

Life is what you make it: If you snooze, you lose; and if you snore, you lose more.

—Phyllis George

Life is a constant challenge to know oneself.

—Sri Rajneesh,  
AKA Osho

We should all be obliged to appear before a board every five years, and justify our existence...on pain of liquidation.

—George Bernard Shaw

We are here to add what we can to life, not to get what we can from it.

—William Osler

*Life is crazy.* Now, maybe you knew this all along. But before I had children, I actually held on to the illusion that there was some sense of order to the universe....I am now convinced that we are all living in a Chagall painting—a world where brides and grooms and cows and chickens and angels and sneakers are all mixed up together, sometimes floating in the air, sometimes upside down and everywhere.

—Susan Lapinski

## A GRANDMOTHER'S WISH

We tried so hard to make things better for our kids that we made them worse. For my grandchildren, I'd like better.

I'd really like for them to know about hand-me down clothes and homemade ice cream and leftover meatloaf sandwiches. I really would. I hope you learn humility by being humiliated, and that you learn honesty by being cheated. I hope you learn to make your bed, mow the lawn and wash the car. And I really hope nobody gives you a brand new car when you are sixteen.

It will be good if at least one time you can see puppies born and your old dog put to sleep. I hope you get a black eye fighting for something you believe in. I hope you have to share a bedroom with your younger brother. And it's all right if you have to draw a line down the middle of the room, but when he wants to crawl under the covers with you because he's scared, I hope you let him. When you want to see a movie and your little sister wants to tag along, I hope you'll let her.

I hope you have to walk uphill to school with your friends and that you live in a town where you can do it safely. On rainy days when you have to catch a ride, I hope you don't ask your 'driver' to drop you two blocks away so you won't be seen riding with someone as uncool as your 'Mom.' If you want a slingshot, I hope your Dad teaches you how to make one instead of buying one. I hope you learn to dig in the dirt and read books. When you learn to use computers, I hope you also learn to add and subtract in your head.

I hope you get teased by your friends when you have your first crush on a girl, and when you talk back to your mother that you learn what Ivory soap tastes like. May you skin your knee climbing a mountain, burn your hand on a stove and stick your tongue on a frozen flagpole. I don't care if you try a beer once, but I hope you don't like it. And if a friend offers you dope or a joint, I hope you realize he is not your friend.

I sure hope you make time to sit on a porch with your Grandma and go fishing with your Uncle. May you feel sorrow at a funeral and joy during the holidays. I hope your Mother punishes you when you throw a baseball through a neighbor's window and that she hugs you and kisses you at Christmas time when you give her a mold of your hand.

These things I wish for you—tough times and disappointment, hard work and happiness. To me, it's the only way to appreciate life.

--Paul Harvey

Life is not lost by dying; life is lost minute by minute, day by dragging day, in all the thousand small uncaring ways.

—Stephen Vincent Benét

The whole conviction of my life now rests upon the belief that loneliness, far from being a rare and curious phenomenon, peculiar to myself and to a few other solitary men, is the central and inevitable fact of human existence.

—Thomas Wolfe

It is sometimes necessary to use unnecessary words like ‘thank you’ and ‘please’ just to make life prettier.

--E. L. Konigsburg

Do the best you can, and don't take life too serious.

—Will Rogers

Lord, how the day passes. It's like a life—so quickly when we don't watch it and so slowly if we do.

—John Ernst Steinbeck

I was within and without, simultaneously enchanted and repelled by the inexhaustible variety of life.

—F. Scott Fitzgerald

Don't go through life; grow through life.

—Eric Butterworth

Life is a learned skill, but instead of teaching it, our culture force-fills developing minds with long division and capital cities—until, at the end of the mandatory period of bondage that's hyperbolically called school, we're sent into the world knowing little about it. And so, left on our own to figure out the most important parts of life, we make mistakes for years until, by the time we've learned enough from our stumbling to be effective human beings, it's time for us to die.

—Neil Strauss

The life of inner peace, being harmonious and without stress, is the easiest type of existence.

—Norman Vincent Peale

I have an idea that the only thing which makes it possible to regard this world we live in without disgust is the beauty which now and then men create out of the chaos. The pictures they paint, the music they compose, the books they write, and the lives they lead. Of all these the richest in beauty is the beautiful life. That is the perfect work of art.

—W. Somerset Maugham

A classic is a book that gives you that exhilarating feeling, if only for a moment, that you've finally uncovered part of the meaning of life.

--Steve Allen

Books without the knowledge of life are useless.

--Samuel Johnson

We have two lives and the second begins when you realize you only have one.

—Mário de Andrade

No one lives a life free from pain and suffering.

—Sophocles

It's so easy to forget what a satisfying thing ordinary life can be. Where it exists, people seem to take it for granted, instead of shouting it to the housetops. You would think it would find its way into fiction—surely, novelists must have noticed its joys, like a hungry man with his nose pressed to a bakery window—but ordinary life just about disappeared from fiction somewhere in the nineteenth century.

--Anatole Broyard

Fiction is an account of events that did not occur. The reader knows that they did not occur. Nevertheless, effective fiction is so close to life that the reader feels a sense of reality. Effective fiction is vivid. It is the imaginative presentation of what might have happened in life. Most people live rather humdrum lives, with each day not unlike the previous day. Because so much of real life is dull, an invented or imagined picture of life, a picture that is unusual or humorous or dramatic or important, becomes of interest. The reader is engrossed by an effective segment of what might have happened in life, is engrossed by a good novel.

--Paul R. Reynolds

It is in the city that one finds the excitement of modern life. It is in the city that life pulsates and vibrates; it is the city life that is attractive and increasingly beckons young and old alike.

--Arthur T. Naftalin

We don't read and write poetry because it's cute. We read and write poetry because we are members of the human race. And the human race is full of passion. Medicine, law, business, engineering: these are noble pursuits necessary to sustain life, but poetry, beauty, romance, love—These are what we stay alive for.

--Mr. Keating in *Dead Poets Society*

People who deny themselves television deny themselves participation in life today. They are self-exiled from the world.

--John Mason Brown

Life is what happens when you're not watching television.

--Jason Love

The Internet is so big, so powerful and pointless that for some people it is a complete substitute for life.

--Andrew Brown

Men do not care how nobly they live, but only how long, although it is within the reach of every man to live nobly, but within no man's power to live long.

—Seneca

The secret of life is in art.

--Oscar Wilde

You should not confuse your career with your life.

--Dave Barry

Life is a series of games—games of finding answers, finding amusement, persuading people, winning friends, raising families, and performing rituals. Some persons relish the game of life and enjoy all the sub-games to the hilt. Others play them grimly, with their eyes fixed on the scoreboard, too much concerned with staying ahead to enjoy the game.

--Don Robinson (*Phi Delta Kappan*)

People don't live nowadays: they get about ten percent out of life.

—Isadora Duncan

Into each life some rain must fall, some days must be dark and dreary.

—Henry Wadsworth  
Longfellow

The unexamined life is not worth living.

—Socrates

Life is not merely to be alive, but to be well.

--Martial

Life isn't a life without fitness.

—Mohith Agadi

There are three modes of bearing the ills of life, by indifference, by philosophy, and by religion.

—Charles Caleb Colton

We can help one another to find out the meaning of life, no doubt. But in the last analysis the individual person is responsible for living his own life and for 'finding himself.' Others can give you a name or a number, but they can never tell you who you really are. That is something you yourself can only discover from within.

—Thomas Merton

The familiar lament, 'I don't know who I am,' once thought to belong only to the crisis of adolescence, to be resolved by the adult stage, is heard not only from teenagers but from adults of all ages. Education, status, 'success,' material security or lack of it, seem to have little bearing upon the unhappiness and loneliness in the life of those who have found no focus or identity or pattern of meaning in their existence.

—Aaron Ungersma

What is demanded of man is not, as some existential philosophers teach, to endure the meaninglessness of life, but rather to bear his incapacity to grasp its unconditional meaningfulness in rational terms.

—Viktor E. Frankl

If you're poor, your health care's going to suck, your housing is going to suck, your infrastructure is going to suck...if you're poor, everything sucks.

--John Hope Bryant

The Dalai Lama, when asked what surprised him most about humanity, said:

Man. Because he sacrifices his health in order to make money. Then he sacrifices money to recuperate his health. And then he is so anxious about the future that he does not enjoy the present; the result being that he does not live in the present or the future; he lives as if he is never going to die, and then dies having never really lived.

—Dalai Lama XIV

Few of us are aware that the act of eating can be a powerful statement of commitment to our own well-being, and at the same time the creation of a healthier habitat. Your health, happiness, and the future of life on earth are rarely so much in your own hands as when you sit down to eat.

—John Robbins

The life you have led doesn't need to be the only life you'll have.

--Anna Quindlen

If you need booze or drugs to enjoy our life to the fullest, then you're doing it wrong.

—Robin Williams

Alcohol is the anesthesia by which we endure the operation of life.

--George Bernard Shaw

Life holds one great but quite commonplace mystery. Though shared by each of us and known to all, seldom rates a second thought. That mystery, which most of us take for granted and never think twice about, is time.

—Michael Ende

A successful man cannot realize how hard an unsuccessful man finds life.

--Edgar Watson Howe

Life is not meaningful to us unless serving an end beyond itself, unless it is of value to someone else.

—Abraham J. Herschel

Life is a moderately good play with a badly written third act.

—Truman Capote

Life is hard, after all, it does kill you.

—Katherine Hepburn

Life is ours to be spent, not to be saved.

--D. H. Lawrence

We are all, it seems, saving ourselves for the Senior Prom. But many of us forget that somewhere along the way we must learn to dance.

--Alan Harrington

Every life is, more or less, a ruin among whose debris we have to discover what the person ought to have been.

--Jose Ortega y Gasset

Monotony collapses time; novelty unfolds it. You can exercise daily and eat healthily and live a long life, while experiencing a short one. If you spend your life sitting in a cubicle and passing papers, one day is bound to blend unmemorably into the next—and disappear. That's why it's so important to change routines regularly, and take vacations to exotic locales, and have as many new experiences as possible that can serve to anchor our memories. Creating new memories stretches out psychological time, and lengthens our perception of our lives.

—Joshua Foer

Unless a life is activated by sustained purpose, it can become a depressingly haphazard affair.

—Richard Guggenheimer

A man is born; his first years go by in obscurity amid the pleasures or hardships of childhood. He grows up; then comes the beginning of manhood; finally society's gates open to welcome him; he comes into contact with his fellows. For the first time he is scrutinized and the seeds of the vices and virtues of his maturity are thought to be observed forming in him.

This is, if I am not mistaken, a singular error.

Step back in time; look closely at the child in the very arms of his mother; see the external world reflected for the first time in the yet unclear mirror of his understanding; study the first examples which strike his eyes; listen to the first word which arouse with him the slumbering power of thought; watch the first struggles which he has to undergo; only then will you comprehend the source of the prejudices, the habits, and the passions which are to rule his life.

—Alexis de Tocqueville

The most solid comfort one can fall back upon is the thought that the business of one's life is to help in some small way to reduce the sum of ignorance, degradation, and misery on the face of this beautiful earth.

--George Eliot

People today will have you believing life is a blank slate upon which you can write anything at all—this is poetic, even romantic. Unfortunately, it's also a lie, because life exists in, is bound by, shaped by, controlled by, and functions within a construct. Attempt to function outside that construct, or bend it to our will, or remove it completely, and you throw all of society into chaos. We're seeing that now. Like it or not, birds don't fly upside down...and neither can we.

—Northern Adams

Life is an onion and one cries while peeling it.

—French Proverb

Who knows why we live, and struggle, and die... Wise men write many books, in words too hard to understand. But this, the purpose of our lives, the end of all our struggle, is beyond all human wisdom.

—Alan Stewart Paton

Untold multitudes have come before us who have brought all the same passions to living their lives as we do, and yet nothing of them remains to show that they'd ever been. We know, each of us, or at least we fear, that the same will happen to us. The oceans of time will cover us over, like waves closing over the head of a sailor, leaving not a ripple, to use an image that inspired abject terror in the seafaring Greeks. Really, why do any of us even bother to show up for our own existence (as if we have a choice), for all the difference we ultimately make? Driven to pursue our lives with single-minded passion, we are nevertheless, as the Greek poet Pindar put it in the fifth century B.C., merely 'creatures of a day.'

—Rebecca Newberger  
Goldstein

The game of life is a lot like football. You have to tackle your problems, block your fears, and score your points when you get the opportunity.

—Lewis Grizzard

By the time your life is finished, you will have learned just enough to begin it well.

—Eleanor Marx

I've learned that life is tough, but I'm tougher.

—Andy Rooney

Dost thou love life? Then waste not time, for time is the stuff that life is made of.

--Benjamin Franklin

Time wasted is existence; used is life.

—Edward Young

Somebody should tell us, right at the start of our lives, that we are dying. Then we might live life to the limit, every minute of every day. Do it! I say. Whatever you want to do, do it now! There are only so many tomorrows.

—Michael Landon

Even when all the possible scientific questions have been answered, the problems of life remain completely untouched.

--Ludwig Wittgenstein

It is good work well done that holds the fabric of civilization together and gives a sense of significance to the individual life.

--*N.E.A. Journal*

An unemployed existence is a worse negation of life than death itself. Because to live means to have something definite to do—a mission to fulfill—and in the measure in which we avoid setting our life to something, we make it empty...Human life, by its very nature, has to be dedicated to something.

--Jose Ortega y Basset

Without work all life goes rotten.

--Albert Camus

Life grants nothing to us mortals without hard work.

--Horace

The return from your work must be the satisfaction which that work brings you and the world's need of that work. With this, life is heaven, or as near heaven as you can get. Without this—with work which you despise, which bores you, and which the world does not need—this life is hell.

--W. E. B. DuBois

Men for the sake of getting a living forget to live.

--Margaret Fuller

How many years of fatigue and punishment it takes to learn the simple truth that work, that disagreeable thing, is the only way of not suffering in life, or at all events, of suffering less.

--Charles Baudelaire

Love your calling with passion. It is the meaning of life.

--Auguste Rodin

There is no social program in this country that is as important as a good job that pays well, that gives someone an opportunity to go to work, have some security, have benefits, and take care of their family and have a good life.

--Byron Dorgan

Sittin'. People sit. Life's so short. To only sit is to waste that precious time, that precious life. Better to read, to write, to compute, to converse, to live.

—Dan L. Miller

As I began to love myself I found that anguish and emotional suffering are only warning signs that I was living against my own truth. Today, I know, this is 'AUTHENTICITY.'

As I began to love myself I understood how much it can offend somebody if I try to force my desires on this person, even though I knew the time was not right and the person was not ready for it, and even though this person was me. Today I call it 'RESPECT.'

As I began to love myself I stopped craving for a different life, and I could see that everything that surrounded me was inviting me to grow. Today I call it 'MATURITY.'

As I began to love myself I understood that at any circumstance, I am in the right place at the right time, and everything happens at the exactly right moment. So I could be calm. Today I call it 'SELF-CONFIDENCE.'

As I began to love myself I quit stealing my own time, and I stopped designing huge projects for the future. Today, I only do what brings me joy and happiness, things I love to do and that make my heart cheer, and I do them in my own way and in my own rhythm. Today I call it 'SIMPLICITY.'

As I began to love myself I freed myself of anything that is no good for my health – food, people, things, situations, and everything that drew me down and away from myself. At first I called this attitude a healthy egoism. Today I know it is ‘LOVE OF ONESELF.’

As I began to love myself I quit trying to always be right, and ever since I was wrong less of the time. Today I discovered that is ‘MODESTY.’

As I began to love myself I refused to go on living in the past and worrying about the future. Now, I only live for the moment, where everything is happening. Today I live each day, day by day, and I call it ‘FULFILLMENT.’

As I began to love myself I recognized that my mind can disturb me and it can make me sick. But as I connected it to my heart, my mind became a valuable ally. Today I call this connection ‘WISDOM OF THE HEART.’

We no longer need to fear arguments, confrontations or any kind of problems with ourselves or others. Even stars collide, and out of their crashing new worlds are born. Today I know ‘THAT IS LIFE!’

—Charlie Chaplin

If we let things terrify us, life will not be worth living.

—Seneca

Just as courage imperils life, fear protects it.

--Leonardo da Vinci

I am fond of pigs. Dogs look up to us. Cats look down on us. Pigs treat us as equals.

—Winston Churchill

Life has no meaning except in terms of responsibility.

--Reinhold Niebuhr

Ethical living is the indispensable condition of all that is most worthwhile in the world.

--Ernest Caldecott

There will always be something to ruin our lives, it all depends on what or which finds us first. We are always ripe and ready to be taken.

—Charles Bukowski

Life is a mirror.  
If you frown at it,  
it frowns back;  
if you smile,  
it returns the greeting.

--William Makepeace  
Thackeray

When childhood dies, its corpses are called adults and they enter society, one of the politer names of hell.

—Brian Aldiss

Life is an activity with which we kill time while we wait for something, someone, or the mere passage of time to kill us.

—Mokokoma  
Mokhonoana

## **I WAS DYING**

First I was dying to finish high school and start college.  
And then I was dying to finish college and start working.  
And then I was dying to marry and have children.  
And then I was dying for my children to grow old enough for school so I could return  
to work.  
And then I was dying to retire.  
And now I am dying...and suddenly I realize I forgot to live.

—Unknown

It is not life that causes suffering, but our expectation that life should be the way we want.

—Kodo Sawaki

Destiny is no 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

Mistakes are part of the dues one pays for a full life.

--Sophia Loren

Hope is the cordial that keeps life from stagnating.

—Samuel Richardson

Our entire life consists ultimately in accepting ourselves as we are.

--Jean Anouilh

You have to slow your life down to find out if you're actually living the life you are meant to live. Are you just gliding? Are you a dead woman or dead man walking? I know a lot of people who talk about being that. They hate their jobs, their lives. It's such a sad commentary on our society. I was not brought up to put myself first, but you have to—because if you're not whole, you're not going to be a good mother, a good partner, you're not going to be good at your job. It's your job to know who you are. What do you value? What's your mission? What makes you happy? It's your job to figure that out today, because that's really what you're supposed to be doing here.

--Maria Shriver

The chief condition on which, life, health and vigor depend on, is action. It is by action that an organism develops its faculties, increases its energy, and attains the fulfillment of its destiny.

—Colin Powell

War is supposed to feel bad because undeniably bad things happen in it, but for a 19-year-old at the working end of a .50 cal during a firefight that everyone comes out of OK, war is life multiplied by some number that no one has ever heard of. In some ways 20 minutes of combat is more life than you could scrape together in a lifetime of doing something else.

--Sebastian Junger

A life without love, without the presence of the beloved, is nothing but a mere magic-lantern show. We draw out slide after slide, swiftly tiring of each, and pushing it back to make haste for the next.

--Johann Wolfgang  
von Goethe

We are all born for love; it is the principle of existence and its only end.

--Benjamin Disraeli

She who has never loved has never lived.

--John Gay

To live without loving is not really to live.

--Moliere

Life is like music; it must be composed by ear, feeling, and instinct, not by rule.

—Samuel Butler

Somehow life doesn't always pay off to those who are most insistent.

—Max Lerner

Love is life...And if you miss love, you miss life.

--Leo Buscaglia

Our lives are shaped by those who love us...by those who refuse to love us.

--John Powell

Our life is composed of love, and not to love is not to live.

--George Sand

Whoever has loved knows all that life contains of sorrow and joy.

--George Sand

If we deny love that is given to us, if we refuse to give love because we fear pain or loss, then our lives will be empty, our loss greater.

--Margaret Weis

The mind has a thousand eyes.

And the heart but one.

Yet the life of a whole life dies

When love is done.

—Francis William  
Bourdillon

Hatred paralyzes life; love releases it. Hatred confuses life; love harmonizes it.

Hatred darkens life; love illumines it.

--Martin Luther King, Jr.

Loving can cost a lot but not loving always costs more, and those who fear to love often find that want of love is an emptiness that robs the joy from life.

—Merle Shain

We are all born for love. It is the principle of existence, and its only end.

—Benjamin Disraeli

Keep love in your heart. A life without it is like a sunless garden when the flowers are dead.

—Oscar Wilde

You will find as you look back upon your life that the moments when you have truly lived are the moments when you have done things in the spirit of love.

--Henry Drummond

There are two basic motivating forces: fear and love. When we are afraid, we pull back from life. When we are in love, we open to all that life has to offer with passion, excitement, and acceptance. We need to learn to love ourselves first, in all our glory and our imperfections. If we cannot love ourselves, we cannot fully open to our ability to love others or our potential to create. Evolution and all hopes for a better world rest in the fearlessness and open-hearted vision of people who embrace life.

—John Lennon

I am nothing special; of this I am sure. I am a common man with common thoughts, and I've led a common life. There are no monuments dedicated to me, and my name will soon be forgotten, but I've loved another with all my heart and soul, and to me, this has always been enough.

--Nicholas Sparks

Loving can cost a lot but not loving always costs more, and those who fear to love often find that want of love is an emptiness that robs the joy from life.

—Merle Shain

The quality of your life will be determined by the quality of the people in your life.

--Unknown

The ability to form friendships, to make people believe in you and trust you is one of the few absolutely fundamental qualities of success. Selling, buying, negotiating are so much smoother and easier when the parties enjoy each other's confidence. The young man who can make friends quickly will find that he will glide instead of stumble through life.

--John J. McGuirk

I want to walk through life instead of being dragged through it.

—Alanis Morissette

When you die, if you've got five real friends, then you've had a great life.

—Lee Iacocca

The immense majority of human biographies are a gray transit between domestic spasm and oblivion.

—George Steiner

Life is partly what we make it, and partly what it is made by the friends whom we choose.

--Tehyi Hsieh

Marriage is the aim and end of all sensible girls, because it is the meaning of life.

--Elinor Glyn

Women like me don't have a life. We choose clothes, and pay calls, and work for charity, and do the season, but really we're stuck in a waiting room until we marry.

--Lady Mary, Upper  
Class Heroine of  
*Downton Abbey*

You are looking for a rich husband. At your age I looked for hardship, danger, horror and death, that I might feel the life in me more intensely. I did not let the fear of death govern my life; and my reward was, I had my life. You are going to let the fear of poverty govern your life and your reward will be that you will eat, but you will not live.

--George Bernard Shaw

We must face up to the fact that the phenomenon of out-of-wedlock births has reached epidemic proportions and is undermining the viability of our community. We've simply got to persuade our young people that they ought not to bring their own flesh and blood into this world unless they are fully prepared to love, nurture and provide for them.

If they aren't ready and willing to assume full responsibilities of parenthood, then this is an almost surefire prescription for poverty for their own flesh and blood. They owe their children and our people a better shot at success in life.

--Hugh Price

We are indebted to women, first for life itself, and then for making it worth having.

--C. Nestell Bovee

Loneliness is and always has been the central and inevitable experience of every man.

--Thomas Wolfe

Men are not gentle, friendly creatures wishing for love, who simply defend themselves if they are attacked, but...a powerful measure of desire for aggressiveness has to be reckoned as part of their instinctual endowment. The result is that their neighbor is to them not only a possible helper or sexual object, but also a temptation to them to gratify their aggressiveness...to seize his possessions, to humiliate him, to cause him pain, to torture and to kill him...

Anyone who calls to mind the atrocities of the early migrations, of the invasion of the Hun or the so-called Mongols under Genghis Khan and Tamerlane, of the sacks of Jerusalem by the pious crusaders, even indeed the horrors of the last world war, will have to bow his head humbly before the truth of this view of man.

—Sigmund Freud

Life is easier for people whose bodies are classically beautiful.

--James Hamblin

I'm intrigued by the way in which physical appearance can often direct a person's life; things happen differently for a beautiful woman than for a plain one.

--Penelope Lively

Try as much as possible to be wholly alive, with all your might,

And when you laugh, laugh like hell,

And when you get angry, get good and angry.

Try to be alive.

You will be dead soon enough.

—William Saroyan

When I was analyzing I observed clearly that the fear of death was in proportion to not-living. The less a person was in life, the greater the fear. By being alive I mean living out of all the cells, all the parts of one's self. The cells which are denied become atrophied, like a dead arm, and infect the rest of the body. People living deeply have no fear of death.

--Anaïs Nin

Perhaps the best tribute you can pay some one who dies is to share his belief in life by putting your life ahead of his death.

--Max Lerner

It is nothing to die; it is frightful not to live.

--Victor Hugo

You never know what life means till you die;  
Even throughout life, 'tis death that makes life live,  
Gives it whatever the significance.

--Robert Browning

To die is poignantly bitter, but the idea of having to die without having lived is unbearable.

--Erich Fromm

Death holds no horrors. It is simply the ultimate horror of life.

--Jean Giraudoux

Our repugnance to death increases in proportion to our consciousness of having lived in vain.

--William Hazlitt

Let us endeavor so to live that when we come to die even the undertaker will be sorry.

--Mark Twain

Do not fear death so much, but rather the inadequate life.

--Bertolt Brecht

Death is one moment, and life is so many of them.

--Tennessee Williams

Death is more universal than life; everyone dies but not everyone lives.

--Andrew Sachs

Life's a struggle, and throughout our journey, in various ways, Life batters us all. In the end, we can only hope for happiness, a sense of fulfillment, and serenity.

—Dan L. Miller

If you want to die happily, learn to live; if you would live happily, learn to die.  
--Celio Calcagnini

I want to be all used up when I die.  
—George Bernard Shaw

The nearer the time comes for our departure from this life, the greater our regret for wasting so much of it.  
--Unknown

As a well-spent day brings happy sleep, so life well used brings happy death.  
--Leonardo da Vinci

Wherever your life ends, it is all there. The advantage of living is not measured by length, but use; some men have lived long, and lived little; attend to it while you are in it. It lies in your will, not in the number of years, for you to have lived enough.  
--Montaigne

All say, 'How hard it is that we have to die'—a strange complaint to come from the mouths of people who have had to live.  
--Mark Twain

Death is always and under all circumstances a tragedy, for if it is not, then it means that life itself has become one.  
--Theodore Roosevelt

The worst evil of all is to leave the ranks of the living before one dies.  
--Seneca

Death is evidently not a real tragedy for those who do not feel life.  
--Arthur Janov

You know, you can't get out of life alive! We can either die in the bleachers or die on the field. We might as well come down on the field and go for it!  
--Les Brown

Life is such a fragile thing and...painful though it might be, death is a part of life. Realizing this, accepting it, is a part of growing up.  
--Allan W. Eckert

A happy life is when first you die, then your children die, then their children die.  
--Chinese Proverb

People fear death even more than pain. It's strange that they fear death. Life hurts a lot more than death. At the point of death, the pain is over. Yeah, I guess it is a friend...

--Jim Morrison

I am fighting to stay alive not because I fear death but because I love life.

--Edie Sundby, Cancer  
Survivor

How quick, brutal, and fragile is life. You are born, you live a few years in wild hope, then you are dragged back into the night. You might have breathed on a little longer, had you not dared think yourself a human creature instead of an engine of muscle and bone.

—Donna Gillespie

The goal is to die with memories, not dreams.

—Unknown

Live each day as though it were your last: one day you're sure to be right.

—Harry Morant in  
*Breaker Morant*

I am convinced that it is not the fear of death, of our lives ending that haunts our sleep so much as the fear... that as far as the world is concerned, we might as well never have lived.

—Harold Kushner

One sometimes says: 'He killed himself because he was bored with life.' One ought rather to say: 'He killed himself because he was bored by lack of life.'

—Victor Hugo

The beauty of death is that it is a constant reminder of the limited time we spend here in this unique life on Earth. It is the ongoing wakeup call that reminds us to be joyous, to laugh, to love, to be compassionate and grateful, and most of all—to forgive.

—Alaric Hutchinson

No man enjoys the true taste of life, but he who is ready and willing to quit it.

—Lucius Annaeus Seneca

You'll be old and you never lived, and you kind of feel silly to lie down and die and to never have lived, to have been a job chaser and never have lived.

--Gertrude Stein

Man is born in a day, and he dies in a day, and the thing is easily over; but to have a sick heart for three-fourths of one's lifetime is simply to have death renewed every morning; and life at that price is not worth living.

—Gilbert Parker

The fear of death follows from the fear of life. A man who lives fully is prepared to die at any time.

—Mark Twain

The arrival of the smartphone has radically changed every aspect of teenagers' lives, from the nature of their social interactions to their mental health. These changes have affected young people in every corner of the nation and in every type of household. The trends appear among teens poor and rich; of every ethnic background; in cities, suburbs, and small towns. Where there are cell towers, there are teens living their lives on their smartphone.

—Jean M. Twenge

Life for rent means that my life isn't really my own, I only rented it for a while, but if I don't manage to buy it, to own it, then nothing of what I think is mine is really mine.

—Dido Armstrong

Life is to be fortified by many friendships. To love and to be loved is the greatest happiness of existence.

--Sydney Smith

Be friends with everybody. When you have friends you will know there is somebody who will stand by you. You know the old saying, that if you have a single enemy you will find him everywhere. It doesn't pay to make enemies. Lead the life that will make you kindly and friendly to every one about you, and you will be surprised what a happy life you will live.

--Charles M. Schwab

Man's real life is happy, chiefly because he is ever expecting that it soon will be so.  
--Edgar Allan Poe

Any stupid ass can die. That's easy. Living is tough.  
—Jack LaLanne

Pleasure is the only thing to live for. Nothing ages like happiness.  
--Oscar Wilde

The happiest of all lives is a busy solitude.  
--Voltaire

The amount of satisfaction you get from life depends largely on your own ingenuity, self-sufficiency, and resourcefulness. People who wait around for life to supply their satisfaction usually find boredom instead.  
--Dr. William Menninger

I never lose sight of the fact that just living is fun.  
—Katharine Hepburn

The business of life is to enjoy oneself; everything else is a mockery.  
--Norman Douglas

Happiness is only anticipating possibilities, denying impossibilities. Life is filled up with dreams of the future.  
--Wilhelm Stekhel

What does any man want? To be left alone with his life, and have some hope of making that life what he wants it to be.  
--LeRoi Jones

The good life, as I conceive it, is a happy life. I do not mean that if you are good you will be happy; I mean that if you are happy you will be good.  
--Bertrand Russell

The right to happiness is fundamental:  
Men live so little time and die alone.  
--Bertolt Brecht

The most wasted day is that in which we have not laughed.  
--Nicolas Chamfort

Don't wait for the day when 'you can relax' or when 'your problems will be over.' The struggles of life never end. Most good things in life are fleeting and transitory. Enjoy them. Don't waste time looking forward to the 'happy ending' to all your troubles.

--Robert L. Woolfold

A happy life must be to a great extent a quiet life, for it is only in an atmosphere of quiet that true joy can live.

--Bertrand Russell

Happiness is the goal of every normal human being. As it is given to few men to die happy, the best that man can hope and strive and pray for is momentary happiness during life, repeated as frequently as the cards allow.

--G. J. Nathan

Happiness is the only sanction of life; where happiness fails, existence remains a mad and lamentable experiment.

--George Santayana

How to gain, how to keep, how to recover happiness is in fact for most men at all times the secret motive of all they do, and of all they are willing to endure.

--William James

Happiness is not a destination. It is a method of life.

--Burton Hills

The world of those who are happy is different from the world of those who are not.

--Ludwig Wittgenstein

Sufficient for me are a corner by the hearth, a book, a friend, and time enough for sleep, undisturbed by debts or sorrows.

--Andres Fernandez de  
Andrada

Even in the common affairs of life, in love, friendship, and marriage, how little security have we when we trust our happiness in the hands of others!

--William Hazlitt

There is no more mistaken path to happiness than worldliness, revelry, high life.

--Arthur Schopenhauer

When a man has lost all happiness,  
he's not alive. Call him a breathing corpse.

--Sophocles

He has spent his life best who has enjoyed it most.

--Samuel Butler

There are two things to aim at in life: first, to get what you want; and, after that, to enjoy it. Only the wisest of mankind achieve the second.

--Logan Pearsall Smith

Happiness is the supreme object of existence.

--J. Gilchrist Lawson

If you observe a really happy man you will find him building a boat, writing a symphony, educating his son, growing double dahlias in his garden, or looking for dinosaur eggs in the Gobi desert. He will not be searching for happiness as if it were a collar button that has rolled under the radiator. He will have become aware that he is happy in the course of living twenty-four crowded hours of the day.

--W. Beran Wolfe

The first half of life consists of the capacity to enjoy without the chance; the last half consists of the chance without the capacity.

--Mark Twain

The greatest pleasure of life is love.

—Euripides

If we are ever to enjoy life, now is the time—not tomorrow, nor next year, nor in some future life after we have died. The best preparation for a better life next year is a full, complete, harmonious, joyous life this year. Our beliefs in a rich future life are of little importance unless we coin them into a rich present life. Today should always be our most wonderful day.

--Thomas Dreier

It is the growling man who lives a dog's life.

--Coleman Cox

Laughter is the music of life.

--Sir William Osler

Life has never been easy. Nor is it meant to be. It is a matter of being joyous in the face of sorrow.

--Dirk Benedict

Get pleasure out of life...as much as you can. Nobody ever died from pleasure.

--Sol Hurok

Life satisfaction would decline with age for the first couple of decades of adulthood, bottom out somewhere in the 40s or early 50s, and then, until the very last years, increase with age, often (though not always) reaching a higher level than in young adulthood. The pattern came to be known as the happiness U-curve.

—David Blanchflower

People feel better, not worse, about their lives as they move through their later decades, even with the onset of chronic health problems that would lead one to expect distress or depression.

—Dilip V. Jeste

Studies show quite strongly that people's satisfaction with their life increases, on average, from their early 50s on through their 60s and 70s and even beyond—for many until disability and final illness exact their toll toward the very end.

—Jonathan Rauch

Who is the happier man, he who has braved the storm of life and lived or he who has stayed securely on shore and merely existed?

—Hunter S. Thompson

Life is thickly sown with thorns, and I know no other remedy than to pass quickly through them. The longer we dwell on our misfortunes, the greater is their power to harm us.

—Voltaire

Learn to enjoy every minute of your life. Be happy now. Don't wait for something outside of yourself to make you happy in the future. Think how really precious is the time you have to spend, whether it's at work or with your family. Every minute should be enjoyed and savored.

—Earl Nightingale

Life is better when you're laughing.

—*powerofpositivity.com*

We convince ourselves that life will be better after we get married, have a baby, then another.

Then we are frustrated that the kids aren't old enough, and we'll be more content when they are.

After that, we're frustrated that we have teenagers to deal with.

We will certainly be happy when they are out of that stage.

We tell ourselves that our life will be complete when our partner gets his or her act together when we get a nicer car, are able to go on a nice holiday, when we retire.

The truth is, there's no better time to be happy than right now. If not now, when?

Your life will always be filled with challenges.

It's best to admit this to yourself and decide to be happy anyway.

This perspective has helped me to see that there is no way to happiness. Happiness is the way.

So, treasure every moment that you have and treasure it more because you shared it with someone special, special enough to spend your time...and remember that time waits for no one. So, stop waiting until you lose ten pounds, until you gain ten pounds, until you have kids, until your kids leave the house, until you start work, until you retire, until you get married, until you get divorced, until Friday night, until Sunday morning, until you get a new car or home, until your car or home is paid off, until spring, until summer, until winter, until your song comes on, until you've had a drink.... there is no better time than right now to be happy.

Happiness is a journey, not a destination.

Work like you don't need money,

Love like you've never been hurt,

And dance like no one's watching.

—Robert Westerburg

Don't wait for things to get better. Life will always be complicated. Learn to be happy right now, otherwise you'll run out of time.

—*Brightside.Me*

I spit on your happiness! I spit on your idea of life—that life that must go on, come what may. You are all like dogs that lick everything they smell. You with your promise of a humdrum happiness—provided a person doesn't ask too much of life. I want everything of life, I do; and I want it now! I want it total, complete: otherwise I reject it! I will not be moderate. I will not be satisfied with the bite of cake you offer me if I promise to be a good little girl. I want to be sure of everything this very day; sure that everything will be as beautiful as when I was a little girl. If not, I want to die!

—Antigone in Sophocles'  
*Antigone*

We all live with the objective of being happy; our lives are all different and yet the same.

—Anne Frank

No one is happy all his life long.

—Euripides

## **HOW TO SUCCEED IN LIFE**

Make up your mind to be happy.  
Learn to find pleasure in simple things.

Make the best of your circumstances. No one has everything, and everyone has something of sorrow intermingled with the gladness of life. The trick is to make the laughter outweigh the tears.

Don't take yourself too seriously. Don't think that somehow you should be protected from misfortunes that befall others.

You can't please everybody. Don't let criticism worry you.

Don't let your neighbor set your standards. Be yourself.

Do the things you enjoy doing, but stay out of debt.

Don't borrow trouble. Imaginary burdens are harder to bear than the actual ones.

Since hate poisons the soul do not cherish enmities or grudges. Avoid people who make you unhappy.

Have many interests. If you can't travel, read about new places.

Don't hold postmortems. Don't spend your life brooding over sorrows and mistakes. Don't be one who never gets over things.

Do what you can for those less fortunate than yourself.

Keep busy at something. A busy person never has time to be unhappy.

--Robert Louis Stevenson

One's work usually occupies more than half of one's waking life. Choosing work that does not bring happiness will lead to a life that is mostly disappointing.

--Bo Bennett

Even a happy life cannot be without a measure of darkness, and the word *happy* would lose its meaning if it were not balanced by sadness.

—C. G. Jung

Success in life is measured, most easily, by the number of days that a person is truly happy.

—Eric Edmeades

The purpose of life is not to be happy. The purpose of life is to matter, to be productive, to have it make a difference that you lived at all. Happiness means self-fulfillment and is given to those who use to the fullest whatever talents God or luck bestows upon them.

--Leo Rosten

In the last months of her life, my mother-in-law dwelled in a hospital bed in our house. It took all of her strength to get down our steps, walk around the block, and get back to the front door. As we inched down the sidewalk, she pointed out every flower, the pattern in paving stones, the various shades of the trees and bushes. I had never seen my neighborhood like this. At first, I was infuriated by our pace. She would stop often, not because she was short of breath, but to examine the texture of a flower. It's hard to give ourselves even 15 minutes of the day. It means overcoming the nagging distraction of our many pressures and aims. My mother-in-law reminded me of the patient momentum of looking and really seeing, turning an ordinary walk into gladness for continuing to be among the living.

--Wendy Lustbader

Do not be too moral. You may cheat yourself out of much life.

—Henry David Thoreau

It is easier to be happy when you are not surrounded by the confusion and the clutter of life.

—David Baird

Happiness: an easy life, but not a sedentary one.

—Marty Rubin

There is little correlation between the circumstances of people's lives and how happy they are.

—Dennis Prager

Find ecstasy in life; the mere sense of living is joy enough.

—Emily Dickinson

I have lived to know that the great secret of happiness is this: never suffer your energies to stagnate. The old adage of too many irons in the fire, conveys an abominable lie. You cannot have too many—poker, tongs and all—keep them all going.

—Adam Clarke

A calm is not desirable in any situation in life. Man was made for action and for bustle too.

—Abigail Adams

Pets are humanizing. They remind us we have an obligation and responsibility to preserve and nurture and care for all life.

—James Cromwell

The human life cycle no less than evolves around the box; from the open-topped box called a bassinet, to the pine box we call a coffin, the box is our past and, just as assuredly, our future.

--Richard Paul Evans

The rebellion is against time pollution, the feeling that the essence of what makes life worth living—the small moments, the special family getaways, the cookies in the oven, the weekend drives, the long dreamlike summers—so much of this has been taken from us, or we have given it up. For what? Hitachi stereos? Club Med? Company cars? Racquetball? For fifteen-hour days and lousy day care?

--Richard Louv

The domestic life of most classes is relatively shabby, as compared with the éclat of that overt portion of their life that is carried on before the eyes of observers....People therefore habitually screen their private life from observation.

--Thorstein Veblen

Life is a country that the old have seen, and lived in. Those who have to travel through it can only learn from them.

--Joseph Joubert

He was a simple honest man. He never strayed,  
He never drank, he never smoked, and he never kissed a maid.  
And when he passed away his insurance was denied,  
Because he never lived, they claimed he never died.

--Ted Gup

Life begins the day you start a garden.

--Chinese Proverb

Work isn't to make money; you work to justify life.

—Marc Chagall

The purpose of life is a life of purpose.

—Robert Byrne

No Negro can saunter down a street with any real certainty that violence will not visit him on his walk...[He knows] in the cells of his existence that life [is] war, nothing but war.

—Norman Mailer

'Tis very certain the desire of life  
Prolongs it.

—Lord Byron

Nobody loves life like an old man.

--Sophocles

The riders in a race do not stop short when they reach the goal. There is a little finishing canter before coming to a standstill. There is time to hear the kind voice of friends and to say to one's self: 'The work is done.' But just as one says that, the answer comes: 'The race is over, but the work never is done while the power to work remains.' The canter that brings you to a standstill need not be only coming to rest. It cannot be, while you still live. For to live is to function. That is all there is in living.

--Oliver Wendell  
Holmes, Jr.

No one grows old by living—only by losing interest in living.

--Marie Ray

The nearer she came to death, the more, by some perversity of nature, did she enjoy living.

--Ellen Glasgow

## THE STATION

Tucked away in our subconscious minds is an idyllic vision. We see ourselves on a long, long trip that almost spans the continent. We're traveling by passenger train, and out the windows we drink in the passing scene of cars on nearby highways, of children waving at a crossing, of cattle grazing on a distant hillside, of smoke pouring from a power plant, of row upon row of corn and wheat, of flatlands and valleys, of mountains and rolling hills, of biting winter and blazing summer and cavorting spring and docile fall.

But uppermost in our minds is the final destination. On a certain day at a certain hour we will pull into the station. There will be bands playing, and flags waving. And once we get there so many wonderful dreams will come true. So many wishes will be fulfilled and so many pieces of our lives finally will be neatly fitted together like a completed jigsaw puzzle. How restlessly we pace the aisles, damning the minutes for loitering ... waiting, waiting, waiting, for the station.

However, sooner or later we must realize there is no one station, no one place to arrive at once and for all. The true joy of life is the trip. The station is only a dream. It constantly outdistances us.

'When we reach the station, that will be it!' we cry. Translated it means, 'When I'm 18, that will be it! When I buy a new 450 SL Mercedes Benz, that will be it! When I put the last kid through college, that will be it! When I have paid off the mortgage, that will be it! When I win a promotion, that will be it! When I reach the age of retirement, that will be it! I shall live happily ever after!'

Unfortunately, once we get it, then it disappears. The station somehow hides itself at the end of an endless track.

'Relish the moment' is a good motto, especially when coupled with *Psalms* 118:24: 'This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.' It isn't the burdens of today that drive men mad. Rather, it is regret over yesterday or fear of tomorrow. Regret and fear are twin thieves who would rob us of today.

So, stop pacing the aisles and counting the miles. Instead, climb more mountains, eat more ice cream, go barefoot oftener, swim more rivers, watch more sunsets, laugh more and cry less. Life must be lived as we go along. The station will come soon enough.

--Robert J. Hastings

To be alive is a very different thing than to just be living.

--Ian McKellen

The older I get, the more intense my appetite for living and for appreciating life gets. I think I was heedless when I was younger. I thought it was endless. But I just lost two really close friends in the last two years, and, man, you realize you've got just seconds.

--Meryl Streep

The way her younger sister dealt with near death and a diagnosis of ulcerative colitis, after the birth of her only child, inspired her. 'I was furious with God that my beautiful sister, at age 23, would have a colostomy bag hanging off her body for the rest of her life. But she said, 'Don't curse God for this bag. It means I get to live the rest of my life, I get to see my daughter grow up.' I was looking at the wrong thing.

--Kathy Lee Gifford

At the end of the day, all you can hope for is to go on. The older I get, the more I realize that just keeping on keeping on is what life's all about.

--Janis Ian

When I retire or pass away, I will be able to look back and say that this has been an exciting life. That's all that matters.

--Martin Yan

In *As You Like It*, Jaques declares, 'Man in his time plays many parts, his acts being seven ages.' The first five embody promise and power—infant, schoolboy, lover, soldier, and success. The late phases are entirely negative—pantaloon, a period as the butt of jokes for looking old and becoming impotent; then second childishness, a descent into senile dependency. As life expectancy and health span increase, the seven ages may demand revision, with the late phases of life seen as a positive experience of culmination and contentment.

—Gregg Easterbrook

There is a beautiful life waiting for you. There's no reason to feel bad about getting old if you do it right. Just keep moving.

—Dick Van Dyke

I have been an incredibly lucky girl. which is why when a big shadow falls—going through a severe terminal illness with a loved one—it feels like the rug is being pulled out from under you, as if to say, 'Now we're going to give you the real stuff.' That's how the universe works. Life is wondrously and appallingly surprising. Anyone who doesn't know that is unarmed.

—Candice Bergen

The peak of emotional life may not occur until well into the seventh decade....Forties were, for me, the worst. You're never good enough professionally. I think you're coming out of the fog in the 50s. [At 60] I feel so privileged. I feel it now.

—Laura Carstensen

The most dangerous risk of all—the risk of spending your life not doing what you want on the bet you can buy yourself the freedom to do it later.

—Randy Komisar

Birth and death are the front and back covers of the book of life. The story lies in the pages in between.

—Edward Lewis

Life begins when a person first realizes how soon it will end.

—Marcelene Cox

Your life is yours and yours alone. Rise up and live it.

—Terry Goodkind

The older you get, the more quiet you become. Life humbles you so deeply as you age. You realize how much nonsense you've wasted time on.

—*womenworking.com*

'O, great wise man,' she said, 'I have been wondering so many things. Is life more than sitting at home doing the same thing over and over? Wise man, is life more than watching one's relatives do unpleasant things, or more than grim tasks one must perform at school and at work? Is life more than being entertained by literature, wise man, or more than traveling from one place to another, suffering from poor emotional health and pondering the people one loves? And what about those who lead a life of mystery? And the mysteries of life? And, wise man, what about the overall feeling of doom that one cannot ever escape no matter what one does, and miscellaneous things that I have neglected to mention in specific?'

--Lemony Snicket

When I see people who are happy and joyful and of a certain age, I know it's because they know the meaning of life. It's about how you spend your time. It's not about chasing things on life's treadmill. For me, it's about the people who are sitting around my table—my family, my nieces and nephews, my friends.

—Octavia Spencer

Life is a book. Do you not realise we are writing the history of our time?

--Lailah Gifty Akita

Every creature is better alive than dead, men and moose and pine trees, and he who understands it aright will rather preserve its life than destroy it.

—Henry David Thoreau

Literature is the echo of life.

—Alexandre Vinet

When I was a child, I was often told not to spend so much time sitting by myself with a book. How would I learn anything about life, I was warned, if I spent it reading? As a child, I took these warnings seriously though I managed to keep on doing just what I wanted to do much of the time. But now, decades later, I can see that the advice was wrong. I learned far more about life from reading books than I would have from playing in the park or tossing a ball around with other children.

--Michael Korda

A calm and modest life brings more happiness than the pursuit of success combined with constant restlessness.

—Albert Einstein

Life is a series of problem-solving opportunities. The problems you face will either defeat you or develop you depending on how you respond to them.

—Rick Warren

There must be more to life than having everything.

—Maurice Sendak

Life goes through changes so fast, you think your life is great, than one of your best friends dies. Then you think you found someone you truly love, only to figure out, she doesn't love you back. You cry and cry and cry, but nothing changes. You realize, that you must accept things for what they are, and what they have made you become. Everything in life changes you in some way. Even the smallest things. If you do not accept these changes, you do not accept yourself. For through these changes brings new and greater things to you, making you wiser, as time progresses. To avoid these changes is a loss. You only live your life once. Do not waste a minute of it avoiding things. Let them come to you, and learn from them. There's always tomorrow.

—Adam R. Gwizdala

Life without sex might be safer but it would be unbearably dull. It is the sex instinct which makes women seem beautiful, which they are once in a blue moon, and men seem wise and brave, which they never are at all. Throttle it, denaturalize it, take it away, and human existence would be reduced to the prosaic, laborious, boresome, imbecile level of life in an anthill.

—Henry Louis Mencken

I intend to live forever. So far, so good.

—Steven Wright

You're on earth. There's no cure for that.

—Samuel Beckett

Surprise is the greatest gift which life can grant us.

—Boris Pasternak

Is this not the true romantic feeling; not to desire to escape life, but to prevent life from escaping you.

—Thomas Wolfe

The secret of staying young is to live honestly, eat slowly, and lie about your age.

—Lucille Ball

You know, you spend your childhood watching TV, assuming that at some point in the future everything you see will one day happen to you: that you too will win a Formula One race, hop a train, foil a group of terrorists, tell someone 'Give me the gun', etc. Then you start secondary school, and suddenly everyone's asking you about your career plans and your long-term goals, and by goals they don't mean the kind you are planning to score in the FA Cup. Gradually the awful truth dawns on you: that Santa Claus was just the tip of the iceberg—that your future will not be the rollercoaster ride you'd imagined, that the world occupied by your parents, the world of washing dishes, going to the dentist, weekend trips to the DIY superstore to buy floor-tiles, is actually largely what people mean when they speak of 'life'.

--Paul Murray

The two most precious things this side of the grave are our reputation and our life. But it is to be lamented that the most contemptible whisper may deprive us of the one, and the weakest weapon of the other.

—Charles Caleb Colton

I had a life once. Now I have a computer.

—Unknown

I think quite often a fate worse than death is life—for lots of people.

—Tom Baker

We are literally pieces of meat on a rock floating through space, and our lives are ruled by little pieces of paper.

—*theChive*

Doing nothing and doing too much are both considered ‘not having a life.’

—*theChive*

I have found little that is good about human beings. In my experience most of them are trash.

—Sigmund Freud

Hell is empty and all the devils are here.

—William Shakespeare

When we are born, we cry, that we are come  
To this great stage of fools.

—William Shakespeare

One of the secrets of life is that all that is really worth the doing is what we do for others.

—Lewis Carroll

The man who regards his own life and that of his fellow creatures as meaningless is not merely unhappy but hardly fit for life.

—Albert Einstein

Boredom is a sign of satisfied ignorance, blunted apprehension, crass sympathies, dull understanding, feeble powers of attention, and irreclaimable weakness of character.

—James Bridie

Nobody, as long as he moves about among the chaotic currents of life, is without trouble.

—Carl Jung

Hold fast to dreams,  
For if dreams die,  
Life is a broken-winged bird that cannot fly,  
Hold fast to dreams,  
For if dreams go,  
Life is a barren field,  
Frozen with snow.

—Langston Hughes

My life is a reading list.

--John Irving

Life lived for tomorrow will always be just a day away from being realized.

—Leo Buscaglia

Why does everyone think a girl who prefers books to people must be in want of a life?

--Lauren Morrill

That's what I do. Watch movies and read. Sometimes I even pretend to write, but I'm not fooling anyone. Oh, and I go to the mailbox.

--Nicole Krauss

Life is full of misery, loneliness, and suffering—and it's all over much too soon.

—Woody Allen

When I can look at Life with eyes,  
Grown calm and very coldly wise;  
Life will have given me the Truth,  
And taken in exchange—my youth.

—Sara Teasdale

'Tisn't life that matters 'Tis the courage you bring to it.

—Joan Borysenko

Any life is made up of a single moment, the moment in which a man finds out, once and for all, who he is.

—Jorge Luis Borges

Live your life well so we don't have to lie at your funeral.

—Church Sign

The art of living well and the art of dying well are one.

—Epicurus

I used to worry about what life was for—now being alive seems sufficient reason.

—Joanna Field

Most people are so busy knocking themselves out trying to do everything they think they should do, they never get around to what they want to do.

—Kathleen Winsor

The chess-board is the world, the pieces are the phenomena of the universe, the rules of the game are what we call the laws of Nature. The player on the other side is hidden from us.

—Thomas Huxley

Human nature is above all things lazy.

—Harriet Beecher Stowe

One Lifetime is not enough.

—Maurice Northmore

In my ideal life I'd be left alone to read.

--Elizabeth Knox

A life is not important except in the impact it has on other lives.

—Jackie Robinson

Life may not come wrapped with a bow but it sure is a gift!

—Marie Fay

A rich life has nothing to do with money.

—Internet Meme

I learned what is obvious to a child. That life is simply a collection of little lives, each lived one day at a time. That each day should be spent finding beauty in flowers and poetry and talking to animals. That a day spent with dreaming and sunsets and refreshing breezes cannot be bettered.

—Nicholas Sparks

Life is sort of like a competition, whether it's in sports, or it's achieving in school, or it's achieving good relationships with people.

—Sanford I. Weill

I feel the only thing you can do about life is to preserve it, by art if you're an artist, by children if you're not.

—Philip Larkin

Emotion is the poetry of life.

—Marty Rubin

Many people take no care of their money till they come nearly to the end of it, and others do just the same with their time.

—Johann Wolfgang von  
Goethe

I want my world to get bigger and not end up in a small corner.

—Sarah Polley

We do not need to proselytise either by our speech or by our writing. We can only do so really with our lives. Let our lives be open books for all to study.

—Mohandas Gandhi

I see the state of all of us who live, nothing more than phantoms or a weightless shadow.

—Sophocles

Life is like an ever-shifting kaleidoscope—a slight change, and all patterns alter.

—Sharon Salzberg

In the sixties, the world was normal and people took acid to make it weird. Nowadays the world is weird and people take prozac to make it normal.

—Unknown

The only people for me are the mad ones, the ones who are mad to live, mad talk, mad to be saved, desirous of everything at the same time, the ones who never yawn or say a commonplace thing, but burn, burn, burn like fabulous yellow roman candles exploding like spiders across the stars.

—Jack Kerouac

We were promised a simpler life, and technology has only complicated our lives.  
—Freeman Thomas

My children are the most important aspect of my life, and the love of a child is the strongest love there is. You don't actually realize it until you have a child. To me raising, nurturing and experiencing all that a child provides is the true meaning of a complete life.

—Dan L. Miller

Living on Earth is expensive, but it does include a free trip around the sun.  
—Internet Meme

Life is a difficult assignment. We are fragile creatures, expected to function at high rates of speed, and asked to accomplish great and small things each day. These daily activities take enormous amounts of energy. Most things are out of our control. We are surrounded by danger, frustration, grief, and insanity as well as love, hope, ecstasy, and wonder. Being fully human is an exercise in humility, suffering, grace, and great humor. Things and people all around us die, get broken, or are lost. There is no safety or guarantees.

The way to accomplish the assignment of truly living is to engage fully, richly, and deeply in the living of your dreams. We are made to dream and to live those dreams.

—Susan Ariel Rainbow  
Kennedy

We're not the same person we were a year ago, a month ago, or a week ago. We're constantly changing; Experiences don't stop. That's life.

—Internet Meme

Keep looking up...that's the secret of life.

—Charles Schultz

For what it's worth, it's never too late to be whoever you want to be. I hope you live a life you're proud of, and if you find that you're not, I hope you have the strength to start over.

—Eric Roth

Charlie Brown; We only live once, Snoopy.  
Snoopy: Wrong! We only die once. We live every day!

—Charles Schultz

Life is sexually transmitted.

—Internet Meme

The one who plants trees, knowing that he will never sit in their shade, has started to understand the meaning of life.

—Internet Meme

All life is just a progression toward, and then a recession from, one phrase—‘I love you.’

—F. Scott Fitzgerald

Life is a banquet and most poor sons of bitches are starving to death!

—Betty Comden and  
Adolph Green

Perfectionism means that you try not to leave so much mess to clean up. But clutter and mess show us that life is being lived.

—Anne Lamott

HATE has 4 letters, so does LOVE.  
ENEMIES has 7 letters, so does FRIENDS.  
LYING has 5 letters, so does TRUTH..  
NEGATIVE has 8, so does POSITIVE.  
UNDER has 5, so does ABOVE.  
CRY has 3 letters, so does JOY.  
ANGER has 5 letters, so does HAPPY.  
RIGHT has 5 letters, so does WRONG.  
HURT has 4 letters, so does HEAL.  
Be happy. Enjoy life.  
It means Life is like a double edged sword...  
So transform every negative side into an aura of positivity. energy..  
We should choose the better side of life.

—Internet Meme

Suicide does not end the chances of life getting worse; suicide eliminates the possibility of it ever getting better.

—Internet Meme

Traditions are basically dead people peer pressuring us.

—*theChive*

You are the result of 3.8 billion years of evolutionary success. Act like it!

—*theChive*

**EIGHT PSYCHOSOCIAL STAGES THROUGH WHICH ALL PEOPLE MUST PASS INCLUDE:**

- Trust vs. Mistrust 0-18 months
- Autonomy vs. Shame 1.5-3 years
- Initiative vs. Guilt 3-6 years
- Industry vs. Inferiority 6/7-11/12 years
- Identity vs. Role Confusion 11/12-18 years
- Intimacy vs. Isolation Young Adulthood
- Generativity vs. Stagnation Middle Age
- Ego Integrity vs. Despair Older Adulthood

—Erik Erikson

Most lives are rotten. It's only when one's young one expects otherwise.

—Iris Murdoch

When you're a kid you have these notions about how things are going to be.... You get a little older and you pull back on some of that. I think you wind up just tryin' to minimize the pain.

—Cormac McCarthy

We're too young to want to stop living, because after all, we shouldn't stop something we haven't even started.

—Internet Meme

Youth is a blunder, manhood is a struggle and old age a regret.

--Benjamin Disraeli

For what it's worth ... it's never too late, or in my case too early, to be whoever you want to be. There's no time limit. Start whenever you want. You can change or stay the same. There are no rules to this thing. We can make the best or the worst of it. I hope you make the best of it. I hope you see things that startle you. I hope you feel things you never felt before. I hope you meet people who have a different point of view. I hope you live a life you're proud of, and if you're not, I hope you have the courage to start all over again.

—Eric Roth

I've been quite fascinated by the relative insignificance of human existence, the shortness of life. We might as well be a letter in a word in a sentence on a page in a book in a library in a city in one country in this enormous universe! And that kind of fear and insignificance has kept me awake at night.

—Laura Marling

Ben wished the world was organized by the Dewey decimal system. That way you'd be able to find whatever you were looking for, like the meaning of your dream, or your dad.

—Brian Selznick

If I sit still and don't do anything, the world goes on beating like a slack drum, without meaning. We must be moving, working, making dreams to run toward; the poverty of life without dreams is too horrible to imagine.

—Sylvia Plath

### **THIS UGLY WORLD**

Kids may flee a frightful worm,  
Or pause to crush the furry wretch.  
But little did those children know  
The beauty yet to be.

As girls do grow they often think  
That beauty rules the face,  
The figure, and the dress.  
They don't yet know  
There's beauty in evoking smiles  
When you yourself are sad.  
There's beauty in big bodies,  
If the heart is big as well.  
There's beauty in pure thoughts,  
Exuberance, a soul that glows.

So look, don't judge.  
I'll guarantee.  
That beauty dwells  
In all you see.

—Dan L. Miller

## **MORE BUTTS THAN BRAINS**

Sittin'.  
People sit.  
Just sit.  
Really?  
When life's so short?  
Sittin'  
Wastes one's precious time,  
Such vital bits of life.  
Life is not a waiting room.  
Your action breeds delight.  
Sit with  
A pole, a book, a phone.  
Catch a fish, communicate,  
Converse, consort.  
Revel in life while you can.

—Dan L. Miller

## **DONE**

Bright beginnings.  
Top honors. MBA.  
Flying high; well-connected.  
Ruined romance. Foolish choices.  
Cubicle. Cubicle. Cubicle.  
Stale air in the Buick laboring up the drive.  
Hunched and haggard,  
Plodding to the duplex made for one.  
Worn couch. Frozen food. Stale TV.  
Finally, my refuge in bed.  
I'm thirty-eight...and done.

—Dan L. Miller

Many people's lives are simply one long trip between two hospitals.

—Internet Meme

I like old bookstores, the smell of coffee brewing, rainy day naps, farmhouse porches, and sunsets. I like the sweet, simple things that remind me that life doesn't have to be complicated to be beautiful.

—Brooke Hampton

The world ain't all sunshine and rainbows. Its a very mean and nasty place and...it will beat you to your knees and keep you there permanently if you let it. You, me, or nobody is gonna hit as hard as life. But it ain't about how hard you hit; it's about how hard you can get hit and keep moving forward. How much you can take and keep moving forward. That's how winning is done.

—Rocky Balboa in *Rocky*

A satisfied life is better than a successful life. Because our success is measured by others. But our satisfaction is measured by our own soul, mind and heart.

—*themindsjournal.com*

Life really does begin at forty. Up until then, you are just doing research.

—Carl Jung

Life makes corned beed hash out of all of us.

—Pete Croatto

Life is like a game of chess. I don't know how to play chess.

—Internet Meme

We are not given a good life or a bad life. We are given a life and it's up to us to make it good or bad.

—Devika Fernando

You can get all A's and still flunk life.

—Marian Wright  
Edelman

Everything good in life—love, nature, the arts, and family jests—is play.

—Vladimir Nabokov

Life is a 100-meter dash. Time is the race. Timing is of the essence. And success belongs to those who can squeeze the life out of every moment, instant, microsecond.

—*librarianshipstudies.com*

If you're bored with life—you don't get up every morning with a burning desire to do things—you don't have enough goals.

—Lou Holtz

The purpose of life is not to be happy. It is to be useful, to be honorable, to be compassionate, to have it make some difference that you have lived & lived well.

—Ralph Waldo Emerson

At the end of life, what really matters is not what we bought but what we built; not what we got but what we shared; not our competence but our character; and not our success, but our significance. Live a life that matters. Live a life of love.

—Internet Meme

An unshared life is not living. He who shares does not lessen, but greatens, his life.

—Stephen S. Wise

Life is partly what we make it and partly what is made by the friends we choose.

—Tehyi Hsieh

Life isn't fair. And thank goodness. Imagine the horror of knowing that every bad thing that happened to you happened because you deserved it!

—*www.georgetakei.com*

The meaning of life is to find your gift. The purpose of life is to give it away.

—Pablo Picasso

I want life. I want to read it and write it and feel it and live it. I want, for as much of the time as possible in this blink-of-an-eye existence we have, to feel all that can be felt.

—Matt Haig

## **YOU HAVE THIS ONE LIFE**

How do you wanna spent it?  
Apologizing? Regretting? Questioning?  
Hating yourself? Dieting?  
Running after people who don't see you?  
Be brave.  
Believe in yourself.  
Do what feels good.  
Take risks. You have this one life.  
Make yourself proud!

—Beardsley Jones

If you have family that loves you  
A few good friends  
Food on your table  
And a roof over your head.  
You are richer than you think.

—*purehappyliife.com*

When life seems like an uphill task do not ever give up on yourself or on life! Travel to a new place, learn a new language, embrace a new culture, play a musical instrument, read a good book, watch the sunrise, experience the sunset, go for a swim in the river, hug a tree, sit near the lake, or climb a mountain! You will fall in love with life all over again!

—Avijeet Das

A satisfied life is better than a successful life. Because our success is measured by others, but our satisfaction is measured by our own soul, mind and heart.

—*www.HealthyPlace.com*

It doesn't matter what your passion is. It doesn't need to be painting. It doesn't need to be drawing. But you need to find a passion. Because once you find that, then you will be motivated to wake up every day. You will be motivated to actually live life.

—Rafael Blanco, *Art Professor*

We exist to make life better for people.

—Mormon President  
Russell Nelson

Life, I've learned, is never fair. If they teach anything in schools, that should be it.

—Nicholas Sparks

The worst lesson that life can teach—that it makes no sense.

—Philip Roth

Trust life, and it will teach you, in joy and sorrow, all you need to know.

—James Baldwin

Why do they not teach you that time is a finger snap and an eye blink, and that you should not allow a moment to pass you by without taking joyous, ecstatic note of it, not wasting a single moment of its swift, breakneck circuit?

—Pat Conroy

Roses and thorns are parts of the same plant. Somehow though, some people are concerned mainly about the roses. The rose is not on the plant for more than a week, but the thorns are there forever.

Roses are teaching that the beauty of life will bloom, once you have taught yourself the lessons given by living with the thorns.

—Grigoris Deoudis

Sometimes having no script, having no idea what is going to happen next, having no map, might be the way to go. Because life just happens, and when it does, how you handle it will teach you more about who you are than any class or test ever can. The best preparation for the rest of your life is, maybe, no preparation at all. Dive right in. Make mistakes. Break a few rules. Wing it.

—Valerie Thomas

Life is the future, not the past. The past can teach us, through experience, how to accomplish things in the future, comfort us with cherished memories, and provide the foundation of what has already been accomplished. But only the future holds life. To live in the past is to embrace what is dead. To live life to its fullest, each day must be created a new.

—Terry Goodkind

In seed time learn,  
In harvest teach,  
In winter enjoy.

—William Blake

The wind rushing through the grass, the thrush on the treetops, and children tumbling in senseless mirth stir in us a bright faith in life.

—Donald Culross Peattie

Life is not intended to be simply a round of work, no matter how interesting and important that work may be. A moment's pause to watch the glory of a sunrise or a sunset is soul satisfying, while a bird's song will set the steps to music all day long.

—Laura Ingalls Wilder

Live every minute as if you are late for the last train.

—Colson Whitehead

To have her meals, and her daily walk, and her fill of novels, and to be left alone, was all that she asked of the gods.

—Anthony Trollope

You can't do anything about the length of your life, but you can do something about its width and depth.

—H. L. Mencken

All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given us.

—J. R. R. Tolkien

Sometimes you have to let go of the picture of what you thought life would be like and learn to find joy in the story you are actually living.

—Rachel Marie Martin

Life is a succession of lessons which must be lived to be understood.

—Ralph Waldo Emerson

Never regret a day in your life. Good days give you happiness & bad days give you experience.

—*fearlessmotivation.com*

Far better it seems to me, in our vulnerability, is to look death in the eye and to be grateful every day for the brief but magnificent opportunity that life provides.

—Carl Sagan

One day a father and his rich family took his son on a trip to the country with the firm purpose to show him how poor people can be. They spent a day and a night in the farm of a very poor family. When they got back from their trip the father asked his son, 'How was the trip?'

'Very good Dad.'

'Did you see how poor people can be?' the father asked.

'Yeah.'

'And what did you learn?'

The son answered. 'I saw that we have a dog at home, and they have four. We have a pool that reaches to the middle of the garden; they have creek that has no end. We have imported lamps in the garden; they have the stars. Our patio reaches to the front yard; they have a whole horizon.'

When the little boy was finishing, his father was speechless.

His son added, 'Thanks Dad for showing me how poor we are.'

—Tony Jeary and John  
Davis

I want to taste and glory in each day, and never be afraid to experience pain; and never shut myself up in a numb core of nonfeeling, or stop questioning and criticizing life and take the easy way out. To learn and think: to think and live; to live and learn: this always, with new insight, new understanding, and new love.

—Sylvia Plath

It is in vain to say human beings ought to be satisfied with tranquillity: they must have action; and they will make it if they cannot find it. Millions are condemned to a stiller doom than mine, and millions are in silent revolt against their lot. Nobody knows how many rebellions besides political rebellions ferment in the masses of life which people earth. Women are supposed to be very calm generally: but women feel just as men feel; they need exercise for their faculties, and a field for their efforts, as much as their brothers do; they suffer from too rigid a restraint, to absolute a stagnation, precisely as men would suffer; and it is narrow-minded in their more privileged fellow-creatures to say that they ought to confine themselves to making puddings and knitting stockings, to playing on the piano and embroidering bags. It is thoughtless to condemn them, or laugh at them, if they seek to do more or learn more than custom has pronounced necessary for their sex.

—Charlotte Brontë

You are bored. And I'm going to let you in on a little secret about life. You think it's boring now? Well, it only gets more boring. The sooner you learn it's on you to make life interesting, the better off you'll be.

—Maria Semple

Fear is a manipulative emotion that can trick us into living a boring life.

—Donald Miller

When you grow up you tend to get told that the world is the way it is and your life is just to live your life inside the world. Try not to bash into the walls too much. Try to have a nice family life, have fun, save a little money. That's a very limited life. Life can be much broader once you discover one simple fact: Everything around you that you call life was made up by people that were no smarter than you. And you can change it, you can influence it... Once you learn that, you'll never be the same again.

—Steve Jobs

If you can spend a perfectly useless afternoon in a perfectly useless manner, you have learned how to live

—Lin Yutang

Yesterday you asked me what the purpose of life is. I've thought about that ever since. I think it's to do good no matter what life throws at you, to not let the pain turn you bitter. It's something we have to learn, something we have to make ourselves become...Little kids don't have to learn it. They already know.

—Janette Rallison

All life lessons are not learned at college....Life teaches them everywhere.

—L. M. Montgomery

The life so short, the craft so long to learn.

—Hippocrates

Life was not to be sitting in hot amorphous leisure in my backyard idly writing or not-writing, as the spirit moved me. It was, instead, running madly, in a crowded schedule, in a squirrel cage of busy people. Working, living, dancing, dreaming, talking, kissing—singing, laughing, learning.

—Sylvia Plath

Some parents let their young kids win at games, but mine never did. I don't think it was because they were particularly competitive, they just wanted to teach me a valuable lesson. Life is mostly just learning how to lose.

—Brian K. Vaughan

It is utterly false and cruelly arbitrary to put all the play and learning into childhood, all the work into middle age, and all the regrets into old age.

—Margaret Mead

Why does it take a life ending to learn how to cherish each day? Why must we wait until we run out of time to start to accomplish all that we dreamed, when once we had all the time in the world? Why don't we look at the person we love the most like it's the last time we will ever see them? Because if we did, life would be so vibrant. Life would be so truly and completely lived.

—Tillie Cole

By the age of twenty, you know you're not going to be a rock star. By twenty-five, you know you're not going to be a dentist or any kind of professional. And by thirty, darkness starts moving in- you wonder if you're ever going to be fulfilled, let alone wealthy and successful. By thirty-five, you know, basically, what you're going to be doing for the rest of your life, and you become resigned to your fate...

All of life is a constant education.

—Eleanor Roosevelt

...I mean, why do people live so long? What could be the difference between death at fifty-five and death at sixty-five or seventy-five or eighty-five? Those extra years... what benefit could they possibly have? Why do we go on living even though nothing new happens, nothing new is learned, and nothing new is transmitted? At fifty-five, your story's pretty much over.

—Douglas Coupland

Life ain't easy. Terrible things happen to everyone. You have to keep your sense of humor, give something of yourself to others, make friends who are younger than you, learn new things, and have fun.

—George Vaillant

Every day contains a universe of potential; exhaust it. Live and love so immensely that when death comes there is nothing left for him to take.

—Dominic Owen Mallary

In my life,  
I have lived,  
I have loved,  
I have lost,  
I have missed,  
I have hurt,  
I have trusted,  
I have made mistakes,  
But most of all:  
I have learned.

—Internet Meme

The price of anything is the amount of life you exchange for it.

—Henry David Thoreau

Whether one is rich or poor, educated or illiterate, religious or nonbelieving, man or woman, black, white, or brown, we are all the same. Physically, emotionally, and mentally, we are all equal. We all share basic needs for food, shelter, safety, and love. We all aspire to happiness and we all shun suffering. Each of us has hopes, worries, fears, and dreams. Each of us wants the best for our family and loved ones. We all experience pain when we suffer loss and joy when we achieve what we seek. On this fundamental level, religion, ethnicity, culture, and language make no difference.

—Dalai Lama XIV

No one is going to stand up at your funeral and say, 'She had a really expensive couch and great shoes.' Don't make life about stuff.

—*sun-gazing.com*

To live is not to breathe but to act. It is to make use of our organs, our senses, our faculties, of all the parts of ourselves which give us the sentiment of our existence. The man who has lived the most is not he who has counted the most years but he who has most felt life.

—Jean-Jacques Rousseau

The shape of my life is, of course, determined by many things; my background and childhood, my mind and its education, my conscience and its pressures, my heart and its desires.

—Anne Morrow  
Lindbergh

You don't have to get a job that makes others feel comfortable about what they perceive as your success. You don't have to explain what you plan to do with your life. You don't have to justify your education by demonstrating its financial rewards. You don't have to maintain an impeccable credit score. Anyone who expects you to do any of those things has no sense of history or economics or science or the arts. You have to pay your electric bill. You have to be kind. You have to give it all you got. You have to find people who love you truly and love them back with the same truth. But that's all.

—Cheryl Strayed

Men are not created equal in the sense some people would have us believe-some people are smarter than others, some people have more opportunity because they're born with it, some men make more money than others, some ladies make better cakes than others-some people are born gifted beyond the normal scope of most men.

—Harper Lee

You are not supposed to be happy all the time. Life hurts and it's hard. Not because you're doing it wrong, but because it hurts for everybody. Don't avoid the pain. You need it. It's meant for you. Be still with it, let it come, let it go, let it leave you with the fuel you'll burn to get your work done on this earth.

—Internet Meme

Just let go. Let go of how you thought your life should be, and embrace the life that is trying to work its way into your consciousness.

—Caroline Myss

If life is a movie most people would consider themselves the star of their own feature. Guys might imagine they're living some action adventure epic. Chicks maybe are in a rose-colored fantasy romance. And homosexuals are living *la vida loca* in a fabulous musical. Still others may take the indie approach and think of themselves as an anti-hero in a coming of age flick. Or a retro badass in an exploitation B movie. Or the cable man in a very steamy adult picture. Some people's lives are experimental student art films that don't make any sense. Some are screwball comedies. Others resemble a documentary, all serious and educational. A few lives achieve blockbuster status and are hailed as a tribute to the human spirit. Some gain a small following and enjoy cult status. And some never got off the ground due to insufficient funding. I don't know what my life is but I do know that I'm constantly squabbling with the director over creative control, throwing prima donna tantrums and pouting in my personal trailer when things don't go my way.

—Tatsuya Ishida

My uncle Alex Vonnegut, a Harvard-educated life insurance salesman who lived at 5033 North Pennsylvania Street, taught me something very important.

He said that when things were really going well we should be sure to NOTICE it. He was talking about simple occasions, not great victories: maybe drinking lemonade on a hot afternoon in the shade, or smelling the aroma of a nearby bakery; or fishing, and not caring if we catch anything or not, or hearing somebody all alone playing a piano really well in the house next door.

Uncle Alex urged me to say this out loud during such epiphanies: If this isn't nice, what is?

—Kurt Vonnegut

I have one life and one chance to make it count for something...My faith demands that I do whatever I can, wherever I am, whenever I can, for as long as I can with whatever I have to try to make a difference.

—Jimmy Carter

Life is still better than University. In school, your teacher is the fruit picker and you are the open fruit basket. Then you take those fruits and make cakes and pies. But life is going to give you the chance to go out there and pick those fruits yourself. Then you can eat them, or make them into something else; any which way, your own hands picked them!

—C. JoyBell C.

We need to eliminate the concept of division by class, skills, race, income, religion, and nationality. Every human requires food and water to survive and every human has a heart that bleeds, loves, and grieves.

—Suzy Kassem

The real world has its limits; the imaginary world is infinite. Unable to enlarge the one, let us restrict the other, for it is from the difference between the two alone that are born all the pains which make us truly unhappy.

—Jean-Jacques Rousseau

I don't think your life has to have a purpose, or you a grand ambition; I think it's okay to just wander through life finding interesting things until you die.

—Amber Sparks

Across the ages and regardless of geography, in everything that really matters, it bears repeating that we are all members of a SINGLE human family—a family of intrepid adventurers who have been exploring the world in one form or another for the best part of a million years. In the course of this long odyssey we've moved so far apart, across oceans, over mountains, and to the opposite ends of jungles, deserts, and ice caps that we've forgotten how closely related we in fact are.

—Graham Hancock

To live is the rarest thing in the world. Most people just exist.

—Oscar Wilde

There will come a time in the future when someone will think of you for the last time, and everything you've ever accomplished in life will be forgotten.

—Internet Meme

We're so self-important. So arrogant. Everybody's going to save something now. Save the trees, save the bees, save the whales, save the snails. And the supreme arrogance? Save the planet! Are these people kidding? Save the planet? We don't even know how to take care of ourselves; we haven't learned how to care for one another. We're gonna save the fuckin' planet? . . . And, by the way, there's nothing wrong with the planet in the first place. The planet is fine. The people are fucked! Compared with the people, the planet is doin' great. It's been here over four billion years . . . The planet isn't goin' anywhere, folks. We are! We're goin' away. Pack your shit, we're goin' away. And we won't leave much of a trace. Thank God for that. Nothing left. Maybe a little Styrofoam. The planet will be here, and we'll be gone. Another failed mutation; another closed-end biological mistake.

—George Carlin

I have always believed, and I still believe, that whatever good or bad fortune may come our way we can always give it meaning and transform it into something of value.

—Hermann Hesse

We have lived our lives by the assumption that what was good for us would be good for the world. We have been wrong. We must change our lives so that it will be possible to live by the contrary assumption, that what is good for the world will be good for us. And that requires that we make the effort to know the world and learn what is good for it.

—Wendell Berry

It's your life—but only if you make it so.

Eleanor Roosevelt

You can read a hundred books on wisdom and write a hundred books on wisdom, but unless you apply what you learned then it's only words on a page. Life is not lived with intentions, but action.

—Shannon Alder

Life is made up of a collection of moments that are not ours to keep. The pain we encounter throughout our days spent on this earth comes from the illusion that some moments can be held onto. Clinging to people and experiences that were never ours in the first place is what causes us to miss out on the beauty of the miracle that is the now. All of this is yours, yet none of it is. How could it be? Look around you. Everything is fleeting.

To love and let go, love and let go, love and let go...it's the single most important thing we can learn in this lifetime.

—Rachel Brathen

I saw my life branching out before me like the green fig tree in the story. From the tip of every branch, like a fat purple fig, a wonderful future beckoned and winked. One fig was a husband and a happy home and children, and another fig was a famous poet and another fig was a brilliant professor, and another fig was Ee Gee, the amazing editor, and another fig was Europe and Africa and South America, and another fig was Constantin and Socrates and Attila and a pack of other lovers with queer names and offbeat professions, and another fig was an Olympic lady crew champion, and beyond and above these figs were many more figs I couldn't quite make out. I saw myself sitting in the crotch of this fig tree, starving to death, just because I couldn't make up my mind which of the figs I would choose. I wanted each and every one of them, but choosing one meant losing all the rest, and, as I sat there, unable to decide, the figs began to wrinkle and go black, and, one by one, they plopped to the ground at my feet.

—Sylvia Plath

Anyone who imagines that bliss is normal is going to waste a lot of time running around shouting that he has been robbed. The fact is that most putts don't drop, most beef is tough, most children grow up to be just like people, most successful marriages require a high degree of mutual toleration, and most jobs are more often dull than otherwise. Life is just like an old time rail journey ... delays, sidetracks, smoke, dust, cinders, and jolts, interspersed only occasionally by beautiful vistas and thrilling bursts of speed. The trick is to thank the Lord for letting you have the ride.

—Jenkin Lloyd Jones

Life is hard, and children have to be told how hard life can be...So they will be sympathetic to others. So they will understand that some people have it harder than they do and that a trip through this world can be a wildly different experience, depending on what chemicals are raging through one's mind.

—Matthew Quick

If you're lucky enough to find a way of life you love, you have to find the courage to live it.

—John Irving

Life isn't fair....We tell our children that it is, but it's a terrible thing to do. It's not only a lie, it's a cruel lie. Life is not fair, and it never has been, and it's never going to be.

—William Goldman

There are people that need me. And that, in itself, is life. There are people I do not know yet that need me. That is life.

—Bobby McIlvaine

Life is like a book, some chapters sad, some happy and some exciting. But if you never turn the page, you will never know what the next chapter holds.

—*truthfollower.com*

Life is a school of probability.

—Walter Bagehot