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Questions?

Feel free to e-mail me! thesocialstudieslife@gmail.com

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101 Quotes to Use in Your Classroom

Quotes by Major Historical Figures

1. "Worry not that no one knows of you; seek to be worth knowing." - Confucius
2. "Real knowledge is to know the extent of one's ignorance." - Confucius
3. "Forget injuries, never forget kindnesses." - Confucius
4. "Good people do not need laws to tell them to act responsibly, while bad people will find a way around the laws." - Plato
5. "Whoever wishes to foresee the future must consult the past; for human events ever resemble those of preceding times. This arises from the fact that they are produced by men who ever have been, and ever shall be, animated by the same passions, and thus they necessarily have the same results." - Machiavelli
6. "He that is good for making excuses is seldom good for anything else." - Benjamin Franklin
7. "A slip of the foot you may soon recover, but a slip of the tongue you may never get over." - Benjamin Franklin
8. "Experience hath shewn, that even under the best forms of government those entrusted with power have, in time, and by slow operations, perverted it into tyranny." -Thomas Jefferson
9. "When you reach the end of your rope, tie a knot in it and hang on." - Thomas Jefferson
10. "It is better to offer no excuse than a bad one." - George Washington
11. "It is far better to be alone, than to be in bad company." - George Washington
12. "To be prepared for war is one of the most effective means of preserving peace." - George Washington
13. "We have too many high sounding words, and too few actions that correspond with them." - Abigail Adams
14. "Those who stand for nothing fall for anything." - Alexander Hamilton
15. "When in doubt, tell the truth." - Mark Twain
16. "Courage is resistance to fear, mastery of fear – not absence of fear." - Mark Twain

17. "What lies behind us and what lies before us are small matters compared to what lies within us." - Ralph Waldo Emerson
18. "God made me an Indian, but not a reservation Indian." - Sitting Bull
19. "Common sense is the knack of seeing things as they are, and doing things as they ought to be done." - Harriet Beecher Stowe
20. "Never give up, for that is just the place and time that the tide will turn." - Harriet Beecher Stowe
21. "Most folks are about as happy as they make up their minds to be." - Abraham Lincoln
22. "Whenever I hear anyone arguing for slavery, I feel a strong impulse to see it tried on him personally." - Abraham Lincoln
23. "Better to remain silent and be thought a fool than to speak out and remove all doubt." - Abraham Lincoln
24. "Whatever you are, be a good one." - Abraham Lincoln
25. "No race can prosper till it learns that there is as much dignity in tilling a field as in writing a poem." - Booker T. Washington
26. "When you do the common things in life in an uncommon way, you will command the attention of the world." - George Washington Carver
27. "Be ashamed to die until you have won some victory for humanity." - Horace Mann
28. "When one door closes another door opens; but we so often look so long and so regretfully upon the closed door, that we do not see the ones which open for us." - Alexander Graham Bell
29. "Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work." - Thomas Edison
30. "If we did all the things we were capable of doing, we would literally astound ourselves." - Thomas Edison
31. "Genius is one percent inspiration, ninety-nine percent perspiration." - Thomas Edison
32. "As I grow older I pay less attention to what men say. I just watch what they do." - Andrew Carnegie
33. "Think of giving not as a duty but as a privilege." - John D. Rockefeller, Jr.
34. "Although the world is full of suffering, it is full also of the overcoming of it." - Helen Keller

35. "Anyone who stops learning is old, whether at 20 or 80. Anyone who keeps learning stays young." - Henry Ford
36. "You can't build a reputation on what you are going to do." - Henry Ford
37. "One of the greatest discoveries a man makes, one of his great surprises, is to find he can do what he was afraid he couldn't do." - Henry Ford
38. "Do what you can, with what you have, where you are." - Theodore Roosevelt
39. "Patriotism means to stand by the country. It does not mean to stand by the president." - Theodore Roosevelt
40. "Far better is it to dare mighty things, to win glorious triumphs even though checkered by failure, than to rank with those poor spirits who neither enjoy nor suffer much because they live in the gray twilight that knows neither victory nor defeat." - Theodore Roosevelt
41. "If you think about what you ought to do for other people, your character will take care of itself." - Woodrow Wilson
42. "It takes a great man to be a good listener." - Calvin Coolidge
43. "Not everything that can be counted counts and not everything that counts can be counted." - Albert Einstein
44. "We make a living by what we get; we make a life by what we give." - Winston Churchill
45. "No one can make you feel inferior without your consent." - Eleanor Roosevelt
46. "Great minds discuss ideas. Average minds discuss events. Small minds discuss people." - Eleanor Roosevelt
47. "How wonderful is it that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world." - Anne Frank
48. "And so, my fellow Americans: ask not what your country can do for you – ask what you can do for your country. My fellow citizens of the world: ask not what Americans will do for you, but what together we can do for the freedom of man." - John F. Kennedy
49. "The weak can never forgive. Forgiveness is an attribute of the strong." - Mahatma Gandhi
50. "You can't shake hands with a clenched fist." - Indira Gandhi
51. "Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about the things that matter." - Martin Luther King Jr.

52. "Take the first step in faith. You don't have to see the whole staircase, just take the first step." - Martin Luther King, Jr.
53. "The hottest place in Hell is reserved for those who remain neutral in times of great moral conflict." - Martin Luther King, Jr.
54. "We must learn to live together as brothers or perish together as fools." - Martin Luther King, Jr.
55. "Yesterday is not ours to recover, but tomorrow is ours to win or lose." - Lyndon Johnson
56. "Always remember others may hate you, but those who hate you don't win unless you hate them. And then you destroy yourself." - Richard Nixon
57. "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." - Nelson Mandela
58. "Being powerful is like being a lady. If you have to tell people you are, you aren't." - Margaret Thatcher

Quotes About Good Character

59. "Holding on to anger, resentment, and hurt only gives you tense muscles, a headache, and a sore jaw from clenching your teeth. Forgiveness gives you back the laughter and lightness in your life." - Joan Lunden
60. "You can stand tall without standing on someone. You can be a victor without having victims." - Harriet Woods
61. "No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted." - Aesop
62. "Real integrity is doing the right thing, knowing that nobody's going to know whether you did it or not." - Oprah Winfrey
63. "Thou shalt not be a victim. Thou shalt not be a perpetrator. Above all, thou shalt not be a bystander." - Holocaust Museum, Washington DC
64. "Never work just for money or power. They won't save your soul or help you sleep at night." - Marian Wright Edelman
65. "Let us not look back in anger or forward in fear, but around in awareness." - James Thurber
66. "Good leaders must first become good servants." - Robert Greenleaf

67. "You cannot make yourself feel something you do not feel, but you can make yourself do right in spite of your feelings." - Pearl S. Buck
68. "If you have made mistakes, even serious ones, there is always another chance for you. What we call failure is not falling down but the staying down." - Mary Pickford
69. "Kind words do not cost much, yet they accomplish much." - Blaise Pascal
70. "The real measure of your wealth is how much you'd be worth if you lost all your money." - Anonymous
71. "One moment of patience may ward off great disaster. One moment of impatience may ruin a whole life." - Chinese Proverb
72. "It takes a great deal of bravery to stand up to our enemies, but just as much to stand up to our friends." - J.K. Rowling
73. "A kind and compassionate act is often its own reward." - William Bennett
74. "Anger makes you smaller, while forgiveness forces you to grow beyond what you were." - Cherie Carter-Scott
75. "Our lives improve only when we take chances – and the first and most difficult risk we can take is to be honest with ourselves." - Walter Anderson
76. "In this world, everything changes except good deeds and bad deeds; these follow you as the shadow follows the body." - Anonymous
77. "You are not obligated to win. You're obligated to keep trying to do the best you can every day." - Marian Wright Edelman
78. "Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can." - John Wesley
79. "Success is no accident. It is hard work, perseverance, learning, studying, sacrifice and most of all, love of what you are doing or learning to do." - Pele
80. "Sometimes when we are generous in small, barely detectable ways it can change someone else's life forever." - Margaret Cho
81. "Be a good listener. Your ears will never get you in trouble." - Frank Tyger

Advice, Etc.

82. "You can get help from teachers, but you are going to have to learn a lot by yourself, sitting alone in a room." - Dr. Seuss
83. "Lack of money is no obstacle. Lack of an idea is an obstacle." - Ken Hakuta
84. "To succeed, we must first believe that we can." - Michael Korda
85. "Assert your right to make a few mistakes. If people can't accept your imperfections, that's their fault." - Dr. David Burns
86. "It's hard to lead a cavalry charge if you think you look funny on a horse." - Adlai Stevenson
87. "You can't change what you don't acknowledge." - Dr. Phil
88. "We don't stop playing because we grow old; we grow old because we stop playing!" - George Bernard Shaw
89. "Good manners will open doors that the best education cannot." - Clarence Thomas
90. "Whoever gossips to you will gossip about you." - Spanish Proverb
91. "The first step to getting the things you want out of life is this: decide what you want." - Ben Stein
92. "A country without a memory is a country of madmen." - George Santayana
93. "Everything is funny as long as it is happening to somebody else." - Will Rogers
94. "The strength of the United States is not the gold at Fort Knox or the weapons of mass destruction that we have, but the sum total of the education and the character of our people." - Claiborne Pell
95. "Do or do not. There is no try." - Yoda
96. "The man who says he can and the man who says he can't are both right." - Unknown
97. "History is who we are and why we are the way we are." - David McCullough
98. "An education isn't how much you have committed to memory, or even how much you know. It's being able to differentiate between what you do know and what you don't." - Anatole France
99. "Spend each moment perfecting the next, not correcting the last." - Scott Michael Durski

100. "There is no use worrying about things over which you have no control, and if you have control, you can do something about them instead of worrying." - Stanley C. Allyn
101. "Be like a postage stamp. Stick to one thing until you get there." - Josh Billings