
Be the Best of Whatever You Are

If you can't be a pine on the top of the hill,
Be a scrub in the valley — but be
The best little scrub by the side of the rill;
Be a bush if you can't be a tree.

If you can't be a bush, be a bit of the grass,
And some highway happier make;
If you can't be a muskie, then just be a bass —
But the liveliest bass in the lake!

We can't all be captains, we've got to be crew,
There's something for all of us here,
There's big work to do, and there's lesser to do,
And the task you must do is the near.

If you can't be a highway, then just be a trail,
If you can't be the sun be a star;
It isn't by size that you win or you fail —
Be the best of whatever you are!

— Douglas Malloch



I Will Love You Anyway

**If you don't do well today,
I will love you anyway,
How you struggle,
How you try,
That is what I'll judge you by!**

Author Unknown



Thinking

**If you think you're beaten, you are.
If you think you dare not, you don't.
If you'd like to win,
But you think you can't,
It's almost a cinch you won't.
If you think you'll lose, you're lost,
For out in the world you'll find
Success begins with a fellow's will,
It's all in the state of mind.
If you think you're outclassed, you are.
You've got to think high to rise.
You've got to be sure of yourself before
You can ever win a prize.
Life's battles don't always go
To the stronger or faster man,
But soon or late, the man who wins,
Is the one who thinks he can.**

-Walter D. Wintle



I AM A WINNER!

**I was born to be a winner,
and I will not allow myself to think of failure.**

**I know my capabilities,
and I will not give society a reason to label me
anything but “The Best”.**

**I shall not be caught sitting on the sideline of life
wishing I had done something different.**

**I will live each day to the fullest and
become a Literate Lifter of the world.**

**For those of you who choose to fail
this is your right, but you do not have the
right to take others or me with you.**

**Be prepared to accept the consequences of failure,
as I am preparing myself for the consequences of success.**

**My education will be a lifelong endeavor.
I will not be hesitant to stand up for my convictions.**

**Courageously, I shall make the choice
To accept the challenges before me rather
than forever let others make my decisions.**

THIS IS MY TIME AND MY PLACE!

“IF”

If you can keep your head when all about you
Are losing theirs and blaming it on you;
If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you,
But make allowance for their doubting too:
If you can wait and not be tired by waiting,
Or, being lied about, don't deal in lies,
Or being hated don't give way to hating,
And yet don't look too good, nor talk too wise;

If you can dream---and not make dreams your master;
If you can think---and not make thoughts your aim,
If you can meet with Triumph and Disaster
And treat those two impostors just the same:
If you can bear to hear the truth you've spoken
Twisted by knaves to make a trap for fools,

Or watch the things you gave your life to, broken,
And stoop and build'em up with worn-out tools;
If you can make one heap of all your winnings
And risk it on one turn of pitch-and-toss,
And lose, and start again at your beginnings,
And never breathe a word about your loss:
If you can force your heart and nerve and sinew
To serve your turn long after they are gone,
And so hold on when there is nothing in you
Except the Will which says to them: "Hold on!"

If you can talk with crowds and keep your virtue,
Or walk with Kings---nor lose the common touch,
If neither foes nor loving friends can hurt you,
If all men count with you, but none too much:
If you can fill the unforgiving minute
With sixty seconds' worth of distance run,
Yours is the Earth and everything that's in it,
And---which is more---you'll be a Man, my son!

-Rudyard Kipling

The Tone of Voice

It's not so much what you say
As the manner in which you say it;
It's not so much the language you use
As the tone in which you convey it.
"Come here!" I sharply said,
As the child cowered and wept.
"Come here." I said.
He looked and smiled
And straight into my lap he crept.

Words may be mild and fair
But the tone may pierce like a dart;
Words may be soft as the summer air
But the tone may break my heart;
For words come from the mind, grow by study and art
But the tone leaps from the inner self,
Revealing the state of the heart.

Whether you know it or not,
Whether you mean it, or care,
Gentleness, kindness, love and hate,
Envy, and anger are there.
Then would you quarrels avoid
And peace and love rejoice?
Keep anger not only out of your words
Keep it out of your voice.

...Author Unknown
