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Great quotes from great people






"We all start out with no discipline, no patience, no perseverance, no determination. People say, "You have talent." No, the gift is to realize that we all start out even. Whether we messed up or put our best foot forward, with these four qualities, we take care of our mental, physical, and spiritual health each day. Am I the best in the world? No. The question is: Am I the best I can be?" – **Edward James Olmos, actor**

"HOLD ON TO WHAT IS GOOD, EVEN IF IT'S A HANDFUL OF EARTH. Hold on to what you believe, even if it's a tree that stands by itself. Hold on to what you must do, even if it's a long way from here." **- Pueblo Indian Prayer**

"All that we are is the result of what we have thought." **– Buddha, spiritual teacher**

"You must be the change you want to see in the world." – Mahatma Gandhi, pacifist

"A JOURNEY OF A THOUSAND MILES BEGINS WITH A SINGLE STEP." – Lao-tsu, philosopher

"Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things you didn't do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover." **– Mark Twain, writer**

"Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase." **– Martin Luther King, Jr., civil rights activist**

"I DON'T KNOW WHAT THE FUTURE MAY HOLD, BUT I KNOW WHO HOLDS THE FUTURE." - Ralph Abernathy, civil rights activist

"Don't feel entitled to anything you didn't sweat and struggle for." **– Marian Wright Edelman, civil rights activist**

"Champions aren't made in gyms. Champions are made from something they have deep inside them—a desire, a dream, a vision." – Muhammad Ali, athlete

"I CAN ACCEPT FAILURE. EVERYONE FAILS AT SOMETHING. But I can't accept not trying." – Michael Jordan, athlete

"The battles that count aren't the ones for gold medals. The struggles within yourself—the invisible, inevitable battles inside all of us—that's where it's at."
- Jesse Owens, athlete

***"It isn't where you came from, it's where you're going that counts."* – Ella Fitzgerald, singer**

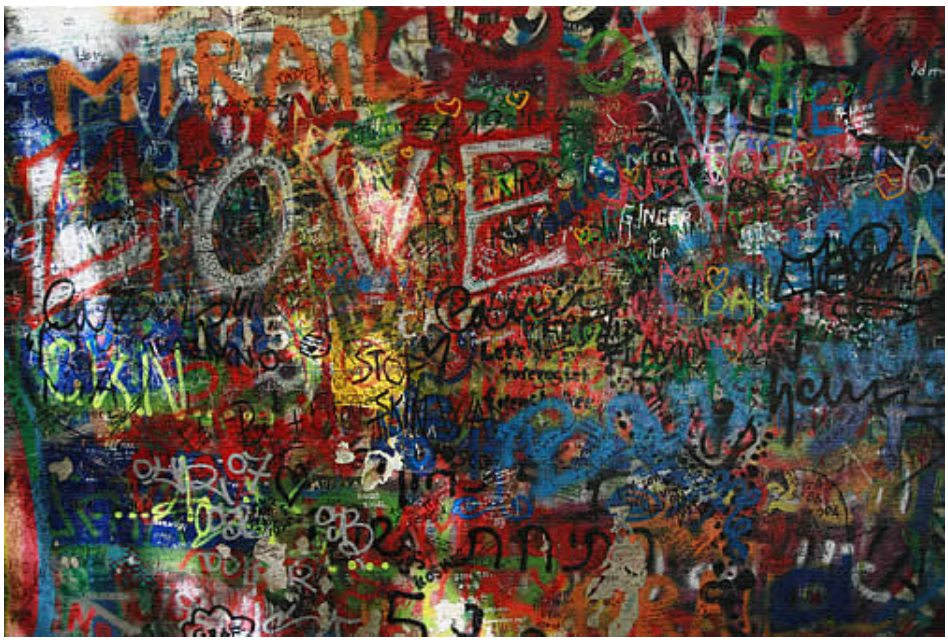
"THE BEAUTIFUL THING ABOUT LEARNING IS THAT NO ONE CAN TAKE IT AWAY FROM YOU."
- B.B. King, musician

""I used to want the words 'She tried' on my tombstone. Now I want 'She did it.'"
– Katherine Dunham, dancer

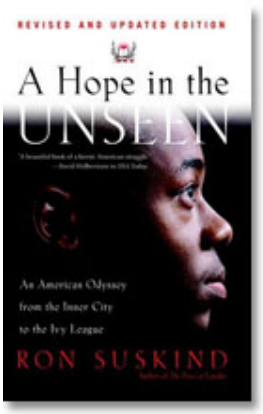
"One of the great things you have in life is that no one has the authority to tell you what you want to be. You're the one who'll decide what you want to be. Respect yourself and respect the integrity of others as well. The greatest thing you have is your self-image, a positive opinion of yourself. You must never let anyone take it from you." **– Jaime Escalante, teacher**

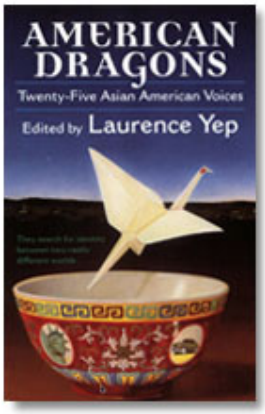
"Hold fast to dreams, for if dreams die, life is a broken-winged bird that cannot fly."
– Langston Hughes, poet

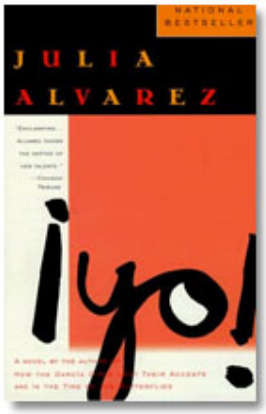
"IN AMERICA, NOBODY SAYS YOU HAVE TO KEEP THE CIRCUMSTANCES SOMEBODY ELSE GIVES YOU." – Amy Tan, writer

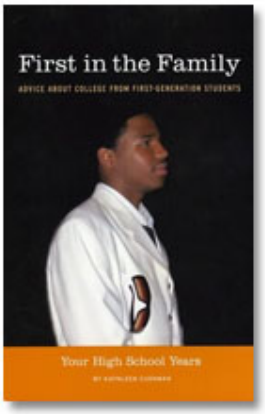


Inspiring books









A Hope in the Unseen: An American Odyssey from the Inner City to the Ivy League, by Ron Suskind. This book follows Cedric through his last two years of high school and his first two years of college, charting the highs and lows—and ultimately, successes—of a low-income Black male at an upper-class college.

American Dragons: Twenty-Five Asian American Voices, edited by Laurence Yep. This collection of short stories, poems, and excerpts from plays vividly shows what it is like growing up Asian American.

And Still We Rise: The Trials and Triumphs of Twelve Gifted Inner-City High School Students, by Miles Corwin. Twelve Los Angeles seniors from Crenshaw High School's Advanced Placement English class dream of going to college, but the harsh realities of their lives threaten to derail their plans.

Barefoot Heart, A Memoir, by Elva Treviño Hart. This compelling autobiographical account of growing up in a family of migrant farm workers brings to life the daily work in the fields—and tells how the author discovered her true talents and found herself.

Breaking Through, by Francisco Jimenez. Having come from Mexico to California ten years ago, 14-year-old Francisco is still working in the fields but fighting to improve his life and complete his education. He finds his first real friend, a treasure, and a new sense of himself.

Counting Coup: A True Story of Basketball and Honor on the Little Big Horn, by Larry Coulton. Working through racism, alcoholism, and domestic violence, the players on Hardin High School's girls basketball team come out winners in life and on the court.

Every Shut Eye Ain't Asleep: An Anthology of Poetry by African-Americans Since 1945, edited by Michael S. Harper and Anthony Walton. This collection presents the best African-American poets on the modern scene.

First in the Family: Your High School Years, by Kathleen Cushman. Written with students who are the first in their families to go to college, this handbook contains their stories, advice, and planning tools for students in grades 9 through 12.

First in the Family: Your College Years, by Kathleen Cushman. Once you get to college, this book by the same first-generation students helps you stay in and graduate. Here they describe their college experiences, giving tips on keeping your academic, social, and emotional balance.

Geeks: How Two Lost Boys Rode the Internet Out of Idaho, by John Katz. Eric and Jesse, poor students and online geeks, find their obsession with computers and technology is their ticket to college and success.

Hip Deep: Opinion, Essays, and Vision from American Teenagers, edited by Abe Louise Young. This collection of youth writing asks hard questions and shares real stories.

Homecoming, by Cynthia Voigt. Abandoned by their father and then their mother, four children begin a search for a home and an identity. Dicey finds school to be a place where she can rest and find her own voice.

Little X: Growing Up in the Nation of Islam, by Sonsyrea Tate. Offers useful insights into life inside a little-understood movement. Tate describes her education at the University of Islam, the Nation's elementary school in Washington, D.C.

Oh, The Places You'll Go!, by Dr. Seuss. This rhyming book with psychedelic pictures is a wonderful story about new beginnings and the courage it takes to go unfamiliar places.

Poetic Justice, by Amanda Cross. This novel is set during turbulent student uprisings at University College, a school primarily for adults returning to finish their education. Kate is charged with saving the school, but the authorities do not want it to continue.

Push, by Sapphire. Precious Jones is a survivor. She had a baby at 12 and at 16 she is pregnant again. But an alternative school, a dedicated teacher, and classmates who understand help her fight back and find her voice through writing in her journal.

Sugar's Life in the Hood: The Story of a Former Welfare Mother, by Sugar Turner and Tracy Bachrach Ehlers. An anthropologist who befriends a welfare mother learns about her world and the strategies she uses to get off welfare and into college.

The Gatekeepers: Inside the Admissions Process of a Premier College, by Jacques Steinberg. Who and what determines whether you get into college A behind-the-scenes look at Wesleyan University as it admits the class of 2004.

The Road from Coorain, by Jill Ker Conway. This autobiography tells of Conway's journey from the rural Australian outback to Smith College in Massachusetts—then to Harvard University. She describes her intellectual development each step of the way.

Yo!, by Julia Alvarez. A thoughtful, entertaining novel by the acclaimed Latina writer about the immigrant experience and the impact writers have on their peers.