

Quotes, Poems And “Nuggets”

Bulletin Editors, Club Presidents and other Rotary Leaders should find the following information useful for their publications or presentations, to help focus and motivate members. Where known, credit is given to the original source compiled by: Douglas W Vincent, for the ROTI Institute.

Life is Unfair

There is always some inequity in life. Some men are killed in war, and some are wounded, and some men never leave the country and some men are stationed in the Antarctic and some men are stationed in San Francisco. It is very hard in military or personal life to assure complete equality. Life is unfair. *J. F. Kennedy*

It's Difficult

To believe when others are doubting.
To work when others are dreaming.
To care when others are neglecting.
To forgive when others are condemning.
To forget when others are judging.
To smile when others are complaining.
To praise when others are criticizing.
To love when others are resenting.
To save when others are spending.
To conserve when others are wasting.
To listen when others are talking.
To build when others are destroying.
To sing when others are sighing.
To pray when others are cursing.
To persist when others are quitting.

William Arthur Ward

The message seems to be that life is made up of winners and losers. If you are not number one or in the top five, you have failed. There doesn't seem to be any reward for simply succeeding at the level of doing one's best.

Success is how you collect our minutes. You spend millions of minutes to reach one triumph, one moment, then you spend maybe 1,000 minutes enjoying it. If you are unhappy through those million minutes, what good are the 1,000 minutes or triumph?

It doesn't equate. Life is made up of small pleasures. Happiness is made up of those tiny successes. The big ones come too infrequently. If you don't have all of those zillions of tiny successes, the big ones don't mean anything.

Norman Lear

There is something that is much more scarce, something finer, something rarer than ability. It is the ability to recognize ability. *Elbert Hubbard*

It is not enough to be right. You have to avoid the appearance of being wrong. *Bob Dougherty*

A winner never quits . . . and a quitter never wins!

When one door closes, another opens but we often look so long and so regretfully upon the closed door that we do not see the one which has opened for us.

There is no elevator to success, you have to take the stairs.

You can't change the past but you can ruin the good present by worrying about the future.

Our challenge as leaders is to train, coach, guide energize and excite our people rather than control them. *Fortune*

Focus on Strengths

People cannot understand a weakness. It is only an absence, a zero, a vacuum. They can only understand and acquire strengths. The only tools and building materials people have are their present and potential strengths.

Focus on:

What is, rather than what isn't
What can, rather than what can't
What will, rather than what won't
What does, rather than what doesn't
What has, rather than what hasn't
The kind of leader you are tomorrow,
begins in your mind today.

Often the difference between a successful man and a failure is not one's better abilities or ideas, but the courage that one has to bet on his ideas; to take a calculated risk . . . and to act. *Maxwell Maltz*

None of us is as good as all of us. *Ray Kroc*

Luck is what you have when preparation meets opportunity. *Roger Zuehl*



Pay no attention to what the critics say; there has never been a statue erected to a critic. *Jean Sibelius*



We learn wisdom from failure much more than from success; we often discover what will do, by finding out what will not do; and probably he who never made a mistake never made a discovery. *Samuel Swiles*



Everyone has talent. What is rare is the courage to follow the talent to the dark place where it leads. *Erica Jong*



Every Organization has a "Tate":

Dick Tate: wants to run everything.

Ro Tate: has a passion to change everything.

Devas Tate: loves to interrupt and interfere.

Hesi Tate: always needs detailed instructions.

Cogi Tate: takes enough time to make action unnecessary.

Imi Tate: rushes to get the credit, never accepts the blame.

Facili Tate: does his share, or often much more than that.

Which Tate are you? *Graeme Fraser*



Only people who do things get criticized.



You may have a fresh start any moment you choose, for this thing we call "FAILURE" is not the falling down, but the staying down.

People may doubt what you say, but they will always believe what you do.

Some people never start anything. They research it to death!

You shouldn't go through life with a catcher's mitt on both hands. You need to be able to throw something back.

A person with big dreams is more powerful than one with all the facts.

A goal without a deadline is not really a goal . . . it's a wish!

People heard the wrong things I said, but failed to see the right things I did.

John Crosbie

There go the people. I must follow them, for I am their leader. *Alerandre Leduc-Rollin*



I discovered you never know yourself until you're tested and that you don't even know you're being tested until afterwards, and that in fact there isn't anyone giving the test except yourself.

Marilyn French



There are risks and costs to a program of action, but they are far less than the long-range risks and costs of comfortable inaction. *J. F. Kennedy*



Failure is not the worst thing in the world. The very worst is not to try.

We should be careful to get out of an experience only the wisdom that is in it and stop there; lest we be like the cat that sits down on a hot stove.

She will never sit down on a hot stove again and that is well; but she will never sit down on a cold one anymore either. *Mark Twain*



I am so successful because I fail so much.

We judge ourselves by what we feel capable of doing, while others judge us by what we have already done. *Longfellow*



In Troubled Times

When you're in a troubled time
And worry fills your mind,
Just think of others that you know
Who've been in a worse bind.

And then your mind will thank the Lord
For giving you each day,
Appreciate good things in life
That people do or say.

Over trials and tribulations
Your attitude can have power,
So tune it up, maintain it well
And better days will flower.

Think good things and soon you'll find
How great your life can be,
Know that you're a special friend
We need in R o-t a-r y.

Just keep in mind as days go by,
When you're feeling blue,
You've got some friends around the world
Who'll hope and pray for you.

Douglas W. Vincent