

Character Development Quotes

March

Honesty/Integrity

“Strength of mind is only courage to see and speak the truth.”

-William Hazlitt

“I hope that I shall always possess firmness and virtue enough to maintain what I consider the best of all titles – the character of an honest person.”

-George Washington

“The person who is straightforward and honest doesn’t have to worry about a faulty memory.”

-Anonymous

“A man should never be ashamed to own that he has been in the wrong, which is but saying in other words, that he is wiser today than he was yesterday.”

-Jonathan Swift

“An honest man’s the noblest work of God.”

-Alexander Pope: *An Essay on Man IV*

“Honesty is the best policy.”

-Cervantes: *Don Quixote*

“No legacy is so rich as honesty.”

-Shakespeare: *All’s Well That Ends Well*

“He who tells a lie is not sensible of how great a task he undertakes; for he must be forced to invent twenty more to maintain that one.”

-Alexander Pope: *Thoughts on Various Subjects*

“The cruelest lies are often told in silence.”

-Robert Louis Stevenson: *Virginibus Puerisque*

“Half the truth is often a great lie.”

-Benjamin Franklin: *Poor Richard’s Almanack*

*“A truth that’s told with bad intent
Beats all the lies you can invent.”*

-William Blake: *Auguries of Innocence*

“Tell truth and shame the Devil.”

-Shakespeare, *I Henry IV*

“Truth is tough. It will not break, like a bubble, at a touch; nay, you may kick it about all day, like a football, and it will be round and full at evening.”

-Oliver Wendell Holmes: *The Professor at the Breakfast Table*

“When in doubt, tell the truth.”

-Mark Twain, *Pudd’nhead Wilson*

“For truth, there is no deadline.”

-Heywood Broun

“Be not apt to relate news if you know not the truth thereof.”

-George Washington: *Rules of Civility*

“Whoever is dishonest in small matters will be dishonest in large ones.”

-Jesus: Luke 16:10

“When we know the truth in our own consciences it is unnecessary to be troubled about anything else.”

Madeleine de Scudery: *Artamenes*

“Truth is a very aggressive principle; it does not stand still to be attacked, but marches on, under the conduct of faith, to assail the enemy, to make conquests, and to recover what falsehood has stolen, or violence wrested away.”

-Charlotte E. Tonna: *Second Causes*

“Truth burns up error.”

-Sojourner Truth

“Truth is immortal; error is mortal.”

Mary Baker Eddy

“Where is there dignity unless there is also honesty?”

-Cicero: *Ad Atticum*

“If you do not tell the truth about yourself you cannot tell it about other people.”

-Virginia Woolf: *The Moment and Other Essays*

*“This above all – to thine own self be true,
And it must follow, as the night the day,
Thou canst not be false to any man.”*

-Shakespeare: *Hamlet*

“I have always thought the actions of men the best interpreters of their thoughts.”

-John Locke: *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding*

“Integrity without knowledge is weak and useless, and knowledge without integrity is dangerous and dreadful.”

-Samuel Johnson: *Rasselas*

“Confidence in others’ honesty is no light testimony of one’s own integrity.”

-Montaigne, *Essays*

“A good name is better than precious ointment.”

-Ecclesiastes 7:1

“A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches.”

-Proverbs 22:1

“Associate yourself with men of good quality if you esteem your own reputation; for ‘tis better to be alone than in bad company.”

-George Washington: *Rules of Civility*

