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51 Of The Most Beautiful Sentences In Literature

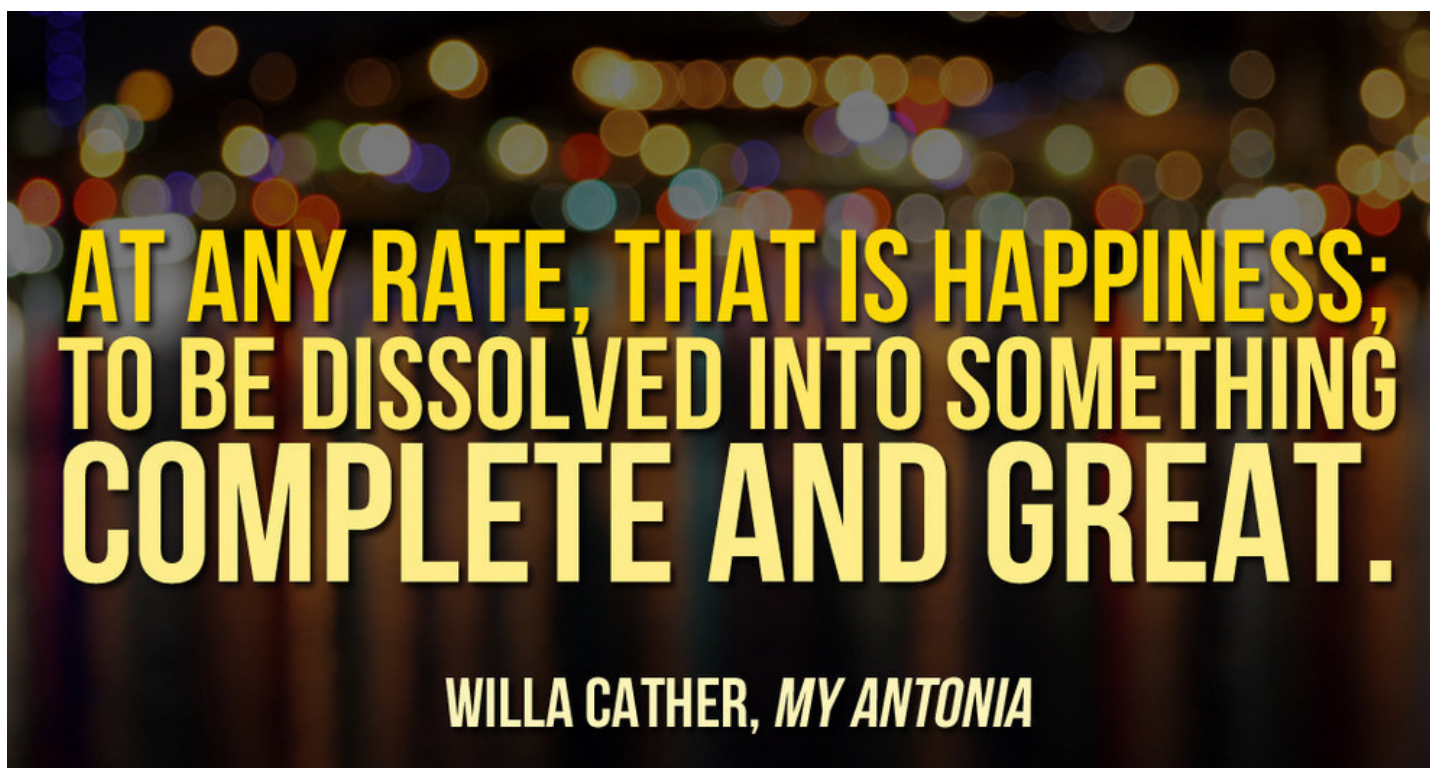
“At the still point, there the dance is.” —T. S. Eliot

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Jennifer Schaffer
BuzzFeed Staff

We asked members of the [BuzzFeed Community](#) to tell us about their [favorite](#) lines from literature. Here are some of their most beautiful replies.



Suggested by [CindyH11](#) Creative Commons / Flickr: 58621196@N05

2. “In our village, folks say God crumbles up the old moon into stars.”

—Alexander Solzhenitsyn, *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich*

Suggested by Jasmin B., via Facebook

3. “She wasn’t doing a thing that I could see, except standing there leaning on the balcony railing, holding the universe together.”

—J. D. Salinger, “A Girl I Knew”

Suggested by [mollyp49cf70741](#)

4. “I took a deep breath and listened to the old brag of my heart; I am, I am, I am.”

—Sylvia Plath, *The Bell Jar*

Suggested by Brooke K., via Facebook



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6. “Beauty is an enormous, unmerited gift given randomly, stupidly.”

—Khaled Hosseini, *And the Mountains Echoed*

Suggested by Danielle O., via Facebook

7. “Sometimes I can feel my bones straining under the weight of all the lives I’m not living.”

—Jonathan Safran Foer, *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close*

Suggested by Kellie C., via Facebook

8. "What are men to rocks and mountains?"

—Jane Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*

Suggested by [amandae16](#)

Suggested by [klavdjak22](#) *Creative Commons / Flickr: rayseinefotos*

10. "'Dear God,' she prayed, 'let me be something every minute of every hour of my life.'"

—Betty Smith, *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*

Suggested by Shanna B., via Facebook

11. "The curves of your lips rewrite history."

—Oscar Wilde, *The Picture of Dorian Gray*

Suggested by Therese K., via Facebook

12. “A dream, all a dream, that ends in nothing, and leaves the sleeper where he lay down, but I wish you to know that you inspired it.”

—Charles Dickens, *A Tale of Two Cities*

Suggested by [amykartzman](#)

Suggested by [natyjira](#) Creative Commons / Flickr: [junevre](#)

14. “As Estha stirred the thick jam he thought Two Thoughts and the Two Thoughts he thought were these: a) Anything can happen to anyone. and b) It is

best to be prepared.”

—Arundhati Roy, *The God of Small Things*

Suggested by Alyssa P., via Facebook

15. “If equal affection cannot be, let the more loving one be me.”

—W. H. Auden, “The More Loving One”

Suggested by Blake M., via Facebook

16. “And now that you don’t have to be perfect, you can be good.”

—John Steinbeck, *East of Eden*

Suggested by Missy W., via Facebook

Suggested by [Domo](#) *Creative Commons / Flickr: kwarz*

18. “There are more things in Heaven and Earth, Horatio, than are dreamt of in your philosophy.”

—William Shakespeare, *Hamlet*

Suggested by Emily F., via Facebook

19. “America, I’ve given you all and now I’m nothing.”

—Allen Ginsburg, “America”

Suggested by Jimmy C., via Facebook

20. “It might be that to surrender to happiness was to accept defeat, but it was a defeat better than many victories.”

—W. Somerset Maugham, *Of Human Bondage*

Suggested by [fireworkshurricanes](#)

Suggested by [amk93](#). *Creative Commons / Flickr: chrisjl*

22. "At the still point, there the dance is."

—T. S. Eliot, "Four Quartets"

Suggested by [vkanicka](#)

23. "Once upon a time there was a boy who loved a girl, and her laughter was a question he wanted to spend his whole life answering."

—Nicole Krauss, *The History of Love*

Suggested by Sam H., via Facebook

24. "In spite of everything, I still believe people are really good at heart."

—Anne Frank, *The Diary of Anne Frank*

Suggested by [claires10](#)

Suggested by Christina G., via Facebook *Creative Commons* / Flickr: [yousefmalallah](#)

26. “The pieces I am, she gather them and gave them back to me in all the right order.”

—Toni Morrison, *Beloved*

Suggested by [lisah4b5176fb6](#)

27. “How wild it was, to let it be.”

—Cheryl Strayed, *Wild*

Suggested by Natalie P., via Facebook

28. "Do I dare / Disturb the universe?"

—T. S. Eliot, "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock"

Suggested by Kati A., via Facebook

Suggested by Barbara B., via Facebook *Creative Commons / Flickr: library_of_congress*

30. "She was lost in her longing to understand."

—Gabriel Garcia Marquez, *Love in the Time of Cholera*

Suggested by [melibelle](#)

31. “She was becoming herself and daily casting aside that fictitious self which we assume like a garment with which to appear before the world.”

—Kate Chopin, “The Awakening”

Suggested by Madeline M., via Facebook

32. “We cross our bridges as we come to them and burn them behind us, with nothing to show for our progress except a memory of the smell of smoke, and the presumption that once our eyes watered.”

—Tom Stoppard, *Rosencratz and Guildenstern Are Dead*

Suggested by [Liza](#)

34. "The half life of love is forever."

—Junot Diaz, *This Is How You Lose Her*

Suggested by xxx

35. "I celebrate myself, and sing myself."

—Walt Whitman, *Leaves of Grass*

Suggested by Alyssa M., via Facebook

36. "There are darkneses in life and there are lights, and you are one of the lights, the light of all lights."

—Bram Stoker, *Dracula*

Suggested by Adam A., via Facebook

Suggested by Emily W., via Facebook *Creative Commons / Flickr: michael_wacker*

37. "Tomorrow is always fresh, with no mistakes in it yet."

—L. M. Montgomery, *Anne of Green Gables*

Suggested by Stacy W., via Facebook

38. "I could hear the human noise we sat there making, not one of us moving, not even when the room went dark."

—Raymond Carver, "What We Talk About When We Talk About Love"

Suggested by Savey S., via Facebook

39. "I would always rather be happy than dignified."

—Charlotte Brontë, *Jane Eyre*

Suggested by Chelsea Z., via Facebook

Suggested by Sophie C., via Facebook *Creative Commons Flickr: cedwardbrice*

41. “I have spread my dreams under your feet; / Tread softly because you tread on my dreams”

—W. B. Yeats, “Aedh Wishes for the Cloths of Heaven”

Suggested by [niamhmd](#)

42. “It frightened him to think what must have gone to the making of her eyes.”

—Edith Wharton, *The Age of Innocence*

Suggested by [uncnicole](#)

43. “For poems are like rainbows; they escape you quickly.”

—Langston Hughes, *The Big Sea*

Suggested by [TonyaPenn](#)

Suggested by [katepalo](#) *Creative Commons / Flickr: archer10*

45. “I wondered if that was how forgiveness budded; not with the fanfare of epiphany, but with pain gathering its things, packing up, and slipping away unannounced in the middle of the night.”

—Khaled Hosseini, *The Kite Runner*

Suggested by Maria K., via Facebook

46. "So we beat on, boats against the current, borne back ceaselessly into the past."

—F. Scott Fitzgerald, *The Great Gatsby*

Suggested by [carlyh3](#)

47. "Journeys end in lovers meeting."

—William Shakespeare, *Twelfth Night*

Suggested by [foresth2](#)

Suggested by [babydollolita](#) Creative Commons / Flickr: smithsonian

49. "It does not do well to dwell on dreams and forget to live, remember that."

—J.K. Rowling, *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*

Suggested by Tatiana H., via Facebook

50. "Everything was beautiful and nothing hurt."

—Kurt Vonnegut, *Slaughterhouse-Five*

Suggested by Sara S., via Facebook

51. "One must be careful of books, and what is inside them, for words have the power to change us."

—Cassandra Clare, *The Infernal Devices*

Suggested by [par0023](#)

Did your favorite line from literature make the list? Tell us about it in the comments below! And if you'd like to be featured similar BuzzFeed posts, be sure to follow the BuzzFeed Community on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

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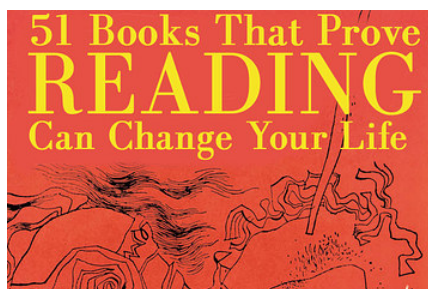
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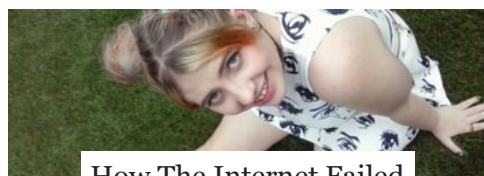
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