

# tweet this book



The **1,400 Greatest**  
**Quotes** of All Time  
in 140 Characters  
or Less



RT @bill\_shake  
Brevity is the soul of wit.

*Compiled and Edited by*  
**Sayre Van Young**  
**Marin Van Young**



# tweet this book



The **1,400 Greatest**  
**Quotes** of All Time  
in 140 Characters  
or Less



RT @bill\_shake  
Brevity is the soul of wit.

*Compiled and Edited by*  
**Sayre Van Young**  
**Marin Van Young**



---

# Table of Contents

[Title Page](#)

[Dedication](#)

[Acknowledgements](#)

[Introduction](#)

[Acceptance](#)

[Advice](#)

[Advice in General](#)

[Bad Advice](#)

[Damned Good Advice See also Words to Live By](#)

[Age & Aging](#)

[Being Younger](#)

[Being Older](#)

[Youth vs. Age](#)

[Anger See also Arguments & Fighting](#)

[Animals](#)

[Cats](#)

[Dogs](#)

[Dogs & Cats](#)

[Other Animals](#)

[Appearance, Personal See also Clothes & Fashion](#)

[Arguments & Fighting See also Anger](#)

[Art & Artists](#)

[The Arts \(in general\) See also Art & Artists; Books; Dancing; Movies; Music](#)

[Bitching & Moaning](#)

---

## [Books](#)

[Booorrring! \(boring people, boring situations\)](#)

[Bummer See also Problems. See also whatever strikes you as a bummer: Anger; ...](#)

[Bad Dates](#)

[Bathroom Issues](#)

[Car Problems](#)

[Dental Stuff](#)

[Farts & Farting](#)

[Fired!](#)

[Flying](#)

[Hangovers](#)

[Housecleaning](#)

[Jury Duty](#)

[Lawsuits](#)

[Mosquitoes](#)

[Parking](#)

[Periods/PMS](#)

[Plumbing Problems](#)

[Seasickness](#)

[Taxes](#)

[Bumper Stickers](#)

[About Bumper Stickers](#)

[Great Bumper Stickers](#)

[Calmness](#)

[Cell Phones](#)

[Change](#)

[Children](#)

[The Good](#)

[The Bad](#)

[Pregnancy](#)

[Childbirth](#)

[Babies](#)

[Childhood](#)

[Teenagers](#)

## [Parents & Parenthood](#)

---

[Clothes & Fashion](#)

[Clutter](#) See also [Simplicity](#)

[Computers](#) See also [Internet](#)

[Consistency](#)

[Cooks & Cooking](#)

[Courage](#) See also [Fear](#)

[Creativity & Inspiration](#)

[Dancing](#)

[Death & Dying](#)

[Determination & Persistence](#)

[Diets & Dieting](#) See also [Food](#); [Meals](#)

[Digestion & Indigestion](#)

[Dining Out](#) See also [Entertaining](#)

[Divorce](#)

[Dreams & Wishes](#) See also [Sleep & Sleeping—Dreaming](#)

[Alcoholic](#)

[Nonalcoholic](#)

[Driving & Traffic](#) See also [Bummer—Parking](#)

[Drugs](#)

[Dumb...Dumber...Dumbest](#)

---

[Education](#)

[Entertaining](#)

[Parties \(dinner parties, cocktail parties, party parties\)](#)

[Houseguests & Visitors](#)

[Etiquette](#)

[Exercise](#)

[Family See also Children](#)

[Farewells](#)

[Fear See also Courage](#)

[Food See also Cooks & Cooking; Diets & Dieting; Meals; Vegetarians & Vegetarianism](#)

[Forgiveness](#)

[Friends & Enemies](#)

[Friends](#)

[Enemies](#)

[Frustration](#)

[Future See also Past](#)

[Gay...So Very Gay](#)

[Gossip](#)

[Gratitude](#)

[Guilt](#)



[Happiness & Joy](#)

---

[Health See also Digestion & Indigestion](#)

[Hobbies](#)

[Home](#)

[Hope](#)

[Humility \(or Not\)](#)

[Insults & Name-calling See also Dumb...Dumber...Dumbest](#)

[Internet](#)

[Jealousy](#)

[Jobs & Work See also Bummer—Fired!](#)

[Job Applications & Interviews](#)

[Karma](#)

[Kindness](#)

[Laziness](#)

[Leaders & Leadership](#)

[Lies & Liars](#)

[Life & Living](#)

[Loneliness &/or Solitude](#)

[Love & Loving](#)

[Marriage](#)

[Meals](#)

[Breakfast](#)

---

[Lunch](#)

[Dinner](#)

[Memory & Memories](#)

[Men](#)

[Money](#)

[Movies](#)

[Music](#)

[Nature](#)

[Past See also Future](#)

[Patience \(or Not\)](#)

[Politics & Politicians](#)

[Problems \(in general\) See also Bummer](#)

[Procrastination](#)

[Punctuality](#)

[Rejoinders & Replies](#)

[Relationships See also Friends & Enemies; Marriage; etc.](#)

[Religion & Spirituality](#)

[Revenge](#)

[Risk & Chance](#)

---

[Sadness](#)

[Sex & Passion](#)

[Shopping](#)

[Silence](#)

[Simplicity See also Clutter](#)

[Singlehood See also Bummer—Bad Dates](#)

[Sleep & Sleeping](#)

[Mornings](#)

[Evenings](#)

[Nights](#)

[Naps](#)

[Not Enough](#)

[Dreaming](#)

[Snoring](#)

[Smoking](#)

[Pro](#)

[Con](#)

[Sports See also Exercise](#)

[Baseball](#)

[Basketball](#)

[Boxing](#)

[Fishing](#)

[Football](#)

[Golf](#)

[Jogging](#)

[Lacrosse](#)

[Skiing](#)

[Swimming](#)

[Tennis](#)

[Stress](#)

[Success & Failure](#)

[Success](#)

[Failure](#)

[Success & Failure](#)

[Technology \(in general\)](#) See also [Cell Phones](#); [Computers](#); [Internet](#)

[Temptation](#)

[Time](#)

[Travel & Adventure](#) See also [Bummer—Flying](#)

[The Good](#)

[The Bad](#)

[Twitter Advice](#)

[Uh-Oh](#)

[Vegetarians & Vegetarianism](#)

[War & Peace](#)

[Weather](#)

[Women](#)

[Words to Live By](#) See also [Advice—Damned Good Advice](#)

[Worry](#)

[\*Selected Bibliography\*](#)

[\*Other Books from Ulysses Press\*](#)

[\*About the Authors\*](#)

[\*Copyright Page\*](#)

---

# tweet this book



**The 1,400 Greatest  
Quotes of All Time  
in 140 Characters  
or Less**

*Compiled and Edited by*  
**Sayre Van Young  
Marin Van Young**



**Ulysses Press**

Dedication:

---

Thank you...you know who you are. —*Anonymous*

---

# Acknowledgments

...for which I pay 'em a thousand thanks...

*William Shakespeare*

Our thanks to Will Marston and Susan Huish, for suggesting some great Dumb...Dumber...Dumbest lines; to Andrea Mullarky and Carole Leita for offering some Words to Live By; to Ethel Manheim and Sunny Adler for providing several of their (and our) favorite quotes; to Wendie Vermillion for a quote that kept us going; to Cathy McAuliffe and Anita Schriver, for support and encouragement...and some great meals together. The Ulysses folks were and are wonderful to work with—especially Kellie Reed (who got us into this), Lauren Harrison (who kept us from embarrassing ourselves), Judi Metzener (who made it all read well), and Claire Chun (who, as usual, held everything together).

And as always, our grateful thanks to Diane Davenport. Words fail us.

---

# Introduction

A proper collection of quotations is the whole world digested.

*Terri Guillemets*

First, some caveats. Like what's with this "greatest" business? Well, we wanted to call this book *Some Quotes That Made Us Smile or Think, That Perfectly Summed Up Something We Felt, Are 140 Characters or Less, and That You Might Like Too*. But our publisher nixed that idea (even though it was exactly 140 characters long).

We figured a "greatest" quote is something like "Fourscore and seven years ago." But it turns out that a lot of great quotes just aren't very tweetable. Either they're too long-windedly noble ("We hold these truths to be self-evident") or they lose their nobility by shortening ("2 B or not 2 B"). So we broadened our definition.

We thought of those moments when the perfect quote would come in handy, something to describe what we're thinking, wishing, needing, avoiding, forgetting, or seeing. And then we went out and collected the pithy wisdom of everyone from Plato to Monty Python.

In these pages, you'll find plenty of grand tweetable topics like Art, Consistency, Loneliness, Marriage, and Simplicity. But you'll also find comments about daily life: bitching and moaning, cell phones, clutter, dieting, naps, traffic, finding a bathroom—and dozens of other subjects.

As to the arrangement of all these wise nuggets—really, where would you put a quote like "After all, computers crash, people die, relationships fall apart. The best we can do is breathe and reboot. Technology? Death? Relationships? Persistence? We used our best judgment and counted on your willingness to wander.

Incidentally, there are a bazillion quote books out there. The print ones we depended on are in the Bibliography (as are some great websites). And if 1,400 quotes aren't enough and you head to the quote books, be forewarned: They're arranged by exciting topics like Agriculture or Founding Fathers or Urban Affairs, which are great for term papers, but not so great for life—or Twitter.

Every quote here fits Twitter's 140-character limit, including attribution—though we relied on ampersands to make a few lengthy ones fit. Information in brackets isn't counted; it's just to give you a little more background. And do you really need to know that Goethe's full name is Johann Wolfgang von Goethe? We thought not.

Speaking of giving credit—many people have said many of the same great things, sometimes so many that the only possible way to credit the quote is "Anonymous." For movies and TV shows, we've credited the speaker, not the screenwriter; for plays and books, we've credited the author.

Now we've come to the end of our lengthy ramble. Don't worry, the information in the rest of the book is much more concise. And while these "greatest" quotes may not all be studied in school or spouted in speeches, we hope you'll find some that perfectly express your feelings. After all, when that happens, isn't it the greatest?

—Sayre Van Young and Marin Van Young



How amazing it would be if somehow Oscar  
Wilde and Mae West could Twitter from the  
grave....

---

*Dita Von Teese*

---

# Acceptance

The concept of “acceptance” is closely related to saying “Whatever,” but some of these quotes will bring a little more panache to your tweets.

It is what it is.

***Anonymous***

It'll be what it'll be.

***Anonymous***

Everyone must row with the oars he has.

***English proverb***

The sun will set without your help.

***Anonymous***

To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven.

***Bible [modified a bit by Pete Seeger]***

One cannot collect all the beautiful shells on the beach.

***Anne Morrow Lindbergh***

Everyone is in the best seat.

***John Cage***

You're going to have more rejection than acceptance.

***Barry Mann***

Ya gotta do what ya gotta do.

***Sylvester Stallone [in the movie Rocky]***

Sometimes a cigar is just a cigar.

***Sigmund Freud***

Everybody is all right, really.

***Winnie the Pooh [A. A. Milne]***

Happiness can exist only in acceptance.

***George Orwell***

Sometimes you just gotta say “what the fuck.”

***Tom Cruise [in the movie Risky Business]***

And that's the way it is.

***Walter Cronkite***

***Adventure See Travel & Adventure***

---

# Advice

## *Advice in General*

I always pass on good advice. It is the only thing to do with it. It is never of any use to oneself.

**Oscar Wilde**

Advice is what we ask for when we already know the answer but wish we didn't.

**Erica Jong**

The best way to give advice to your children is to find out what they want, and then advise them to do it.

**Harry S Truman**

Never advise anyone to go to war or to marry.

**Spanish proverb**

Accept good advice gracefully—as long as it doesn't interfere with what you intended to do in the first place.

**Gene Brown**

Good advice is often annoying. Bad advice never is.

**French proverb**

## *Bad Advice*

Do as we say and not as we do.

**Giovanni Boccaccio** [*Use the original Italian for that special touch: Fate quello che noi diciamo non quello che noi facciamo.*]

## *Damned Good Advice See also Words to Live By*

Keep breathing.

**Sophie Tucker**

Whether you believe you can do a thing or not, you are right.

**Henry Ford**

Say little and do much.

**Talmud**

Don't compromise yourself. You are all you've got.

**Janis Joplin**

Trust in Allah, but tie up your camel.

**Arabian proverb**

Love your neighbor, but don't pull down the fence.

**Swiss/German proverb**

Never under any circumstances take a sleeping pill and a laxative on the same night.

**Dave Berry**

Remember that a kick in the ass is a step forward.

**Anonymous**

No matter who you are or what you plan to do, learn to type!

**Liz Smith**

You were born an original. Don't die a copy.

**John Mason**

Whatever you are, be a good one.

**Abraham Lincoln**

Never mistake motion for action.

**Ernest Hemingway**

More hustle, less bustle.

**Anonymous**

Trust everybody, but cut the cards.

**Finley Peter Dunne**

When you reach the top, keep climbing.

**Zen saying**

I always skate to where the puck is going, not where it's been.

**Wayne Gretsky**

Be yourself. Everyone else is already taken.

**Oscar Wilde**

Do what you can, with what you have, where you are.

**Theodore Roosevelt**

Freedom lies in being bold.

**Robert Frost**

Follow your bliss.

**Joseph Campbell**

Only dead fish swim with the stream.

**Anonymous**

Sometimes you have to be a bitch to get things done.

**Madonna**

Nothing can bring you peace but yourself.

**Ralph Waldo Emerson**

We make a living by what we get, we make a life by what we give.

**Winston Churchill**

If it ain't broke, don't fix it.

**Anonymous**

Details are always vulgar.

**Oscar Wilde**

Out of sight, out of mind.

**Old English saying**

Oh, grow up!

***Joan Rivers***

---

Remember—wherever you go, there you are.

***Anonymous [i.e., said in some form by many, from Confucius to Buckaroo Banzai]***

---

# Age & Aging

## *Being Younger*

You are only young once, and that excuse won't last forever.

***Anonymous***

It is better to waste one's youth than to do nothing with it at all.

***Georges Courteline***

It takes courage to grow up and turn out to be who you really are.

***e. e. cummings***

The only way to stay young is to avoid older people.

***James D. Watson***

All would live long, but none would be old.

***Benjamin Franklin***

## *Being Older*

When I was young I loved truth, justice, and liberty, and now that I'm older I love truth, justice, liberty, and crabmeat.

***Anonymous***

I recently turned 60. Practically a third of my life is over.

***Woody Allen***

I have more prescriptions than subscriptions.

***Anonymous***

Old age is no place for sissies.

***Bette Davis [among many others, including Henry Louis Mencken and Art Linkletter]***

Middle age is the time when a man is always thinking that in a week or two he will feel as good as ever.

***Don Marquis***

Old age is always 15 years older than I am.

***Bernard Baruch***

I've aged.... I'm getting lines in my face. I look like a brand-new, steel-belted radial tire.

***Maggie Smith [in the movie California Suite]***

When you win, you're an old pro. When you lose, you're an old man.

***Charlie Conerly***

I'm at an age when my back goes out more than I do.

***Phyllis Diller***

Inside every older person is a younger person wondering what the fuck happened.

***Anonymous***

One of the delights known to age, and beyond the grasp of youth, is that of Not Going.

---

***J. B. Priestley***

Like a fine wine, I'm not getting older, I'm becoming more complex.

***Anonymous***

## ***Youth vs. Age***

Old and young, we are all on our last cruise.

***Robert Louis Stevenson***

The young sow wild oats, the old grow sage.

***Winston Churchill***

The old believe everything; the middle-aged suspect everything; the young know everything. ***Oscar Wilde***

The young man knows the rules, but the old man knows the exceptions.

***Oliver Wendell Holmes***

**Air Travel See Bummer—Flying**

**Alcohol See Drinks & Drinking**

---

## **Anger See also Arguments & Fighting**

We boil at different degrees.

**Ralph Waldo Emerson**

Don't get your knickers in a knot. Nothing is solved and it just makes you walk funny.

**Kathryn Carpenter**

When a man angers you, he conquers you.

**Toni Morrison**

Please be patient. At the moment I'm too angry to tell you how angry I am.

**Ashleigh Brilliant**

Anger is only one letter short of danger.

**Anonymous**

I'm as mad as hell, and I'm not going to take this anymore!

**Peter Finch [in the movie Network]**

The best answer to anger is silence.

**Anonymous**

No man can think clearly when his fists are clenched.

**George Jean Nathan**

Anger is a sign that something needs to change.

**Mark Epstein**

Get mad, then get over it.

**Colin Powell**



---

sample content of Tweet This Book: The 1,400 Greatest Quotes of All Time in 140 Characters or Less

- [click Effective JavaScript: 68 Specific Ways to Harness the Power of JavaScript](#)
- [read online Sons of Oak \(The Runelords, Book 5\) book](#)
- [download The Night Strangers pdf, azw \(kindle\)](#)
- [click The New Crepes Cookbook: 101 Sweet & Savory Crepe Recipes, From Traditional to Gluten-Free, for Cuisinart, LeCruet, Paderno and Eurolux Crepe Pans and Makers for free](#)
- [The Quantum Universe: Everything That Can Happen Does Happen for free](#)
- [click Systems Thinking for Curious Managers: With 40 New Management f-Laws](#)
  
- <http://aneventshop.com/ebooks/A-Short-History-of-Western-Political-Thought.pdf>
- <http://tuscalaural.com/library/Davis-s-Drug-Guide-for-Nurses--13th-Edition-.pdf>
- <http://kamallubana.com/?library/The-Night-Strangers.pdf>
- <http://metromekanik.com/ebooks/The-Courier--Ryan-Kealey--Book-6-.pdf>
- <http://twilightblogs.com/library/The-Quantum-Universe--Everything-That-Can-Happen-Does-Happen.pdf>
- <http://fitnessfatale.com/freebooks/Diptych-Rome-London.pdf>