

# R-E-S-P-O-N-D

## to Quotable Quotes

&

### Concluding Sentences or “Teaching to the QWIER”

#### Part I: Respond to Quotable Quotes

In the following lesson, children are to pick a quote every night from one of the pages of quotes and write five sentences about that quote. To give them support, lead them through the “RESPOND” legend: **R is for Rephrase, E is for Explain or Example, S is for Summarize, P is for Parents, O is for Opposite or Opinion, N is for Note first thoughts, D is for Describe** (see following worksheet suggestions). These seven-nine prompts will give them ideas about how to write five sentences. I tell the children, “Make it easy, if you want, just ask your parents what they think — and write what they say...” And let them know: they can add or substitute their own (or parent’s) quotable quote to the list and write about that. After a couple examples, they will see how easy it can be....

I ask the children to select one quote each night from each page for three weeks, and write a paragraph about it; after they turn in a few assignments, I help them tighten their paragraphs by focusing on the final sentence. See QWIER below. **After three weeks**, I ask them to collect their best paragraphs and turn them in. Then, **they must select one quote** (could be one they have already previously worked on) **and write three paragraphs about it--** using the skills they gained in their better paragraphs. All of these can be made into a nice class book.

## **Part II: Concluding Sentences**

(or “Teaching to the Qwier”)

**Review** the features of “the paragraph”. The “**hamburger model**” works well (with the two buns representing the main idea and the concluding sentence, and the meat, lettuce, tomato, and ketchup/mayonaise representing the supporting sentences and details). Co-create a couple of paragraphs on the board in demonstrative style.

Emphasize how important it is to learn how to make a point again and again in many ways. That’s why we write more than one sentence! Presenting and re-presenting (and re-presenting) an idea is one of the best writing skills anyone can learn.

After this review, tell the children that they are going to learn to make their paragraphs “tight” (insert current word) by teaching them how to make a powerful ending. A final concluding sentence wraps up the paragraph like a present!

Since the concluding sentence is often the weakest part of paragraph writing, I have the students exercise and practice this in isolation. After a paragraph structure/hamburger review, I have them write in class a simple paragraph, skip several lines, and then write 5 kinds of concluding sentences (from which they’ll select their favorite).

After you have reviewed the structure of the paragraph (the topic sentence followed by details and/or related/supporting statements), tell the kids you are going to teach them to write a dynamite conclusion. I use the mnemonic device QWIER (pronounced “choir”) to prompt my kids to learn five! kinds of concluding sentences. (Real samples follow.)

**Q stands for question.** -- Ask the reader a question that evokes the point of the paragraph.

**W stands for Wish.** --- Make a “wish statement” that restates a salient point.

**I stands for “If ..., then...”** Remind them to use proper punctuation (with the comma).

**E stands for Exclamation!** Remind them to make a LOUD restatement with the proper punctuation.

**R stands for Restatement (with synonyms).** Show them how they can Restate their topic sentence, trading as many words as possible with synonyms. You’ll need to give a couple of examples and then ask the class to participate in a couple more.

An example from a student follows:

*Boom! That’s the main sound on the 4th of July. The Fourth of July is the celebration of the birth of the nation, or the Declaration of Independence. The Declaration of Independence was written to show we are a nation of our own, and I love that. I also like the fireworks!*

*[possible concluding sentences...]*

*Q: I wonder if Thomas Jefferson was this happy?*

*W: I sure wish we celebrated like this more often.*

*I: If Thomas Jefferson were alive, then I think he would be sooo happy.*

*E: The 4th of July rocks!*

*R: Independence Day is the loudest and funnest holiday.*

---

# R-E-S-P-O-N-D

**Rephrase.** Can you say it another way? What is the opposite of the quote?

**Explain/Example.** What does it mean?.

**Summarize.** Can you think of another saying that says the same kind of thing?

**Parents.** Ask the adults in your life. What do they say about this? \_

**Opposite/Opinion: What is the Opposite? Offer Your Opinion.** How do you agree? Is there a time or place you wouldn't agree? What would happen if you did the opposite?

**Note Your Thoughts.** What was the first thing you thought of when you read it? How does the quote make you feel?

**Describe.** What was going on in their life or the world that moved them to say the quote?

# Teaching to the QWIER

## Powerful Concluding Sentences

**Q stands for question.** -- Ask the reader a question that evokes the point of the paragraph.

**W stands for Wish.** --- Make a “wish statement” that restates a salient point.

**I stands for “If ..., then...”**

**E stands for Exclamation!** A LOUD restatement.

**R stands for Restatement (with synonyms).** Restate the topic sentence, trading as many words as possible with synonyms.

# **Quotable Quotes Categories**

**THE GOLDEN CIRCLE OF BEHAVIOR AND  
EXPERIENCE**

**FRIENDSHIP**

**EXCELLENCE**

**SELF\_KNOWLEDGE**

**THE\_POWER\_OF\_THOUGHT**

**PERCEPTION**

**SPEECH**

**RESTRAINT**

**MIND**

**HAPPINESS AND APPRECIATION**

\*\*\*\*\*

## THE GOLDEN CIRCLE OF BEHAVIOR AND EXPERIENCE

The only way to have a friend is to be a friend.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

As you give, so shall you receive.

Books of both Mathew and Luke

Ingratitude is sooner or later fatal to its author.

Twí (West African) proverb

Tse-king asked, "Is there one word which may serve as a rule of practice for all of one's life?"

The Master said, "Is not **reciprocity** such a word?"

Confucius

The way you prepare the bed, so shall you sleep.

Yiddish proverb

What goes around, comes around.

common saying

Treat others as you would like others to treat you.

THE Golden Rule

Use wisely your power of choice.

Og Mandino

## FRIENDSHIP

Friendship doubles our joy and divides our grief. -- Swedish proverb

What is a friend? A single soul in two bodies. --Aristotle

True Friendship can afford true knowledge. It does not depend on darkness and ignorance. -- Henry David Thoreau

You can't shake hands with a clenched fist. -- Indira Gandhi

Friendship is a sheltering tree. -- Samuel Coleridge

With true friends, even water drunk together is sweet enough.  
-- Chinese proverb

There can be no friendship without confidence, and no confidence without integrity.  
Samuel Johnson

"Stay" is a charming word in a friend's vocabulary. --Louisa May Wilcott

You can make more friends in two month by becoming interested in other people than you can in two year by trying to get other people interested in you. -- Dale Carnegie

The bird    a nest  
The spider    a web  
the human    friendship  
-- William Blake



## EXCELLENCE

Better to do a little well, than a great deal badly.

Socrates

What is defeat? Nothing but an education,  
the first step to something better.

Wendell Phillips

You never really lose until you stop trying.

Mike Ditka

The will to win is worthless if you do not have the will to  
prepare.

Louis Pasteur

Failing to plan is planning to fail.

Ben Franklin

The price of greatness is responsibility.

Winston Churchill

In the long run, you hit only what you aim at.

Therefore, though you should fail, immediately you had better  
aim at something high.

Henry David Thoreau

First honesty, then industry, then concentration.

Andrew Carnegie

Winning is great, sure, but if you want to do something in life, the secret is learning how to lose. Nobody goes undefeated all the time, but if you can pick yourself up after a defeat and go on to win again, you can be a champion.

Wilma Rudolph

"I find that the harder I work, the more luck I seem to have. "

- Thomas Jefferson (1743-1826)

He who never makes mistakes never makes anything.

English proverb

## **SELF\_KNOWLEDGE**

An unexamined life is not worth living. Know yourself.

Socrates

God gives nothing to those who keep their arms crossed.

Bam Bara (West African proverb)

Understanding of our fellow human beings becomes fruitful only when it is sustained by sympathetic feelings in joy and sorrow.

Albert Einstein

A person should never stop learning, even on their last day.

Maimonides

Try not to be a person of success,

but rather try to become a person of value.

Albert Einstein

People who laugh actually live longer than those who don't laugh. Few persons realize that health actually varies according to the amount of laughter.

James D. Walsh, M.D.

With lies you may go ahead in the world-  
but you can never go back.

Russian proverb

We are what we repeatedly do. We do not act rightly because we have virtue or excellence, but we rather have virtue because we have acted rightly.

Aristotle

A good reputation is more valuable than money.

Publilius Syrus

Honesty is the first chapter in the book of wisdom.

Thomas Jefferson

He who forgives ends the quarrel.

(West African proverb)

The wise person looks within their heart and finds  
the peace that does not pass.

Hindu proverb

A person can fail many times, but they aren't a failure until they begin to blame others.

Ted Engstrom

Worry affects the circulation, the heart, the glands, the whole nervous system, and profoundly affects the health. I have never known a man who died from overwork, but many who died from doubt.

Charles W. Mayo

If you are facing the right direction, all you need to do is keep walking.

Buddhist proverb

Within infinity, we are small. Know your self thusly.

Oracle at Delphi

He who know others is learned;  
He who knows himself is wise.

Lao-tzu

## THE\_POWER\_OF\_THOUGHT

We are the result of what we have thought.

Siddhartha Gotama

You are today where your thoughts have brought you.

You will be tomorrow where your thoughts take you.

James Allen

Your thoughts are like boomerangs.

Eileen Caddy

If there is no dull and determined effort,  
there will be no brilliant achievement.

Hsun-tze

As you think, so are you. Thoughts are things;  
therefore, think the things that will make the world better  
and you unashamed.

Henry H. Buckley

Whether you think you can or you can't, you're right.

Henry Ford

You become what you meditate upon.

Adi Da

## PERCEPTION

The appearance of things changes according to the emotion.

Kahil Gibran

A person is what they believe.

Anton Chekhov

We do not see things as they are, we see things as we are.

Talmud

Those who cannot feel the littleness of great things in themselves are apt to overlook the greatness of little things in others.

Kakuzo Okakura

A man hears what he wants to hear, and disregards the rest.

Paul Simon

We can become bitter or better.

Eric Butterworth

"A pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity;  
an optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty. "

- Sir Winston Churchill

Doubts and jealousies often beget the fact they fear.

Thomas Jefferson

How you look is not as important as  
how you see.

Frank Marrero

## SPEECH

Good words are worth much and cost little.

George Herbert

Speech is the mirror of the soul; as a person speaks, so they are.

Publilius Syrus

A person is seldom better than their conversation.

German proverb

Gentle speech makes friends.

Wisdom of Sirach

Language exerts hidden power, like the moon on the tides.

Rita Mae Brown

The instruments of both life and death  
are contained within the power of the tongue.

Judaic proverb

A person's speech about others is usually  
a reflection of themselves.

Frank Marrero

**One kind word can warm three winter months.** (a favorite)

Chinese proverb

## RESTRAINT

A person without self-restraint is like a barrel without hoops,  
and tumbles to pieces.

Henry Ward Beecher

**If you are patient in one moment of anger,  
you will escape a hundred days of sorrow.** (a favorite)

Chinese proverb

Restraint does not mean weakness. It does not mean giving in.

Jawaharlal Nehru

Whatever is begun in anger ends in shame. -- Benjamin Franklin

There is none better than self-restraint. -- Lao Tzu

I like restraint, if it doesn't go too far. -- Mae West

There are limits to indulgence, none to restraint. -- Mahatma  
Gandhi

No person is free who is not a master of himself or herself.  
(ascribed to many: Epictetus, Pythagoras, Siddhartha,  
Confucius, +)



## MIND

Chance favors the minds which are prepared. -- Louis Pasteur

A good mind is lord of a kingdom. -- Seneca

There will always be a frontier where there is an open mind  
and a willing hand.

Charles F. Ketterling

To study and not think is a waste.  
To think and not study is dangerous.  
Confucius

The Brain-- is wider than the Sky --  
For -- put them side by side --  
The one the other will contain  
With ease -- and You -- beside.  
Emily Dickinson

Not only is another world possible, she is on her way. On a quiet  
day, I can hear her breathing.

Arundhati Roy

All who have meditated on the art of governing humankind have  
been convinced that the fate of empires depends on the education  
of youth.

Aristotle

Whenever people are well informed, they can be trusted with their own government.

Thomas Jefferson

Remember that our nation's first great leaders were also our first great scholars.

John F. Kennedy

The truest greatness lies in being kind, the truest wisdom in a happy mind. -- Elizabeth Kenny

## HAPPINESS AND APPRECIATION

But friendship is precious, not only in the shade, but in the sunshine of life;  
and thanks to a benevolent arrangement of things, **the greater part of life is sunshine.**

Thomas Jefferson

Count your Blessings.

Count your joys instead of your woes; count your friends instead of your foes.

Irish Saw

Be happy. It's one way of being wise.

Sidonie Gabrielle

With an eye made quiet by the power of harmony and the deep power of joy,

we see into the life of things.

William Wordsworth

To be upset over what you don't have is to waste what you do have.

Ken Keyes

Since you get more joy out of giving joy to others, you should put a good deal of thought into the happiness that you are able to give.

Eleanor Roosevelt

There are those who give with you, and that joy is their reward.  
Kahil Gibran

Don't underrate, appreciate.  
Jon Anderson

Outward beauty is transient, but inner beauty lasting.  
Seyyed Hossein Nasr

I say: Go outside into the field, nature and the sun, go out  
and find the mystery in yourself and in God.  
Think of the beauty that again and again expresses itself  
with you and outside of you and be happy.  
Anne Frank

If you were all alone in the universe with no one to talk to, no  
one with which to share the beauty of the stars, to laugh with, to  
touch, what would be your purpose in life? It is other life, it is  
love, which gives your life meaning. This is harmony. We must  
discover the joy of each other, the joy of challenge, the joy of  
growth.  
Mitsugi Saotome

We tend to forget that happiness does not come as a result of  
getting something we don't have, but rather of recognizing and  
appreciating what we do have.  
Frederick Keonig

Thousands of candles can be lit from a single candle, and the life of the candle will not be shortened. Happiness never decreases by being shared.

Siddhartha Gotama

Joy is not in things, but is in you.

John Templeton

I slept and dreamt that life was joy. I awoke and saw that life was service. I acted and behold!, service was joy.

Ravindrananth Tagore

Do not delay; the golden moments fly!

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow