Literary Movements and Periods

Literature constantly evolves as new movements emerge to speak to the concerns of different groups of people and historical periods.

Absurd, literature of the (c. 1930–1970): A movement, primarily in the theatre, that responded to the seeming illogicality and purposelessness of human life in works marked by a lack of clear narrative, understandable psychological motives, or emotional catharsis. Samuel Beckett’s *Waiting for Godot* is one of the most celebrated works in the theatre of the absurd.

Aestheticism (c. 1835–1910): A late-19th-century movement that believed in art as an end in itself. Aesthetes such as Oscar Wilde and Walter Pater rejected the view that art had to possess a higher moral or political value and believed instead in “art for art’s sake.”

Angry Young Men (1950s–1980s): A group of male British writers who created visceral plays and fiction at odds with the political establishment and a self-satisfied middle class. John Osborne’s play *Look Back in Anger* (1957) is one of the seminal works of this movement.

Beat Generation (1950s–1960s): A group of American writers in the 1950s and 1960s who sought release and illumination through a bohemian counterculture of sex, drugs, and Zen Buddhism. Beat writers such as Jack Kerouac (*On The Road*) and Allen Ginsberg (*Howl*) gained fame by giving readings in coffeehouses, often accompanied by jazz music.

Bloomsbury Group (c. 1906–1930s): An informal group of friends and lovers, including Clive Bell, E. M. Forster, Roger Fry, Lytton Strachey, Virginia Woolf, and John Maynard Keynes, who lived in the Bloomsbury section of London in the early 20th century and who had a considerable liberalizing influence on British culture.

Commedia dell’arte (1500s–1700s): Improvisational comedy first developed in Renaissance Italy that involved stock characters and centered around a set scenario. The elements of farce and buffoonery in *commedia dell’arte*, as well as its standard characters and plot intrigues, have had a tremendous influence on Western comedy, and can still be seen in contemporary drama and television sitcoms.

Dadaism (1916–1922): An avant-garde movement that began in response to the devastation of World War I. Based in Paris and led by the poet Tristan Tzara, the Dadaists produced nihilistic and anti-logical prose, poetry, and art, and rejected the traditions, rules, and ideals of pre-war Europe.

Enlightenment (c. 1660–1790): An intellectual movement in France and other parts of Europe that emphasized the importance of reason, progress, and liberty. The Enlightenment, sometimes called the Age of Reason, is primarily associated with nonfiction writing, such as essays and philosophical treatises. Major Enlightenment writers include Thomas Hobbes, John Locke, Jean-Jacques Rousseau, René Descartes.

Elizabethan era (c. 1558–1603): A flourishing period in English literature, particularly drama, that coincided with the reign of Queen Elizabeth I and included writers such as Francis Bacon, Ben Jonson, Christopher Marlowe, William Shakespeare, Sir Philip Sidney, and Edmund Spenser.
Gothic fiction (c. 1764–1820): A genre of late-18th-century literature that featured brooding, mysterious settings and plots and set the stage for what we now call "horror stories." Horace Walpole’s *Castle of Otranto*, set inside a medieval castle, was the first major Gothic novel. Later, the term “Gothic” grew to include any work that attempted to create an atmosphere of terror or the unknown, such as Edgar Allan Poe’s short stories.


Lost Generation (c. 1918–1930s): A term used to describe the generation of writers, many of them soldiers that came to maturity during World War I. Notable members of this group include F. Scott Fitzgerald, John Dos Passos, and Ernest Hemingway, whose novel *The Sun Also Rises* embodies the Lost Generation’s sense of disillusionment.

Magic realism (c. 1935–present): A style of writing, popularized by Jorge Luis Borges, Gabriel García Márquez, Günter Grass, and others, that combines realism with moments of dream-like fantasy within a single prose narrative.

Metaphysical poets (c. 1633–1680): A group of 17th-century poets who combined direct language with ingenious images, paradoxes, and conceits. John Donne and Andrew Marvell are the best known poets of this school.

Middle English (c. 1066–1500): The transitional period between Anglo-Saxon and modern English. The cultural upheaval that followed the Norman Conquest of England, in 1066, saw a flowering of secular literature, including ballads, chivalric romances, allegorical poems, and a variety of religious plays. Chaucer’s *The Canterbury Tales* is the most celebrated work of this period.

Modernism (1890s–1940s): A literary and artistic movement that provided a radical breaks with traditional modes of Western art, thought, religion, social conventions, and morality. Major themes of this period include the attack on notions of hierarchy; experimentation in new forms of narrative, such as stream of consciousness; doubt about the existence of knowable, objective reality; attention to alternative viewpoints and modes of thinking; and self-referentiality as a means of drawing attention to the relationships between artist and audience, and form and content.

High modernism (1920s): Generally considered the golden age of modernist literature, this period saw the publication of James Joyce’s *Ulysses*, T. S. Eliot’s *The Waste Land*, Virginia Woolf’s *Mrs. Dalloway*, and Marcel Proust’s *In Search of Lost Time*.

Naturalism (c. 1865–1900): A literary movement that used detailed realism to suggest that social conditions, heredity, and environment had inescapable force in shaping human character. Leading writers in the movement include Émile Zola, Theodore Dreiser, and Stephen Crane.
Neoclassicism (c. 1660–1798): A literary movement, inspired by the rediscovery of classical works of ancient Greece and Rome that emphasized balance, restraint, and order. Neoclassicism roughly coincided with the Enlightenment, which espoused reason over passion. Notable neoclassical writers include Edmund Burke, John Dryden, Samuel Johnson, Alexander Pope, and Jonathan Swift.

Nouveau Roman (“New Novel”) (c. 1955–1970): A French movement, led by Alain Robbe-Grillet, which dispensed with traditional elements of the novel, such as plot and character, in favour of neutrally recording the experience of sensations and things.

Postcolonial literature (c. 1950s–present): Literature by and about people from former European colonies, primarily in Africa, Asia, South America, and the Caribbean. This literature aims both to expand the traditional canon of Western literature and to challenge Eurocentric assumptions about literature, especially through examination of questions of otherness, identity, and race. Prominent postcolonial works include Chinua Achebe’s *Things Fall Apart*, V. S. Naipaul’s *A House for Mr. Biswas*, and Salman Rushdie’s *Midnight’s Children*. Edward Said’s *Orientalism* (1978) provided an important theoretical basis for understanding postcolonial literature.

Postmodernism (c. 1945–present): A notoriously ambiguous term, especially as it refers to literature, postmodernism can be seen as a response to the elitism of high modernism as well as to the horrors of World War II. Postmodern literature is characterized by a disjointed, fragmented pastiche of high and low culture that reflects the absence of tradition and structure in a world driven by technology and consumerism. Julian Barnes, Don DeLillo, Toni Morrison, Vladimir Nabokov, Thomas Pynchon, Salman Rushdie, and Kurt Vonnegut are among many who are considered postmodern authors.

Pre-Raphaelites (c. 1848–1870): The literary arm of an artistic movement that drew inspiration from Italian artists working before Raphael (1483–1520). The Pre-Raphaelites combined sensuousness and religiosity through archaic poetic forms and medieval settings. William Morris, Christina Rossetti, Dante Gabriel Rossetti, and Charles Swinburne were leading poets in the movement.

Realism (c. 1830–1900): A loose term that can refer to any work that aims at honest portrayal over sensationalism, exaggeration, or melodrama. Technically, realism refers to a late-19th-century literary movement—primarily French, English, and American—that aimed at accurate detailed portrayal of ordinary, contemporary life. Many of the 19th century’s greatest novelists, such as Honoré de Balzac, Charles Dickens, George Eliot, Gustave Flaubert, and Leo Tolstoy, are classified as realists. Naturalism (see above) can be seen as an intensification of realism.

Hawthorne, Herman Melville, Edgar Allan Poe, William Cullen Bryant, and John Greenleaf Whittier.

*Sturm und Drang* (1770s): German for “storm and stress,” this brief German literary movement advocated passionate individuality in the face of Neoclassical rationalism and restraint. Goethe’s *The Sorrows of Young Werther* is the most enduring work of this movement, which greatly influenced the Romantic movement (*see above*).

Surrealism (1920s–1930s): An avant-garde movement, based primarily in France, that sought to break down the boundaries between rational and irrational, conscious and unconscious, through a variety of literary and artistic experiments. The surrealist poets, such as André Breton and Paul Eluard, were not as successful as their artist counterparts, who included Salvador Dali, Joan Miró, and René Magritte.

Symbolists (1870s–1890s): A group of French poets who reacted against realism with a poetry of suggestion based on private symbols, and experimented with new poetic forms such as free verse and the prose poem. The symbolists—Stéphane Mallarmé, Arthur Rimbaud, and Paul Verlaine are the most well known—were influenced by Charles Baudelaire. In turn, they had a seminal influence on the modernist poetry of the early 20th century.

Transcendentalism (c. 1835–1860): An American philosophical and spiritual movement, based in New England, that focused on the primacy of the individual conscience and rejected materialism in favor of closer communion with nature. Ralph Waldo Emerson’s “Self-Reliance” and Henry David Thoreau’s *Walden* are famous transcendentalist works.

Victorian era (c. 1832–1901): The period of English history between the passage of the first Reform Bill (1832) and the death of Queen Victoria (reigned 1837–1901). Though remembered for strict social, political, and sexual conservatism and frequent clashes between religion and science, the period also saw prolific literary activity and significant social reform and criticism. Notable Victorian novelists include the Brontë sisters, Charles Dickens, George Eliot, William Makepeace Thackeray, Anthony Trollope, and Thomas Hardy, while prominent poets include Matthew Arnold; Robert Browning; Elizabeth Barrett Browning; Gerard Manley Hopkins; Alfred, Lord Tennyson; and Christina Rossetti. Notable Victorian nonfiction writers include Walter Pater, John Ruskin, and Charles Darwin, who penned the famous *On the Origin of Species* (1859).
Life, times and works of William Shakespeare

“The fool doth think he is wise, but the wise man knows himself to be a fool.”

William Shakespeare was born in Stratford-upon-Avon, in central England1, in 1564. We do not exactly when he was born but we celebrate his birthday on 23 April, on St George’s Day, the day England celebrates its patron saint. He was baptised at Holy Trinity Church on April 26.

His father made and sold gloves. He also had an important position in the town. Mary Arden, Shakespeare’s mother, came from a wealthy family and she was richer than her husband.

We know that Shakespeare had three younger brothers and two older sisters, but we don’t have much information about his early years. Almost certainly, at the age of seven, he started at the King Edward IV Stratford Grammar School. Students didn’t pay to go to the school, but they had to learn to read before starting. They studied mostly Latin, but the students also learn about Greek history, as well as maths. Shakespeare ended his education at thirteen. His father had serious difficulties with money at the time and so the family probably wanted to start work.

Shakespeare got married at the age of eighteen to Anne Hathaway, who was twenty-seven. They had three children: Susan, and two twins, Judith and Hamnet. Hamnet died at the age of only eleven.

Around 1587 Shakespeare became part of a theatre group of travelling actors and left Stratford and his family to go to London.

Then, as today, London was the wealthiest and biggest city in England. With its many houses, shops, people and places of entertainment, London was an exciting city to be in. In their free time, Londoners often went to inns, where they could see shows. Later they went to the new, circular, open theatres. Shakespeare arrived in London at a time when the theatre was becoming increasingly more popular. The theatre companies often asked students and educated young men to write plays for them, because it was cheaper than using professional writers.

At that time, theatre companies needed “patrons” – important, rich men who gave the company money to put in their plays. At first, Shakespeare wrote for a company called the “Chamberlain’s men”; their patron was the Lord Chamberlain, an important person at court.

Shakespeare was a good businessman. He owned part of his theatre company and two of the theatres where the company performed: Blackfriars (reopened 1596) and The Globe (1599). He soon had enough money to buy two houses: one for himself in London and one for his family in Stratford.

Shakespeare soon became well-known in London. His plays were a success and other writers started talking about him, too, even if they didn’t always speak well of him!

1 Market town, 103 miles west of London
His theatre group started performing for Queen Elizabeth I. They continued to perform at
the royal court under King James I, where they took the name “The King's Men.”

It seems strange now, but Shakespeare didn’t publish his work. This is because
playwrights didn’t get money from their work it was used by other people, and so other
companies could use his ideas.

In 1610, after his mother died, Shakespeare returned to Stratford-upon-Avon, only staying
in London for a short time after a fire destroyed The Globe.

In 1616 he made a will. In the spring of the same year, another playwright, Ben Johnson,
came to visit him. The two friends spent the evening in an inn remembering old times. The
evening was possible too much for Shakespeare because that night he became ill and died
no long after. It is said that Shakespeare died on the same day that he was born: 23 April.

In 1623 two friends finally collected together his work and published it in a book which
became known as the First Folio. In the introduction there is a poem by Ben Johnson, in
which he says about Shakespeare: "He was not for an age but for all time.”

SHAKESPEARE’S TIMES

Shakespeare’s time was an era of great discovery, known as the Renaissance. The
Renaissance, meaning “rebirth”, was a period of new creativity that began in the 15th
century.

In Renaissance culture, the earth was the centre of the universe, and man was central to
what happened on earth. In the early 1600s the Italian Galileo Galilei (1564 – 1642) was
able to show people that the sun didn’t move and that the earth went around it. He was
able to do this using the telescope, invented by Hans Lippershey in 1608, and the theories
of the Polish astronomer Nicolas Copernicus (1473 – 1543).

This was also a great period of discovery and exploration at sea. Sir Francis Drake (1540 –
1596) sailed all around the world, and Sir Walter Raleigh (1554 – 1618) brought back new
things to England, such as potatoes.

It was a great period for literature, too. In Spain, Miguel de Cervantes (1547 – 1616)
 wrote Don Quixote, and in England there were other famous writers such as Ben Johnson
and Christopher Marlowe, who wrote Dr Faustus.

ELIZABETH I (1533 – 1603)

Elizabeth I was the daughter of King Henry VIII and his second wife, Anne Boleyn. In 1534
Henry broke away from the Church in Rome, when the pope didn’t agree to a divorce from
his first wife. He started a new church, the Church of England. Elizabeth was the first
Protestant queen.

Elizabeth’s reign is known as the “Elizabethan Age”. It was a period of great economic
success and cultural growth. Elizabeth refused to marry, saying he was already married to
her country. During this time, many people saw Elizabeth as a strong ruler – but not
everyone. Her Catholic cousin, Mary Queen of Scots, wanted to become queen, and in 1587
Elizabeth ordered her to be executed for treason. In 1588 Spanish ships tried to attack
England, but without success ("The Spanish Armada’). In 1601 the Earl of Essex attacked
Life, times and works of William Shakespeare

Elizabeth’s power, but he was not successful either; Elizabeth remained queen for two more years until her death in 1603.

JAMES I (1603 – 1625)
When James I became king, he was already King James VI of Scotland; and so for the first time Scotland and England had one ruler.

James was not popular; he and his court spent a lot of money on unnecessary things.

In 1605 a man named Guy Fawkes and a group of Catholics planned to kill James and destroy Parliament. The plot was discovered. It became known as the “Gunpowder Plot”.

From that moment on, James I decided that all Catholics were his enemies. England celebrates the discovery of the plot with fireworks on 5 November.

It is believed that Shakespeare wrote the play *Macbeth* especially for James I because he wanted to write a Scottish play for the king.

SHAKESPEARE’S PLAYS

In just twenty years Shakespeare wrote thirty-seven or thirty-eight plays (experts don’t agree) and several poems.

Shakespeare’s plays are usually divided into these types: history, tragedy, comedy, and romantic drama. Here are some of Shakespeare’s best-known plays:

ROMEO AND JULIET
The Montague and Capulet families hate each other and have always hated each other. One evening at a dance, Romeo (a Montague) and Juliet (a Capulet) meet a fall in love.

They marry in secret the next day. But they are together for only one night.

Tybalt (a Capulet) kills Romeo’s friend in a fight. Romeo kills Tybalt and has to run away to another town. Juliet’s parents don’t know about her marriage with Romeo; they want her to marry another man.

Juliet takes a sleeping potion so everyone will think she is dead, and then she and Romeo can escape. But Romeo doesn’t know about her plan; he hears that she is dead. When he sees her in the family’s tomb, he poisons himself. Juliet wakes up and sees Romeo’s body. She kills herself with his dagger.

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT’S DREAM
One midsummer night four young lovers are lost in a wood. But they are not alone. The king and queen of fairies, Oberon and Titania, live in this wood. A group of workmen, who are also amateur actors, are there, too. They are going to perform a play for the king and the queen of Athens.
Oberon uses a magic love potion to end an argument with his wife, and to help the four young people by making the right people to fall in love with each other. But because of the actions of his naughty helper, the fairy Puck, they fall in love with the wrong people, and his wife falls in love with a man changed into a donkey!

In the end, Oberon solves the problems and everyone is happy. The actors can perform their play... maybe it was all a dream after all!

HAMLET

The ghost of Hamlet’s father tells Hamlet to kill his murderer, Claudius. Claudius was his father’s brother, and he is now the King of Denmark. But Hamlet can’t decide what to do, and so he makes everyone believe he’s mad.

But Hamlet’s problems become worse. By mistake, Hamlet kills the father the girl he loves. Orphelia becomes so sad that she kills herself. Hamlet leaves Denmark. When he returns, Claudius and Laertes, Orphelia’s brother, plan to kill him.

Hamlet must fight Laertes, but Laertes has a poisoned sword. To make sure of his plan Claudius poisons the wine he will give Hamlet if he wins.

By mistake, the Queen drinks the wine. Hamlet kills Laertes, but he is hurt. But before he dies from the poison in Laertes’ sword, he kills Claudius.

MACBETH

In 11th-century Scotland, three witches tell Macbeth that he will one day be king of Scotland. With the help of his wife, Macbeth kills King Duncan but Duncan’s two sons escape.

When he is king, Macbeth sees everyone as a possible danger, including his friend Banquo, who he kills. Banquo’s ghost returns to haunt him. He also sends men to kill the wife and children of another Scottish lord, Macduff.

Macbeth goes back to the witches and they tell him that nobody will defeat him until the trees of Birnam wood move towards his castle. “Impossible!” he thinks.

In Macbeth’s castle, Lady Macbeth can’t stop thinking about the murders, especially the murder of Macduff’s wife and children. She becomes mad and kills herself.

Malcom, Duncan’s eldest son, returns to Scotland with an army from England. His soldiers cut down the trees in Birnam Wood and hide behind them to attack the castle. Macbeth then remembers the witches’ words. Still a brave soldier, Macbeth continues to fight to the end, but he is killed.
Oscar Wilde is probably the most well-known Irish writer, both for adults and children. He is famous for what he said and wrote. He lived in the Victorian era, which he criticized, though delivered in a velvet glove.

He was born in Dublin in 1854. His father was an important doctor in a hospital and his mother, Lady Wilde, gave wonderful parties. When he was a child, Wilde met many famous people at these parties and listened to what they said. His mother loved art, liked to stay in bed until the afternoon, didn’t like the sunlight and enjoyed telling clever stories. Her son, Oscar, became like her.

He went to Trinity College in Dublin and then he studied at Magdalen College, Oxford, where in 1878 he won a poetry prize. There he had long hair, wore fashionable clothes, didn’t like sports, and had a lot of flowers and art in his room. Some other students didn’t like this, called him ‘unmanly’ and once they threw him in the river. However, Wilde was part of an artistic fashion, ‘aestheticism’. People used the name ‘art for art’s sake’. This means that art is important not because it is useful but because it is beautiful.

Wilde wanted to marry Florence Balcombe, but she married Bram Stoker, the author of Dracula. When he knew this, Wilde moved from Dublin to London and said, ‘I will never return to Ireland’.

In 1883 he needed money and went to the United States, staying there for a year, travelling around the country and giving talks. When he entered the country, he said ‘I have nothing to declare but my genius’. In America, he continued to shock people wearing strange clothes and talking about beauty.

In 1884 he married Constance Lloyd. After an expensive wedding, they lived in a beautiful house and had two children. Wilde was the editor of a magazine, Woman’s World, but he became more interested in writing stories and plays.

In 1888 he wrote The Happy Prince and Other Tales, a book of stories for his children. Lord Arthur Savile’s Crime and Other Stories was published in 1891. In this, Lord Arthur believes that he has to murder somebody before he can get married. The Canterville Ghost is a story where an American family meets an English ghost.

Wilde wrote only one novel, The Picture of Dorian Grey, in 1890. Dorian Gray is a beautiful young man who has a secret painting for himself. Dorian stays young but his image in the picture grows old. He takes opium and thinks that the most important thing in life is to enjoy himself.

But Wilde is best known for his plays. Lady Windermere’s Fan and An Ideal Husband were both very popular and the stories included husbands and wives with secrets from each other.

His greatest play, The Importance of Being Earnest, appeared in 1895. It was performed at the St James’s Theatre, in London. The play is one of the cleverest and funniest in the English language.

But on the first night of the play, the Marquís of Queensbury, an English aristocrat, tried to enter the theatre. He was very angry with Wilde; he said that
Oscar Wilde loved his son, Lord Alfred Douglas. The writer said that that was not true and used the law of libel against Queensbury. But the Marquis used private detectives to get information about it. As a result, Wilde lost his law case and was found guilty of breaking the law. At this time in Britain, love between two men was against the law. Wilde had time to leave England and go to France, but he didn't, and he was arrested at the Cardogan Hotel in London.

He was sent to prison and was there for three years. At first, they didn't even give him a pen and paper but later he was able to write. When he came out in 1897, he went to live in France, where he wrote *The Ballad of Reading Gaol* (1898), a long poem about prison life and his time in prison.

For the rest of his life he lived in France. His health was bad and he didn't write any more plays. He even used a different name, Sebastian Melmoth. He lived in the Hotel d'Alsace in Paris, away from his wife, children and most of his old friends. He died on 30 November 1900. He is buried in the Parisian Père Lachaise cemetery.

Wilde's plays and short stories are still very popular today. He was a wonderful storyteller, and in his day he was famous for his clever and amusing conversation. One friend, the Irish poet W. B. Yeats, called him "the greatest talker of his time", and another friend described how Oscar Wilde took away his bad toothache one day – just by telling him stories and making him laugh.

**QUOTES**

- "No man is rich enough to buy back his past."
- "Men become old, but they never become good."
- "One should never trust a woman who tells one her real age. A woman who would tell one that, would tell one anything."
- "People who count their chickens before they are hatched, act very wisely, because chickens run about so absurdly that it is impossible to count them accurately."
- "The public have an insatiable curiosity to know everything, except what is worth knowing."
- "Life is never fair...And perhaps it is a good thing for most of us that it is not."
- "The world is a stage, but the play is badly cast."
- "One should always be in love. That is the reason one should never marry."
- "To love oneself is the beginning of a life-long romance."
- A man can be happy with any woman as long as he does not love her."
Mark Twain was born in Florida, Missouri, in 1835. His real name was Samuel Langhorne Clemens.

When he was a four-year boy the family moved 35 miles east to the town of Hannibal, Missouri, on the Mississippi River. Many of the adventures in his books are about his youth in Hannibal.

In 1857 he worked as a pilot on a steamboat on the Mississippi River. Because of the American Civil War, the river trade was closed, and he moved to California.

In 1861 he went to California and his life changed there. He began writing stories for a San Francisco newspaper called the Morning Call. At this time he changed his real name, Samuel Clemens, to a pen name, Mark Twain. Clemens’ pseudonym, Mark Twain, comes from his days as a river pilot. It is a river term which means two fathoms or 12-feet when the depth of water for a boat is being sounded: ‘Mark twain’ means that is safe to navigate.

In 1867 he published his short story, ‘The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County’. It was a big success and he became famous. He travelled to Hawaii and Europe.

In 1870 Mark Twain married Olivia ‘Livy’ Langdon and they had three daughters, Susan, Jean and Clara. He and his family lived happily in Hartford, Connecticut. Here he wrote his three great books: The Adventures of Tom Sawyer (1876), Life on the Mississippi (1883), and The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn (1884). People everywhere liked his books.

Later in his life Mark Twain had financial problems, and he and his family moved to Europe for nine years. When his daughters Susy and Jean died, he became a very unhappy man. He loved his wife very much and she died too in 1904. After her death he went to live in New York and then in Redding, Connecticut. He died in 1910 at the age of seventy-five.

His other works include The Prince and the Pauper (1881), The Innocents Abroad (1869), A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur’s Court (1889) and many short stories. He was the first American writer to change the American way of writing with his simple and funny language.

SOME FAMOUS MARK TWAIN’S QUOTES

"Twenty years from now, you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn’t do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbour. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover."

"Keep away from people who try to belittle your ambitions. Small people always do that, but the really great make you feel that you, too, can become great."

"It is better to keep your mouth shut and appear stupid than to open it and remove all doubt."

"When in doubt, tell the truth."

"Whatever you say, say it with conviction."

"Always do right. That will gratify some of the people, and astonish the rest."

"Of all the animals, man is the only one that is cruel. He is the only one that inflicts pain for the pleasure of doing it."

"The man who does not read good books has no advantage over the man who can’t read them."

"I learned long ago never to say the obvious thing, but leave the obvious thing to commonplace and inexperienced people to say."

"The proper office of a friend is to side with you when you are in the wrong. Nearly anybody will side with you when you are in the right."