



## 2016 – 2017 Imagine Schools National Character Essay Contest Maxims

*Developing Character, Enriching Minds!*

Our themes this year are **EMPATHY** and **CITIZENSHIP / SERVICE TO OTHERS**.  
Students must select one of the maxims designated for their grade level in order to participate in the National Character Essay Contest.

3RD GRADE	
EMPATHY	CITIZENSHIP & SERVICE TO OTHERS
<p><i>"No one cares how much you know, until they know how much you care."</i> – Theodore Roosevelt (26<sup>th</sup> U.S. President)</p> <p><i>"One of the most important things you can do on this earth is to let people know they are not alone."</i> – Shannon L. Alder (Inspirational author)</p>	<p><i>"We can't help everyone, but everyone can help someone."</i> – Ronald Reagan (40<sup>th</sup> U.S. President)</p> <p><i>"Be the change that you want to see in the world."</i> – Mahatma Gandhi (Indian leader)</p>
4TH GRADE	
EMPATHY	CITIZENSHIP & SERVICE TO OTHERS
<p><i>"There is no small act of kindness. Every compassionate act makes large the world."</i> – Mary Anne Radmacher (American author and artist)</p> <p><i>"If speaking is silver, then listening is gold."</i> – Turkish Proverb</p>	<p><i>"When you help someone up a hill, you get that much closer to the top yourself."</i> – Mary Engelbreit (American graphic artist and illustrator)</p> <p><i>"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."</i> – Margaret Mead (American cultural anthropologist)</p>
5TH GRADE	
EMPATHY	CITIZENSHIP & SERVICE TO OTHERS
<p><i>"We have two ears and one mouth so that we can listen twice as much as we speak."</i> – Epictetus (Greek philosopher)</p> <p><i>"Attention is the rarest and purest form of generosity."</i> – Simone Weil (French philosopher and political activist)</p>	<p><i>"The meaning of life is to find your gift. The purpose of life is to give it away."</i> – Pablo Picasso (Spanish painter, sculptor, and writer)</p> <p><i>"I alone cannot change the world. But I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples."</i> – Mother Theresa (Albanian-Indian missionary)</p>
6TH GRADE	
EMPATHY	CITIZENSHIP & SERVICE TO OTHERS
<p><i>"People will forget what you said, people may forget what you did, but they will never forget how you made them feel."</i> – Maya Angelou (American poet and civil rights activist)</p> <p><i>"Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest</i></p>	<p><i>"Ask not what your country can do for you...ask what you can do for your country."</i> – John F. Kennedy (35<sup>th</sup> U.S. President)</p> <p><i>"Don't be content in your life just to do no wrong, be prepared every day to try and do some good."</i> – Nicholas Winton (British humanitarian)</p>



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<p><i>compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around.”</i> — Leo Buscaglia (American author and motivational speaker)</p>	
<b>7TH GRADE</b>	
EMPATHY	CITIZENSHIP & SERVICE TO OTHERS
<p><i>“You cannot do a kindness too soon, for you never know when it will be too late.”</i> — Ralph Waldo Emerson (American essayist, lecturer, and poet)</p> <p><i>“If you share in a heart-felt sorrow, you can lighten the load of a friend. Sometimes facing the burden together can mend two broken hearts in the end.”</i> — Wes Fessler (American player/coach of basketball and football, and inspirational author)</p>	<p><i>“What counts in life is not the mere fact that we have lived. It is what difference we have made to the lives of others that will determine the significance of the life we lead.”</i> — Nelson Mandela (South African politician, philanthropist, and former President of South Africa)</p> <p><i>“We cannot live only for ourselves. A thousand fibers connect us with our fellow men.”</i> — Herman Melville (American writer and poet)</p>
<b>8TH GRADE</b>	
EMPATHY	CITIZENSHIP & SERVICE TO OTHERS
<p><i>“If there is any one secret of success, it lies in the ability to get the other person's point of view and see things from his angle as well as your own.”</i> — Henry Ford (American industrialist and founder of Ford Motor Company)</p> <p><i>“Empathy is the only human superpower - it can shrink distance, cut through social and power hierarchies, transcend differences, and provoke political and social change.”</i> — Elizabeth Thomas (British poet)</p>	<p><i>“The best way to not feel hopeless is to get up and do something. Don't wait for good things to happen to you. If you go out and make some good things happen, you will fill the world with hope, you will fill yourself with hope.”</i> — Barack Obama (44<sup>th</sup> U.S. President)</p> <p><i>“Thousands of candles can be lighted from a single candle, and the life of the candle will not be shortened. Happiness never decreases by being shared.”</i> — Buddha (Sage on whose teachings Buddhism was founded)</p>
<b>HIGH SCHOOL</b>	
EMPATHY	CITIZENSHIP & SERVICE TO OTHERS
<p><i>“Learning to stand in somebody else's shoes, to see through their eyes, that's how peace begins. And it's up to you to make that happen. Empathy is a quality of character that can change the world.”</i> — Barack Obama (44<sup>th</sup> U.S. President)</p> <p><i>“If you can learn a simple trick, Scout, you'll get along a lot better with all kinds of folks. You never really understand a person until you consider things from his point of view, until you climb inside of his skin and walk around in it.”</i> — Atticus Finch in <i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i> (1962)</p>	<p><i>“A society grows great when old men plant trees in whose shade they know they shall never sit.”</i> — Greek Proverb</p> <p><i>“There are moments in life when keeping silent becomes a fault, and speaking an obligation. A civic duty, a moral challenge, a categorical imperative from which we cannot escape.”</i> — Oriana Fallaci (Italian journalist and author)</p>