

You Can Quote Me!™

EI-1749
Ages 8+/
Grades 3+

Writing Center

Instruction and Activity Guide



Includes:

- Pocket chart display station with storage on back for posters
- 20 Double-sided quotation posters (40 quotations)
- Teacher's Guide with discussion questions and writing prompts

Before You Begin

Preview the posters that come with your You Can Quote Me!™ Writing Center. The 40 quotations have been grouped by thematic categories: friendship, hard work, environment, etc. Some categories, such as perseverance and hard work, overlap. The quotations are numbered to make them easier to use with the discussion questions and writing prompts in this guide. However, the quotations can be used in any order you wish.

You can change the quotation weekly, or you can choose a quotation when the topic or speaker fits in with another lesson. For example, during Black History Month, a quotation from Martin Luther King, Jr., could spark discussion and writing about civil rights.

Getting Started

Display several of the posters and talk to your students about where quotations come from. They can appear in books, magazines, speeches, on television, the Internet, and other media. In modern times, when a famous person says something short and clever, it's repeated around the world.

Explain that the quotations are from a variety of time periods. Some were spoken or written hundreds of years ago. The quotations are also from a variety of sources: athletes, artists, scientists, political figures, even children.

Tell students that the class will be discussing and writing about the quotations.

Using the You Can Quote Me! Writing Center

1. **To promote discussion.** Talk about what an individual quotation means and its source. Use the biographical information in this guide to place the quotation in context. Review any vocabulary words, if necessary.
2. **To spark ideas for narrative, expository, persuasive, and descriptive writing.** After a discussion, students can write about their relevant personal experiences and opinions, using the suggested writing prompt provided for each quotation. Post students' writing in the pocket next to the quotation. Rotating students' work will motivate good writing responses. Quotations are also good starting points for guided group-writing exercises and journal entries.
3. **To inspire works of art.** Encourage students to illustrate their writing responses with an alternate illustration to the quotation poster. Display students' art and writing around or near the You Can Quote Me! Writing Center with the original poster.
4. **As the starting point of a fun, educational research project.** Assign small groups of students to find out more about some of the quotations' authors and report to the class.
5. **To connect to current events.** Suggest that your students illustrate a quotation by a well-known contemporary speaker, from television personalities to their favorite book or movie characters to their parents or teachers.

Adversity

1. *If there is no wind, row.*

— *Latin proverb*

- **Discuss:** What do you do when things don't go your way? What can you learn from these situations?
- **Write about:** Tell about a time when you made a plan and had to change it.
- **Source:** A proverb is a short, simple statement of truth or a moral lesson. Proverbs come from many different cultures.

Beauty

2. *Everything has beauty, but not everyone sees it.* — *Confucius*

- **Discuss:** Does everything have something beautiful about it? A rat? A mosquito? A pencil?
- **Write about:** Write a paragraph agreeing or disagreeing with the statement, "Everything has beauty." Give reasons and examples.
- **Source:** Confucius (551–479 BCE), from China, was very smart. His bits of wisdom are quoted all over the world.

Confidence

3. *If you think you can, you can. If you think you can't, you're right.* — *Mary Kay Ash*

- **Discuss:** Why is it important to have confidence? Is confidence enough to reach a goal?
- **Write about:** Tell about a time when you didn't think you could accomplish something, but you did. How did you do it?
- **Source:** Mary Kay Ash (1918–2001) started a cosmetics company, creating jobs for thousands of women. Her best workers earned pink Cadillac cars as a reward. Note: This quotation is sometimes attributed to Henry Ford.

Courage

4. *Courage has never been known to be a matter of muscle; it is a matter of the heart.* — *Mahatma Gandhi*

- **Discuss:** What does it mean to have courage? What are some situations where you or someone you know has shown courage?
- **Write about:** Tell about a time when you or someone you know showed courage.
- **Source:** Mahatma Gandhi (1869–1948) of India worked for people's rights and freedoms. He was against violence.

Dreams

5. *The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.* — *Eleanor Roosevelt*

- **Discuss:** What are some of your dreams for the future?
- **Write about:** Describe a dream you have for your own future or for the future of your family, neighborhood, or even the world.

- **Source:** Eleanor Roosevelt (1884–1962) was First Lady of the United States from 1933 to 1945. After the death of her husband, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, she worked tirelessly for human rights around the world.

Environment

6. *We won't have a society if we destroy the environment.* — *Margaret Mead*

- **Discuss:** Without a healthy environment, what kind of life would we have?
- **Write about:** Explain what you and your family are doing to help the environment.
- **Source:** Margaret Mead (1901–1978) was an anthropologist (someone who studies human beings and society).
- **7. *We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors; we borrow it from our children.* — *Unknown***
- **Discuss:** Do you think the environment will be in better or worse shape by the time your children are born?
- **Write about:** Describe what you think the earth will be like in 100 years.
- **Source:** Sometimes information gets lost over the years, including who first made this wise statement. It has been attributed to conservationist David Bower and to Native-American sources.

Family

8. *Home is not where you live but where they understand you.* — *Christian Morgenstern*

- **Discuss:** Who understands you better — your friends or your family members?
- **Write about:** Describe what makes your family different from other families.
- **Source:** Christian Morgenstern (1871–1914) was a German poet and writer.

9. *Home is where one starts from.* — *T.S. Eliot*

- **Discuss:** In what ways are you alike and different from your family members?
- **Write about:** Write a story about a day in your life, beginning with when you woke up at home. Choose a great day or an awful one.
- **Source:** Thomas Stearns Eliot (1888–1965) was a poet, writer, and editor.

Fears

10. *Nothing in life is to be feared. It is only to be understood.* — *Marie Curie*

- **Discuss:** What are some things or situations that make you or others fearful? Are those fears reasonable?
- **Write about:** Explain why you are afraid of something and what you can do to overcome your fears.
- **Source:** Marie Curie (1867–1934) was a scientist. In a time when most scientists were men, she was the first woman to win a Nobel Prize. She won it twice.

Forgiveness

11. *Forgiveness is a gift of high value. Yet its cost is nothing.* — *Betty Smith*

- **Discuss:** Why is it hard to forgive people sometimes? Why is it hard to ask for forgiveness?

- **Write about:** Tell about a time when you chose to forgive someone for something they did or a time when someone forgave you for something you did.

- **Source:** Betty Smith (1896–1972) was an American author. Her best-known book is *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*.

Friendship

12. *The only way to have a friend is to be one.* — *Ralph Waldo Emerson*

- **Discuss:** What does it mean to be a good friend? What qualities do you look for in your friends?
- **Write about:** Explain what makes you a good friend, giving examples of situations that show how you were a good friend.

- **Source:** Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803–1882) was an American philosopher.

13. *Friendship is a sheltering tree.* — *Samuel Taylor Coleridge*

- **Discuss:** How do you feel when you are around your friends — happy, silly, special, comfortable, etc.?
- **Write about:** Describe your favorite thing to do with a friend or friends.
- **Source:** Samuel Taylor Coleridge (1772–1834) was a British poet and critic.

14. *Only your real friends will tell you when your face is dirty.* — *Sicilian proverb*

- **Discuss:** How can you tell a true friend? Is it usually a good idea to be honest, even if hurts a friend's feelings?
- **Write about:** Write a paragraph agreeing or disagreeing with this statement: It is always best to tell a friend the truth. Give reasons and examples to persuade your reader of your opinion.
- **Source:** This proverb from Sicily teaches a similar lesson to *The Emperor Has No Clothes* by Hans Christian Andersen.

Goals

15. *The potential for greatness lives within each of us.* — *Wilma Rudolph*

- **Discuss:** What are your goals — making a team, getting good grades, etc.? What qualities are necessary to achieve your goal — determination, attitude, etc.?
- **Write about:** State a goal you would like to achieve. Describe the qualities you will need for success and explain why they are important.
- **Source:** Wilma Rudolph (1940–1994), an African-American athlete, was the first woman to win three gold medals during a single Olympic games. A remarkable athlete, she overcame a twisted left leg, the result of having polio as a very young child.

Gratitude

16. No matter what accomplishments you make, somebody helped you.
— *Althea Gibson*

- **Discuss:** How have other people helped you achieve your goals?
- **Write about:** Tell about a time when someone — such as a parent, teacher, coach, or friend — helped you achieve a goal.
- **Source:** Althea Gibson's (1927–2003) incredible tennis playing broke racial barriers. She was the first African-American woman to win several major tennis championships.

Happiness

17. Whoever is happy will make others happy too. — *Anne Frank*

- **Discuss:** What makes you happy? How do you make others happy?
- **Write about:** Describe a time when you made someone else happy.
- **Source:** Anne Frank (1929–1945) kept a journal while hiding from the Nazis in Europe. After a while, she and her family were discovered and Anne was killed in a Holocaust concentration camp. When World War II ended, her diary was published.

Hard Work

18. We can't take any credit for our talents. It's how we use them that counts. — *Madeleine L'Engle*

- **Discuss:** Were you born with any special talents? What talents have you developed?
- **Write about:** Describe something you do well and explain how you use that ability.
- **Source:** Madeleine L'Engle (1918–2007) wrote dozens of books for children. Her most-read book is *A Wrinkle in Time*, a fantasy novel about time and space travel.

19. A problem is a chance for you to do your best. — *Duke Ellington*

- **Discuss:** What are some different ways you solve problems?
- **Write about:** Describe a problem you or someone you know faced and how you did your best to overcome it.
- **Source:** Duke Ellington (1899–1974) was a famous African-American musician. He composed more than 3,000 songs.

Helping

20. If you can't feed a hundred people, then feed just one. — *Mother Teresa*

- **Discuss:** Some problems, such as world hunger or threats to the environment, can be overwhelming. What can you do when a problem seems just too big to solve?

- **Write about:** Tell about a time when you were helpful to someone in either a big or a small way.
- **Source:** Mother Teresa (1910–1997) became a nun at age 18. She spent her life in India teaching children and caring for the very poor.

Imagination

21. Imagination will often carry us to worlds that never were. But without it we go nowhere. — *Carl Sagan*

- **Discuss:** Why is imagination the first step in creating anything new? How do you use your imagination?
- **Write about:** Describe an imaginary world. You're in charge of the location, the size, what creatures get to live there, and how they spend their time.
- **Source:** Carl Sagan (1934–1996) was an American astronomer. His work has been seen on television and in the movies.

Individuality

22. Like snowflakes, the human pattern is never cast twice. — *Alice Childress*

- **Discuss:** What makes you an individual, someone different from your family and friends?
- **Write about:** Describe how you are alike and how you are different from one of your friends or one of the members of your family.
- **Source:** Alice Childress (1916–1994) was an African-American author, actress, and fighter for the poor.

23. Whatever you are, be a good one.
— *Abraham Lincoln*

- **Discuss:** What are you good at? How do you become good at something?
- **Write about:** Describe something you're good at. Are you a good friend, student, sibling, artist, musician, or athlete?
- **Source:** Abraham Lincoln (1809–1865) was the 16th American president.

24. Life's like a movie, write your own ending. Keep believing, keep pretending. — *Jim Henson*

- **Discuss:** Why is it important to be yourself? How do you stay true to yourself?
- **Write about:** Write a story set in your future. Where are you and what are you doing?
- **Source:** Jim Henson (1936–1990) pioneered the use of puppets on television. His Muppets appear on *Sesame Street* and have starred in many television shows and films.

Integrity

25. The time is always right to do what is right. — *Martin Luther King, Jr.*

- **Discuss:** How do you know what's right and what's wrong? Why is it sometimes hard to do the right thing?

- **Write about:** Tell about a time you wish you'd done something differently.

• **Source:** Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. (1929–1968) fought for civil rights. His work helped end segregation, the separation between people on the basis of race.

Intelligence

26. It's not that I'm so smart, it's just that I stay with problems longer.
— *Albert Einstein*

- **Discuss:** What does it mean to be “smart”? Are smart people more intelligent or do they just work harder?
- **Write about:** Write about a time when refusing to give up enabled you to solve a problem.
- **Source:** Albert Einstein (1879–1955) was one of the most famous scientists of all time.

Kindness

27. No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted. — *Aesop*

- **Discuss:** Why should you be kind, even if no one knows about it except you?
- **Write about:** Tell about a time you were grateful for someone else's kindness.
- **Source:** Aesop (circa 620–560 BCE) was a Greek writer famous for his fables. Fables are stories that teach a moral or lesson and which usually feature animals.

Laughter

28. Laughter is an instant vacation.
— *Milton Berle*

- **Discuss:** Why does laughter feel so good? What tickles your funny bone?
- **Write about:** Describe something that made you laugh out loud.
- **Source:** Milton Berle (1908–2002) was an American comedian who starred in many movies and television shows. Sometimes he wore a dress, which made audiences laugh.

Learning/Education

29. I hear and I forget. I see and I remember. I do and I understand.
— *Chinese proverb*

- **Discuss:** How do you learn best? Are there some things that can only be learned by doing?
- **Write about:** Tell about a time you learned something new. How did you learn it?
- **Source:** This Chinese proverb is good to remember when you're having trouble understanding something.

30. *I believe that education is all about being excited about something.*

— Steve Irwin

- **Discuss:** What are you excited to learn about?
- **Write about:** Describe the most interesting thing you've learned this year.
- **Source:** Steve Irwin (1962–2006), an Australian conservationist and wildlife expert, showed off dangerous and unusual animals on television. Irwin died in a stingray accident.

Mistakes

31. *Do not fear mistakes. You will know failure. Continue to reach out.*

— Ben Franklin

- **Discuss:** No one is perfect. Why is it hard to admit that you made a mistake?
- **Write about:** Describe a mistake you made and what you learned from it.
- **Source:** Benjamin Franklin (1706–1790) was a Founding Father of the United States. He was also an inventor, a writer, and a printer. His famous kite experiment involved electricity and lightning.

Perseverance

32. *We can do anything we want to if we stick to it long enough.*

— Helen Keller

- **Discuss:** Is “anything” an exaggeration?
- **Write about:** Describe a time you wanted to give up, but didn't.
- **Source:** An illness when she was just 19 months old left Helen Keller (1880–1968) blind, deaf, and unable to speak. With the help of a gifted teacher, she learned to communicate, went to college, wrote books, and fought for the blind.

Pets/Animals

33. *Animals are such agreeable friends — they ask no questions, they pass no criticisms.* — George Eliot

- **Discuss:** What do you think your pets think about? Do you ever wish they knew how to talk?
- **Write about:** Choose an animal. Describe a typical day from the animal's point of view.
- **Source:** George Eliot was the pen name of Mary Ann Evans (1819–1880), an English novelist. She used a man's name to publish her work, which gave her privacy and helped her sell books.

Reading

34. *I could spend the rest of my life reading, just satisfying my curiosity.*

— Malcolm X

- **Discuss:** Why is reading so important? How do you decide what to read?
- **Write about:** Describe how you would spend your time if you could choose just one activity for the rest of your life.
- **Source:** Malcolm X (1925–1965) was a civil rights activist. He encouraged African-Americans to use “X” as their last name as a way of rejecting the names they'd received from slave owners.

Teamwork

35. *The way a team plays as a whole determines its success.* — Babe Ruth

- **Discuss:** What does it mean to be a “team player” (in sports, scouting, or other group)?
- **Write about:** Explain the importance of teamwork. Give examples.
- **Source:** Babe Ruth (1895–1948) was among the best baseball players of all time. In his two-decade-long career, he played for the Boston Red Sox, the New York Yankees, and the Boston Braves.

Tolerance

36. *We, as human beings, must be willing to accept people who are different from ourselves.*

— Barbara Jordan

- **Discuss:** How are people different from one another—religion, race, gender, etc.? How are people the same as one another? What would the world be like if everyone were the same?
- **Write about:** Describe someone you know, telling how that person is similar to you and how he or she is different.
- **Source:** Barbara Jordan (1936–1996) was an early African-American politician. After serving in Congress, she became a professor at the University of Texas.

Trust

37. *Trust has to be earned, and should come only after the passage of time.*

— Arthur Ashe

- **Discuss:** What does it mean to be “trustworthy”? Whom do you trust—friends, family, teachers, or coaches? Have you ever broken someone's trust? What was the result?
- **Write about:** Tell about a time when you broke someone's trust or someone broke yours.

- **Source:** Arthur Ashe (1943–1993) was an African-American tennis player. He won many tennis matches and used his fame to draw attention to apartheid and other causes.

Truth

38. *In seeking truth you have to get both sides of a story.* — Walter Cronkite

- **Discuss:** In a he said/she said situation, how do you know what to believe?
- **Write about:** Write about one of these topics (or think up one of your own) from both sides of the issue:

Children should be allowed to have a television in their bedroom.

The school year should be longer.

Students should be required to wear uniforms.

- **Source:** Walter Cronkite (1916–2009) was a journalist and television news anchor. He reported many important stories during his career.

Winning

39. *You can't win them all — but you can try.* — Babe Didrikson Zaharias

- **Discuss:** What does it mean to be a “good loser”?
- **Write about:** Tell about a time you won and a time you lost. How did you handle each?
- **Source:** Babe Didrikson Zaharias (1911–1956) was a successful, versatile athlete. She won Olympic medals and other top honors in multiple sports, including the high jump and golf.

Wisdom

40. *Wisdom begins in wonder.*

— Socrates

- **Discuss:** What are some things you wonder about? How can you find out more about such things?
- **Write about:** Identify something you wonder about and explain how you can find out more about it.
- **Source:** Socrates (469BC–399BC) was a Greek philosopher and teacher who lived more than 2,500 years ago. He is famous for asking hard questions like, “What is beauty?” and “What is wisdom?”