

QUOTES FROM INSPIRING CHILDREN IN ENGLISH LITERATURE

By *Helen Cherkasov* and *Pauline Carr*

I. Read the following quotes from books about children and write down what you think each quote means.

a. From the book *Anne of Green Gables* by L.M. Montgomery

“It's been my experience that you can nearly always enjoy things if you make up your mind firmly that you will.”

.....
.....
.....

“Because when you are imagining, you might as well imagine something worth while.”

.....
.....
.....

“Next to trying and winning, the best thing is trying and failing.”

.....
.....
.....

b. From the book *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Brontë

“It is in vain to say human beings ought to be satisfied with tranquility: they must have action; and they will make it if they cannot find it.”

.....
.....
.....

“There is no happiness like that of being loved by your fellow creatures, and feeling that your presence is an addition to their comfort.”

.....
.....

c. From the book *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* by Mark Twain

“He had discovered a great law of human action, without knowing it — namely, that in order to make a man or a boy covet a thing, it is only necessary to make the thing difficult to obtain.”

.....

.....

.....

“Work consists of whatever a body is obliged to do, and play consists of whatever a body is not obliged to do.”

.....

.....

.....

d. From the book *Oliver Twist* by Charles Dickens

“For the rest of his life, Oliver Twist remembers a single word of blessing spoken to him by another child because this word stood out so strikingly from the consistent discouragement around him.”

.....

.....

.....

2. Class discussion. Share your opinions with your classmates. What do you think the quotes tell us about the personality of each character or the world in which he/she lived? You can write down your notes in the space below.

a. Anne Shirley

.....
.....
.....
.....

b. Jane Eyre

.....
.....
.....
.....

c. Tom Sawyer

.....
.....
.....
.....

d. Oliver Twist

.....
.....
.....
.....

Teacher's Notes

1. Give students time to read the quotes and write down what they think each quote means. Tell them there are no right answers, just their interpretation.
2. Ask volunteers to tell the class their interpretation of each quote. Then discuss together what each quote reveals to us about the personality of the character or the world in which he or she lived. Afterwards, based on how much time you have at your disposal, you can give the students more information about each novel and its main characters.