

Best of the Wordsmith Quotable Quotes (and other sources)

1. Everything is for the eye these days - TV, Life, Look, the movies. Nothing is just for the mind. The next generation will have eyeballs as big as cantaloupes and no brain at all. -Fred Allen
2. The means by which we live have outdistanced the ends for which we live. Our scientific power has outrun our spiritual power. We have guided missiles and misguided men. -Martin Luther King, Jr., civil-rights leader (1929-1968)
3. A man is likely to mind his own business when it is worth minding. When it is not, he takes his mind off his own meaningless affairs by minding other people's business. -Eric Hoffer, philosopher and author (1902-1983)
4. If you came and you found a strange man... teaching your kids to punch each other, or trying to sell them all kinds of products, you'd kick him right out of the house, but here you are; you come in and the TV is on, and you don't think twice about it. -Jerome Singer
5. There is no such thing as a 'self-made' man. We are made up of thousands of others. Everyone who has ever done a kind deed for us, or spoken one word of encouragement to us, has entered into the make-up of our character and of our thoughts. -George Matthew Adams
6. I'm always amazed that people will actually choose to sit in front of the television and just be savaged by stuff that belittles their intelligence. -Alice Walker, writer (1944-)
7. You can't do anything about the length of your life, but you can do something about its width and depth. -H.L. Mencken, writer, editor, and critic (1880-1956)
8. In theory, there is no difference between theory and practice; In practice, there is. -Chuck Reid
9. No horse gets anywhere until he is harnessed. No stream or gas drives anything until it is confined. No Niagara is ever turned into light and power until it is tunneled. No life ever grows great until it is focused, dedicated, disciplined. -Harry Emerson Fosdick
10. Wit makes its own welcome, and levels all distinctions. No dignity, no learning, no force of character, can make any stand against good wit. -Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-1882)
11. Experience is that marvelous thing that enables you to recognize a mistake when you make it again. -Franklin P. Jones
12. Peter Principle (PEET-uh PRIN-suh-pal) noun--The theory that an employee within an organization will advance to his or her level of incompetence and remain there.
13. atticism (AT-i-siz-em) noun
 1. A characteristic feature of Attic Greek.
 2. An expression characterized by conciseness and elegance[After Attica, an ancient region of east-central Greece around Athens.]
14. Growth for the sake of growth is the ideology of the cancer cell. -Edward Abbey, naturalist and author (1927-1989) [A Voice Crying in the Wilderness, 1989]
15. D'you call life a bad job? Never! We've had our ups and downs, we've had our struggles, we've always been poor, but it's been worth it, ay, worth it a hundred times I say when I look round at my children. -W. Somerset Maugham, novelist, dramatist, short-story writer (1874-1965) [Of Human Bondage]
16. All sunshine makes a desert. -Arabic proverb
17. In words as fashions the same rule will hold

Alike fantastic if too new or old
Be not the first by whom the new are tried
Nor yet the last to lay the old aside.
-Alexander Pope, poet (1688-1744)

18. Never bear more than one trouble at a time. Some people bear three kinds -all they have had, all they have now, and all they expect to have. -EdwardEverett Hale, author (1822-1909)
19. Death is not extinguishing the light; it is putting out the lamp because the dawn has come. Rabindranath Tagore, poet, philosopher, author, songwriter, painter, educator, composer, Nobel laureate (1861-1941)
20. Love is like an hourglass, with the heart filling up as the brain empties. -Jules Renard, writer (1864-1910)
21. In the midst of great joy, do not promise anyone anything. In the midst of great anger, do not answer anyone's letter. -Chinese proverb
22. A man there was, tho' some did count him mad
The more he cast away, the more he had. -John Bunyan, preacher (1628-1688) [Pilgrim's Progress]
23. "You may strive to be like them, but seek not to make them like you. For Life goes not backward nor tarries with yesterday. You are the bows from which your children, as living arrows, are sent forth." Kahlil Gibran, Prophet.
24. To live for some future goal is shallow. It's the sides of the mountain that sustain life, not the top. - Robert M. Pirsig, author
25. Haiku Computer Error Messages:

A file that big?
It might be very useful.
But now it is gone.

The Web site you seek
cannot be located
but endless others exist.

Chaos reigns within.
Reflect, repent, and reboot.
Order shall return.

Aborted effort:
Close all that you have.
You ask way too much.

First snow, then silence.
This thousand dollar screen
dies so beautifully.
With searching comes loss
and the presence of absence:
"My Novel" not found.

The Tao that is seen
Is not the true Tao,
Until you bring fresh toner.

Windows NT crashed.
I am the Blue Screen of Death.
No one hears your screams.

Stay the patient course
Of little worth is your ire
The network is down

A crash reduces
your expensive computer
to a simple stone.
Yesterday it worked
Today it is not working
Windows is like that.

Three things are certain:
Death, taxes, and lost data.
Guess which has occurred.

You step in the stream,
But the water has moved on.
This page is not here.

Out of memory.
We wish to hold the whole sky,
But we never will.

Having been erased,
The document you're seeking
Must now be retyped.

Rather than a beep
or a rude error message,

These words: "File not found."

All shortcuts have disappeared.
Screen. Mind. Both are blank.

Serious error.

26. It is a shameful thing to insult a little child. It has its feelings, it has its small dignity; and since it cannot defend them, it is surely an ignoble act to injure them. -Mark Twain
27. Your assumptions are your windows on the world. Scrub them off every once in a while, or the light won't come in. -Alan Alda, actor and director (1936-)
28. Perhaps the greatest social service that can be rendered by anybody to the country and to mankind is to bring up a family. -George Bernard Shaw, dramatist, critic, novelist, and Nobel laureate (1856-1950)
29. When a train goes through a tunnel and it gets dark, you don't throw away the ticket and jump off. You sit still and trust the engineer. -Corrie Ten Boom, author and Holocaust survivor
30. There is no rule more invariable than that we are paid for our suspicions by finding what we suspect. -Henry David Thoreau, naturalist and author (1817-1862)
31. No matter how far you have gone on the wrong road, turn back. -Turkish proverb
32. All the world's a stage, / And the men and women merely players: / They have their exits and their entrances; / And one man in his time plays many parts. -William Shakespeare, poet and dramatist (1564-1616)
33. Charles Osgood, Tuesday, May 22, 2001 after a report that science has determined that we consider the most handsome people have faces whose features come closest to the universal average for size, height, etc.

My darling whenever I look in your eyes, you transport me to some magic place.
For the width of those lovely and wonderful eyes is 3 tenths of the width of your face.
When I gaze on the wondrous features I love, You can't know how much rapture I'm in,
When I realize that one-fifth the height of that face, Is exactly the length of your chin.
Those eyes so hypnotic they're like a narcotic. A window to infinite space.
With a clout like a highball, your visible eyeball, Is one fourteenth the height of your face.
But now with computers to show me the way, More than ever I gaze on your features today,
And I know that the reason my heart always melts, Is that your face is so much like everyone else.
It's the loveliest face I can ever recall, since there's nothing distinctive about you at all.
You're looks are so average, it gives me a thrill. And I love you because you're so run of the mill.

34. Pleasure is very seldom found where it is sought; our brightest blazes of gladness are commonly kindled by unexpected sparks. -Samuel Johnson, lexicographer (1709-1784)
35. To own a bit of ground, to scratch it with a hoe, to plant seeds and watch their renewal of life -- this is the commonest delight of the race, the most satisfactory thing a man can do. -Charles Dudley Warner, author, editor, and publisher (1829-1900)
36. The man who is denied the opportunity of taking decisions of importance begins to regard as important the decisions he is allowed to take. -C. Northcote Parkinson, author and historian (1909-1993)
37. It is as hard for the good to suspect evil, as it is for the bad to suspect good. -Marcus Tullius Cicero, statesman, orator, writer (106-43 BCE)
38. It is said an Eastern monarch once charged his wise men to invent him a sentence to be ever in view, and which should be true and appropriate in all times and situations. They presented him the words: "And this, too shall

pass away." How much it expresses! How chastening in the hour of pride! How consoling in the depths of affliction! -Abraham Lincoln, 16th U.S. President (1809-1865)

39. In the presence of eternity, the mountains are as transient as the clouds. -Robert Green Ingersoll, lawyer and orator (1833-1899)
40. No man but feels more of a man in the world if he have a bit of ground that he can call his own. However small it is on the surface, it is four thousand miles deep; and that is a very handsome property. -Charles Dudley Warner, editor, and publisher (1829-1900)
41. Never do today what you can do tomorrow. Something may occur to make you regret your premature action. -- Aaron Burr
42. Be master of your petty annoyances and conserve your energies for the big, worthwhile things. It isn't the mountain ahead that wears you out - it's the grain of sand in your shoe. -Robert Service, writer (1874-1958)
43. Our sun is one of 100 billion stars in our galaxy. Our galaxy is one of the billions of galaxies populating the universe. It would be the height of presumption to think that we are the only living things within that enormous immensity. -Wernher von Braun, rocket engineer (1912-1977)
44. I'm a great believer in luck and I find the harder I work, the more I have of it. Thomas Jefferson, third US president, architect and author (1743-1826)
45. Simplicity doesn't mean to live in misery and poverty. You have what you need, and you don't want to have what you don't need. -Charan Singh, mystic (1916-1990)
46. A full cup must be carried steadily. -English proverb
47. If we have not quiet in our minds, outward comfort will do no more for us than a golden slipper on a gouty foot. - John Bunyan, preacher and author(1628-1688)
48. I believe that the first test of a truly great man is his humility. I do not mean by humility, doubt of his own powers. But really great men have a curious feeling that the greatness is not in them, but through them. And they see something divine in every other man and are endlessly, foolishly, incredibly merciful. -John Ruskin, author, art critic, and social reformer (1819-1900)
50. A man's conscience, like a warning line on the highway, tells him what he shouldn't do - but it does not keep him from doing it. -Frank A. Clark
51. We understand death for the first time when he puts his hand upon one whom we love. -Madame De Stael, writer (1766-1817)
52. TV is chewing gum for the eyes. -Frank Lloyd Wright, architect (1867-1959)
53. Life is not a journey to the grave with the intention of arriving safely in one pretty and well preserved piece, but to slide across the finish line broadside, thoroughly used up, worn out, leaking oil, shouting GERONIMO!!! (Author unknown, shared by Harvey Holt.)
54. atticism (AT-i-siz-em) noun
 1. A characteristic feature of Attic Greek.
 2. An expression characterized by conciseness and elegance[After Attica, an ancient region of east-central Greece around Athens.]
55. There is no disguise that can for long conceal love where it exists or simulate it where it does not. -Francois de La Rochefoucauld

56. A committee is a cul-de-sac down which ideas are lured and then quietly strangled. -Barnett Cocks
57. If you don't execute your ideas, they die. -Roger von Oech, author and consultant
58. The cost of a thing is the amount of what I call life which is required to be exchanged for it, immediately or in the long run. -Henry David Thoreau, naturalist and author (1817-1862)
59. The great high of winning Wimbledon lasts for about a week. You go down in the record book, but you don't have anything tangible to hold on to. But having a baby -- there isn't any comparison. -Chris Evert Lloyd, tennis player (1954-)
60. Nothing that grieves us can be called little: by the eternal laws of proportion a child's loss of a doll and a king's loss of a crown are events of the same size. -Mark Twain, author and humorist (1835-1910)
61. The truth is rarely pure, and never simple. -Oscar Wilde, writer (1854-1900)
62. There are two kinds of fool. One says, "This is old, and therefore good." And one says, "This is new, and therefore better." -John Brunner, science fiction writer (1934-1995)
63. Egotism is the anesthetic that dulls the pain of stupidity. -Frank William Leahy, football coach (1908-1973)
64. Good judgment comes from experience, and a lot of that comes from bad judgment. - Will Rogers
65. Courtship to marriage, as a very witty prologue to a very dull play. -William Congreve, dramatist (1670-1729)
66. The deeper that sorrow carves into your being the more joy you can contain. Is not the cup that holds your wine the very cup that was burned in the potter's oven? -Kahlil Gibran, mystic, poet, and artist (1883-1931)
67. The only difference between saints and sinners is that every saint has a past while every sinner has a future. - Oscar Wilde, writer (1854-1900)
68. No man is an Island, entire of itself; every man is a piece of the Continent, a part of the main; if a clod be washed away by the sea, Europe is the less, as well as if a promontory were, as well as if a manor of thy friends or of thine own were; any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in Mankind; And therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls; It tolls for thee. -John Donne, poet (1573-1631)
69. It is easier to exclude harmful passions than to rule them, and to deny them admittance than to control them after they have been admitted. -Lucius Annaeus Seneca, philosopher and writer (c. 3 BCE - AD 65)
70. "I hate mankind, for I think myself one of the best of them, and I know how bad I am." Samuel Johnson.
71. I have always found that mercy bears richer fruits than strict justice. -Abraham Lincoln, 16th U.S. President (1809-1865)
72. Success usually comes to those who are too busy to be looking for it. -Henry David Thoreau, naturalist and author (1817-1862)
73. Self-esteem is the reputation we acquire with ourselves. -Nathaniel Branden, psychotherapist (1930-)
74. The love of learning, the sequestered nooks, / And all the sweet serenity of books. -Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, poet (1807-1882)
75. The death of democracy is not likely to be an assassination from ambush. It will be a slow extinction from apathy, indifference, and undernourishment. -Robert Maynard Hutchins, educator (1899-1977)

76. "When will it be approved? Heaven is high and the Emperor is far away." Old Chinese proverb.
77. "There they go and I must hasten to catch up with them for I am their leader." Anonymous.
78. Human subtlety will never devise an invention more beautiful, more simple or more direct than does Nature, because in her inventions, nothing is lacking and nothing is superfluous. -Leonardo da Vinci, painter, engineer, musician, and scientist (1452-1519)
79. I don't need time. What I need is a deadline. -Duke Ellington, jazz pianist, composer, and conductor (1899-1974)
80. Kindness is in our power, even when fondness is not. -Samuel Johnson, lexicographer (1709-1784)
81. The end of the human race will be that it will eventually die of civilization. -Ralph Waldo Emerson, writer and philosopher (1803-1882)
82. Never idealize others. They will never live up to your expectations. -Leo Buscaglia, author, speaker and professor (1924-1998)
83. What a strange machine man is! You fill him with bread, wine, fish, and radishes, and out comes sighs, laughter, and dreams. -Nikos Kazantzakis, poet and novelist (1883-1957)
84. He's the best physician who knows the worthlessness of the most medicines. -Benjamin Franklin, statesman, author, and inventor (1706-1790)
85. Marriage is the only adventure open to the cowardly. -Voltaire, philosopher (1694-1778)
86. An expert is a man who has made all the mistakes which can be made in a very narrow field. -Niels Bohr, physicist (1885-1962)
87. I have always wished that my computer would be as easy to use as my telephone. My wish has come true. I no longer know how to use my telephone. -Bjarne Stroustrup, computer science professor, designer of C++ programming language (1950-)
88. The road to wisdom? Well it's plain and simple to express: Err and err and err again, but less and less and less. -Piet Hein, poet and scientist (1905-1996)
89. The easiest kind of relationship for me is with ten thousand people. The hardest is with one. -Joan Baez, musician (1941-)
90. If we were to wake up some morning and find that everyone was the same race, creed and color, we would find some other cause for prejudice by noon. -George D. Aiken, US senator (1892-1984)
91. People change and forget to tell each other. -Lillian Hellman, playwright (1905-1984)
92. The best inheritance a parent can give to his children is a few minutes of their time each day. -M. Grundler
93. The aim of an argument or discussion should not be victory, but progress. -Joseph Joubert, essayist (1754-1824)
94. He who establishes his argument by noise and command, shows that his reason is weak. -Michel De Montaigne, essayist (1533-1592)
95. May your trails be crooked, winding, lonesome, dangerous, leading to the most amazing view. May your mountains rise into and above the clouds. Edward Abbey, naturalist and author (1927-1989)
96. You have not converted a man because you have silenced him. -John Morley, statesman and writer (1838-1923)

97. Finish every day and be done with it. You have done what you could; Some blunders and absurdities crept in; Forget them as soon as you can. Tomorrow is a new day; You shall begin it serenely and with too high a spirit to be encumbered with your old nonsense. -Ralph Waldo Emerson, writer and philosopher (1803-1882)
98. We either make ourselves happy or miserable. The amount of work is the same. – Carlos Castenada, mystic and author (1925-1998)
99. Taught from infancy that beauty is woman's sceptre, the mind shapes itself to the body, and roaming round its guilt cage, only seeks to adorn its prison. -Mary Wollstonecraft, reformer and writer (1759-1797)
100. Many highly intelligent people are poor thinkers. Many people of average intelligence are skilled thinkers. The power of the car is separate from the way the car is driven. -Edward De Bono, consultant, writer, and speaker (1933-)

I have decided to limit this list to 100 entries. Now, when I come some bit of truth I wish to add, something is deleted to make a spot.