

## Famous Recitations, Poetry, and Quote Examples

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### Recitations, Poetry, and Quotes:

- [Poetry and Character-building Prose](#) - collection of poetry links on GE website
- [Famous Poets and Poems](#) - a collection of famous poems for all levels
- [Famous Speeches That Changed the World](#)
- [Great Speeches Collection](#)
- [Daffodils by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow](#) - 1:27 sec. video
- [Poetry Foundation](#) - website with poems menu for all ages, videos of recitations, etc.
- [Student Presentations](#) - Article with how-to's relevant to classrooms
- [Poetry Out Loud presentation of Frederick Douglass](#) - 3:18 min. - recitation of poem in competition
- [Preparing to Perform: Practicing Peer Feedback](#) - Lesson plan using Frederick Douglass poem, Teachers & Writers Magazine, Oct. 2018

Frederick Douglass

By [Robert Hayden](#)

When it is finally ours, this freedom, this liberty, this beautiful and terrible thing, needful to man as air, usable as earth; when it belongs at last to all, when it is truly instinct, brain matter, diastole, systole, reflex action; when it is finally won; when it is more than the gaudy mumbo jumbo of politicians: this man, this Douglass, this former slave, this Negro beaten to his knees, exiled, visioning a world where none is lonely, none hunted, alien, this man, superb in love and logic, this man shall be remembered. Oh, not with statues' rhetoric, not with legends and poems and wreaths of bronze alone,

but with the lives grown out of his life, the lives  
fleshing his dream of the beautiful, needful thing.

Robert Hayden, "Frederick Douglass" from *Collected Poems of Robert Hayden*, edited by Frederick Glaysher. Copyright © 1966 by Robert Hayden. Reprinted with the permission of Liveright Publishing Corporation.

- Famous quotes from President Theodore Roosevelt

"It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat."

— Theodore Roosevelt

"When you're at the end of your rope, tie a knot and hold on."

— Theodore Roosevelt

"Knowing what's right doesn't mean much unless you do what's right."

— Theodore Roosevelt

"Keep your eyes on the stars, and your feet on the ground."

— Theodore Roosevelt

**“Patriotism means to stand by the country. It does not mean to stand by the president or any other public official, save exactly to the degree in which he himself stands by the country. It is patriotic to support him insofar as he efficiently serves the country. It is unpatriotic not to oppose him to the exact extent that by inefficiency or otherwise he fails in his duty to stand by the country. In either event, it is unpatriotic not to tell the truth, whether about the president or anyone else.”**

**— Theodore Roosevelt**

**“If you could kick the person in the pants responsible for most of your trouble, you wouldn't sit for a month.”**

**— Theodore Roosevelt**

**“Courage is not having the strength to go on; it is going on when you don't have the strength.”**

**— Theodore Roosevelt**

**On virtue and success in life: “There are many qualities which we need in order to gain success, but the three above all—for the lack of which no brilliancy and no genius can atone—are Courage, Honesty and Common Sense.”**

**On character: “Bodily vigor is good, and vigor of intellect is even better, but far above both is character.”**

**On effort: “A soft, easy life is not worth living, if it impairs the fibre of brain and heart and muscle. We must dare to be great; and we must realize that greatness is the fruit of toil and sacrifice and high courage. . .For us is the life of action, of strenuous performance of duty; let us live in the harness, striving mightily; let us rather run the risk of wearing out than rusting out.”**

**On perseverance: “Sometimes in life, both at school and afterwards, fortune will go against anyone, but if he just keeps pegging away and don't lose his courage things always take a turn for the better in the end.”**

**On everyday virtue: “[W]e must show, not merely in great crises, but in the everyday affairs of life, the qualities of practical intelligence, of courage, of**

hardihood, and endurance, and above all the power of devotion to a lofty ideal, which made great the men who founded this Republic in the days of Washington, which made great the men who preserved this Republic in the days of Abraham Lincoln.”

On self-mastery: “Unless a man is master of his soul, all other kinds of mastery amount to little.”

- [Martin Luther King, Jr. “I Have A Dream” address](#) - (audio link included)
- [270 Martin Luther King, Jr. Quotes That Will Move Your Soul](#)
- [Abraham Lincoln Famous Speeches](#)

### The Gettysburg Address

Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battlefield of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

But, in a larger sense, we cannot dedicate -- we cannot consecrate -- we cannot hallow -- this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us -- that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion -- that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain -- that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom -- and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

Abraham Lincoln

November 19, 1863

Abraham Lincoln Speeches and Writings

Online Exhibition original documents and history - Abraham Lincoln

- **Famous Quotes from movie, “The Dead Poets Society”**
  - “I brought them up here to illustrate the point of conformity: the difficulty in maintaining your own beliefs in the face of others. Now, those of you -- I see the look in your eyes like, "I would've walked differently." Well, ask yourselves why you were clapping. Now, we all have a great need for acceptance. But you must trust that your beliefs are unique, your own, even though others may think them odd or unpopular, even though the herd may go, "That's baaaaad." Robert Frost said, "Two roads diverged in a wood and I, I took the one less traveled by, and that has made all the difference.” — Tom Schulman, Dead Poets Society
  - “And medicine, law, business, engineering, these are noble pursuits and necessary to sustain life. But poetry, beauty, romance, love: these are what we stay alive for.” — Tom Schulman, Dead Poets Society
  - “Carpe Diem,” Keating whispered loudly. “Seize the day. Make your lives extraordinary.” — N.H. Kleinbaum, Dead Poets Society
  - “No matter what anybody tells you, words and ideas can change the world” — Tom Schulman, Dead Poets Society

**"Dead Poet's Society" Movie Video Clip - 2:46 min.** - Have learners view, discuss, and journal to apply personally.