

## Poems for Responsibility

### **“The Responsibility Poem” by Charles Osgood**

There was a most important job that needed to be done,  
And no reason not to do it, there was absolutely none.  
But in vital matters such as this, the thing you have to ask  
Is who exactly will it be who'll carry out the task?

Anybody could have told you that Everybody knew  
That this was something Somebody would surely have to do.  
Nobody was unwilling; Anybody had the ability.  
But Nobody believed that it was their responsibility.

It seemed to be a job that Anybody could have done,  
If Anybody thought he was supposed to be the one.  
But since Everybody recognized that Anybody could,  
Everybody took for granted that Somebody would.

But Nobody told Anybody that we are aware of,  
That he would be in charge of seeing it was taken care of.  
And Nobody took it on himself to follow through,  
And do what Everybody thought that Somebody would do.

When what Everybody needed so did not get done at all,  
Everybody was complaining that Somebody dropped the ball.  
Anybody then could see it was an awful crying shame,  
And Everybody looked around for Somebody to blame.

Somebody should have done the job  
And Everybody should have,  
But in the end Nobody did  
What Anybody could have.

**THE MAN IN THE ARENA**  
**Theodore Roosevelt**  
Excerpt from the speech "Citizenship In A Republic"  
delivered at the Sorbonne, in Paris, France on 23 April, 1910

“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. “

**Responsibility**  
By Amber Rose

Something I'm learning, something that I know is true.  
The only person responsible for your actions is you.  
What goes around, comes around, as you may have heard.  
You give and take, you receive what you deserve.  
As much as I may not want to admit,  
this mess that I'm in, I got myself into it.  
What I've done, I've done a couple of times.  
They say you live and learn, well why didn't I?  
So I'm dealing with the pain, and taking on the ache  
I have to lie in the bed I didn't mean to make,  
So instead of looking up 2 heaven and asking god 4 help  
I'll take a look in the mirror, a good look at myself.  
I have to realize and accept what I've done wrong,  
Learning lessons is tough but not if your strong.

## **Responsibility**

**Author Unknown**

**Responsibility means,  
“I can do things on my own.”  
When I turn it on, I turn it off.  
When I unlock something, I lock it up.  
When I drop something, I pick it up.  
When I open something, I close it.  
When I make a mess, I clean it up.  
When I find something, I return it.  
When I borrow something, I give it back.  
When I take something out, I put it back.  
When I am assigned a task, I complete it.  
When I earn money, I spend it wisely.  
When I give my word, I keep it.  
I choose to be responsible.**

## **Your Best**

**By Barbara Vance**

**From “Suzie Bitner Was Afraid of the Drain”**

**If you always try your best  
Then you’ll never have to wonder  
About what you could have done  
If you’d summoned all your thunder.**

**And if your best  
Was not as good  
As you hoped it would be,  
You still could say,  
“I gave today  
All that I had in me.”**

***Responsibility Poem***  
***Author Unknown***

I am responsible  
for all that I do,  
from turning in work  
to making friends, too.  
to be kind or mean.

It is up to me  
just how much I will learn;  
the grades that I get  
will be grades that I earn.

I make the choice  
to be happy or sad,  
to have a good day,  
or have one that is bad.

So I will choose  
what is best for me.  
I am responsible;  
I hold the key!