

# **The Soaring Eagle**



special edition  
Character Counts! Essays

**April 2006**

Someone once said “Quitters never win, and winners never quit.”

This means that you never give up, no matter how hard it is to achieve your goal.

For example, the 1980 USA Olympic hockey team pulled off one of the biggest upsets in sports history against the seemingly unbeatable Soviet Union. Reason they could do it? They didn’t quit. This quote would give the world a brighter future. If only everyone in the world had this attitude, the world be such a better place.

By Christopher

Grade 3

I feel the most important, timeless truth for everyday living is “Quitters never win, and winners never quit.” I like the saying because quitters will never succeed and if you win you should not quit because you are good. In my opinion if you try your best you will be good, if you don’t try you will never succeed. I never heard of a quitter who wins, but a winner wins if they try. I think that people never try sometimes. They should always try it before they quit. Winners try and try. They never quit and they get better each time they practice and if they keep trying they will succeed.

In wrestling I am very good. I played 12 matches and won 10 of them. When I lost I wasn’t happy, but I didn’t quit, I just tried harder in my next match.

At the beginning of the baseball season, I wasn’t so good at pitching. I didn’t want to do it anymore, but I kept practicing pitching with my dad every day after school and by the end of the season I was improving a lot!

I feel this way because the times I’ve lost I’ve learned sometimes you win, sometimes you lose. I believe losing sometimes builds character. I think winners have lost at least once and that’s what made them try harder.

By Nico

Grade 3

“Quitters never win, and winners never quit!” I think this quote from an unknown author is the best because if you keep trying you win. If you succeed you will be happy. Don’t be mad because it is just a game.

I think that you should not stop trying because if you keep trying you could win. My friend and I played chess and he kept on winning and I kept on trying until I won. It does not matter if you win or lose because it is just a game. Once I played baseball and I lost but I thought it was just a game.

I believe that this quote from an unknown is special because if you keep trying you can win. If you succeed you will feel happy. Don’t be mad if you lose because it is just a game. “Quitters never win and winners never quit.”

By Michael

Grade 3

“When one helps another both gain in strength!” I believe this quote from an Ecuadorian proverb is the best because people gain trust, they are working, and they have teamwork.

First you gain the other person’s trust because you are depending on the other person to do their part. You are gaining the other person’s trust because you are working together. They feel stronger because it is easier to clean up. My mom and me try to do the Character Counts! quote which is citizenship by cleaning up our home and gaining each other’s trust.

Another reason is that when you are doing a job it gets done faster because 4 hands are better than 2. You would feel stronger if you had a helper because you will be done in a snap. My mom and me both cleaned the house together and it felt like I did it in two seconds.

Finally you will have teamwork if you work together. You have teamwork because you are both helping each other. My mom and me always have teamwork because we all depend on each other.

I feel this quote from an Ecuadorian proverb is the best because people have teamwork, they are working, and they gain trust. “When one helps another both gain in strength.”

By Stephen  
Grade 3

An English proverb said “Don’t judge a book by its cover.” That means if someone looks different like their hair, eyes, clothes, skin color, and the friends they have, it doesn’t matter you could still be their friend. Also don’t judge by what school they go to or their family. Judge THEIR personality. Just because they are different doesn’t mean you can’t be their friend or you will probably miss out on a good friendship.

One example is Martin Luther King. He got judged by his colored skin. It was not fair. Whites and blacks couldn’t go to the same restrooms or drink out of the water fountains. Rosa Parks tried to fight for her country. If everyone followed that quote, it would make the world a better place because it would make the Statue of Liberty have a good meaning and there would be a lot less fights. I feel good about this quote because it teaches a very, very good lesson!

By Claire

Grade 3

I believe the phrase “Don’t judge a book by its cover” means you should not judge people by how they look, dress, comb their hair or if they are from a different country.

I would not like it if someone judged me because I had curly hair or if I speak a little different from other people. People need to learn about other people before they make an opinion of them. There are a lot of people out there that are very smart and very nice that may not have the money to buy nice clothes or get a nice hair cut but that does not make them a bad person. When a person judges another person before they get to know them they are really judging just what they see and not what they know about that person and that is not right. The phrase “Don’t judge a book by it’s cover” really means you should not judge a person by their color, heritage, race, religion and financial up bring.

Now knowing what this phrase means I know not to judge anyone by how they look, where they are from or what color they are. I will try to learn as much as I can about that person and respect them even if we don’t see eye-to-eye. I would hate to loose a friendship because I judged someone before I really got to know that person. So in the future, I will take the time needed to learn and understand a person before I decide to be their friend or not their friend.

By Gianna  
Grade 4

I have selected “If we had no winter, the spring wouldn’t be so pleasant” for my essay. The meaning of this phrase is that if we didn’t have to experience the cold winter then we wouldn’t enjoy spring as much as we do.

This phrase applies to all aspects of my life. If I didn’t work so hard at school, I wouldn’t enjoy my free time as much. If we lose a soccer game one day and the next game we win, the win seems more rewarding. Winning sports doesn’t always come easy and you have to practice hard to get better. Soccer practice is like the “winter” and scoring a goal is like the “spring” in the phrase I selected.

I think the author of this phrase wanted to point out an important lesson in life. That lesson is that we have to experience unpleasant experiences to appreciate the pleasant experiences even more. For example, when you feel better after being sick, it is a great feeling.

I am going to remember this phrase anytime I am working hard at school or soccer practice and remember how I felt after I received a good grade or won an important game.

By Matt  
Grade 4

### **“Don’t Judge a Book by its Cover.”**

“Don’t judge a book by its cover” means that you shouldn’t judge people by how they look. You shouldn’t be scared to talk to someone that looks different, because they could be really nice. Also, someone might act really nice to you or really nice at school, but they might act mean to others when they’re not at school.

Once I asked my mom to get me a game called “Snafu” that looked really fun and easy. I really wanted it and waited a long time to get it. But when I got it, it wasn’t as fun as it looked. It was also harder than I thought. Sometimes you don’t know what something is going to be like until you try it.

I learned that I should be nice to people who look or act different. I also don’t think that just because someone looks cool that they are always nice. We shouldn’t judge people until we get to know them. It’s what is inside a person that matters.

I also learned that if something looks really good, you should check it out first, because it might not be as good as you think. I shouldn’t ask for something that I don’t know about just because it looks good on a commercial. I won’t judge things too quickly next time.

By Thomas  
Grade 4

I love to read. That's why I chose the quote "Don't judge a book by its cover." It applies to both books and people. A book cover may be really plain and boring, but when you open it up it's really exciting. A person may seem really drab and mean, but when you get to know him or her you find they may be pretty cool.

When Martin Luther King Jr., was alive he believed people should not be judged by the color of their skin, but by their character. This started the Civil Rights Movement. Even today some people still are not treated equally by others.

I think that no one should be judged unfairly. I think that the world would be a better place if we didn't judge each other. So if you meet someone who seems unfriendly, get to know them, you may have a new friend. Next time you see a book with a dull cover, pick it up!

By Alison

Grade 4

### **“Don’t Judge a Book by its Cover.”**

I chose to write my essay on the English proverb “Don’t judge a book by its cover”. This proverb means you shouldn’t judge someone by how they look, talk, or their race. When you get to know someone by talking or doing things with them that’s when you know who they really are.

I have been taught in class and have seen that others judge people by how they appear before getting to know them. For example, Rosa Parks and other African Americans were judged by the color of their skin. They did not get treated fairly because of their color. Another example was the men’s 1980 Olympic hockey team. No one thought they were going to win because they were young and then they won gold. They proved everyone wrong and people gave them respect they deserved. I try not to judge people by how they look. I choose my friends by how they act to other people. For example, I like my friends to be funny, active, and kind. I wish the rest of the world/classmates would treat people fairly and don’t judge people right away.

I think the world would be a better place if everyone treated others equally. Maybe we would have fewer wars or problems with other countries because maybe people would communicate better. If kids didn’t judge other kids on how they look, certain kids wouldn’t get picked on or teased. The kids who are different would not feel bad about themselves or about their differences.

We have a long way to go to live up to this English proverb. As a society we are improving the way we deal with others who are different from us. Everyone has to do their fair share to make the world a better place.

By Jack  
Grade 4

## Character Counts

Have you ever watched the Olympics and said to yourself “I wish that was me or I can do that”? It takes great sacrifice and lots of hard work to become an Olympic athlete. It’s much easier to watch it on T.V. than to actually participate. This is also the case when it comes to showing good character. Like Michael Josephson said, “Character is doing the right thing even when it costs more than you want to pay.” Or like Professor Dumbledore said, “It takes great deal to stand up to your enemies, but a great deal more to stand up to your friends.” Both quotes talk about work and sacrifice.

One time my friend was making fun of another kid that didn’t have many friends. At first it was funny, but then the kid had the saddest face I had ever seen. It hurt inside to know that I can stop this, but I didn’t want to take the chance of losing a friend. It just kept getting worse and worse. It also kept hurting more and more inside, until I decided to speak up. When I told my friend to stop, to my surprise he listened. I realized by making an effort I helped someone in need. I felt much better.

This problem may also occur when you litter or do something like cheat on a test or hurt someone. Deep down inside you know you can avoid this problem, but you’re just too lazy. Well that’s where you go wrong. If you think about what you did, you’ll probably realize that you’re hurting someone or something. If you don’t take the effort to do the right thing it will get worse and hurt more inside. It feels like you have 100 pounds on your shoulders. If you try to fix it, you’ll help someone or something and you’ll feel so good inside it will feel like you’re on top of the world. If you’re ever in a situation, like a friend is doing something you don’t like, or just being plain bad and causing trouble, the best thing to do is the thing that feels right inside. If you go the extra mile you will not only help someone in need, but you will feel a whole lot better inside. Everyone will want to be your friend. You will probably never win a gold medal in the Olympics, but if you proceed to do this throughout your life, you will always be a winner.

By Ronnie  
Grade 5

Racing through, chanting, “you got to win, you got to win”. But do you really? Is real success winning the game or losing in style? The confidence you have when you fail, but keep trying is real success, really. Remember, “Fall seven times, stand up eight.” “When life gets you down do you wanna know what you gotta do? Just keep swimming, swimming, swimming!” will help you soar. All the mistakes you made before are in the past. Look to the future as a clean slate that can let you be as good as you are.

Do you know what can fall many times, but stand up more? You can! According to the Japanese proverb, “Fall seven times, stand up eight”. This means that no matter how many times you fall or face problems, you will stand up or solve the problems.

Life can be very difficult and you will have times when you must face hard problems and falls. But, by facing them strongly, you will rise gain. No matter how many times you fall, you will stand up more.

In my life, I can relate this quote to some of my activities at Lorado Taft. At Lorado Taft we did an activity where we had to cross the “hot chocolate” river using “marshmallows”. But you wouldn’t let go of the marshmallows, somebody had to always be touching it. This related to the quote because we kept on failing, but we also kept on trying. I remember my group and I getting frustrated and started yelling. We lost marshmallows, some people fell into the hot chocolate, yet we didn’t give up. I believe this was a perfect example of my quote, “Fall seven times, stand up eight.” Another excellent example of my quote would be the colonists in the 1770’s. The colonists wanted their independence from the King so they protested, boycotted, made petitions, fought battles, and all that lead to the Revolutionary War. The colonists did these things many times even though the King came back at them by doing things like closing the Boston port (Intolerable Act). Colonists fought even harder for their independence after that. They fell many times, but in the end they stood up more.

Do you ever feel like giving up? If you do, just remember Dory’s quote, “When life gets you down do you wanna know what you gotta do? Just keep swimming, swimming, swimming.” In real life, it means keep trying. No matter what life gives you, just face it. Backing out wouldn’t get you where you need to be. Be strong and do it.

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Swimming, Swimming, Swimming! Going, going, going! Keep it up! Dory's quote relates to my life during my soccer games. My team, Bloomingdale Lightning, isn't very talented while we are on a defensive play. So naturally, the opposite team has many chances on goal, making the goalie (sometimes me) have a tough time. Especially when we lose. Lightning may be a last place team, but we just kept going, going, going! Also when Mr. Parry tells us that the mile run is coming, I'm calm. But once I'm at the starting point, I'm a nervous wreck! I dislike the so called "perfect running weather" that we always run in. It makes my nose run. Yuk! Running against the wind, I keep going, going, going. I'm almost there! Yes! Made it! Failure = Determination = Success! What? Yes, that's what my two quotes mean. When you think deeply about these two quotes, you will learn something. That you need to make mistakes to create the magic of succeeding. "Fall seven times, stand up eight." Look at your mistake, think about how to fix it. Research the subject or ask an expert. Knowledge is power, so drink it up! Stand up that eighth time! "When life gets you down, do you wanna know what you gotta do? Just keep swimming, swimming, swimming!" Never bring yourself down because you didn't reach the finish line first. You passed it and that's really winning because you didn't give up. Winning is crossing the finish line of your goal. Keep working on your goal. Try, try, try. Succeed, succeed, succeed.

By Kaitlyn  
Grade 5

Fall. Stand up. Fall. Stand up. Try, try, succeed. No matter what happens, you can not give up,. Not matter how many obstacles get in your way, you have to persevere through them. "If at first you don't succeed, try, try again" and "Fall seven times, stand up eight" are very powerful to this subject. If you can believe in yourself, anything is possible.

What do you do if at first you don't succeed? "If at first you don't succeed, try, try again". This means you have to keep going until you get it.

When I hear, "If at first you don't succeed, try, try again," I feel like anything is possible. For me, this quote helps me succeed in sports. Whether it's hitting the ball, scoring a goal, making a basket, or winning a race, I don't always make it on my first try. If I don't make it, I stay calm and keep trying until I reach my goal. An example of someone else who kept trying is the little engine who thought he could. The little engine tiredly, kept trying until he made it up the mountain. Even when others don't succeed, they try, try again.

Bam! Bam! Bam! Bam! Bam! Bam! Bam! Every time you fall down you need to stand up. "Fall seven times, stand up eight". If you fall down, you have to stand up.

Until you stop falling a lot, you have to keep standing up. When I'm riding a horse, and it throws me off, I get back on, even though I'm hurt. Even if I'm a little bit scared when I get back on and enjoy my ride because I love horse-back riding. If it was your favorite sport or hobby, would you give it up because you kept getting hurt from it? Sometimes after I fall, I want to do something about it, so I ride a different horse next time. If you don't do anything about it, it will keep happening again and again. The more times you fall, the more times you stand up.

When you hear "if at first you don't succeed, try, try again" or "fall seven times, stand up eight" what do you think? Do you think they will teach you a lot about success and failure? Even if you fall, you can try again. If you have a goal that you are afraid to achieve because you think you'll get hurt or in trouble from, see what you can do to make it work out better. If you are determined and learn from your mistakes, you are on the road to success. If you quit, or give up, you'll never be able to reach your goal. If you keep working, pushing, and believing, success will find you. After you succeed, failure will be part of the past. You don't need to compete against anyone but yourself. Remember, be the best you can be and success will come easily.

By Mary

Grade 5

# Character Counts!

In our journey of life there are many challenges and no one wants failure. Quotes help you believe in yourself. When saying the quote "Quitters never win and winners never quit" you're saying never quit and you'll win a game or the feeling that you kept trying and accomplished your goal. "Fall seven times, stand up eight", means when you fail, which is like falling, you just have to get up and try again and when you keep trying you fail less than when you don't try. Well these are quotes that help you have respect in yourself. The quotes show you to have faith in yourself.

When saying, "quitters never win and winners never quit" it means if you quit doing something to reach your goal you never win and get a chance to feel good about yourself because the more you quit, the lower self esteem you have. Let's say if you are trying to get across the monkey bars and you quit, you never got the chance to win and be able to have the feeling to know you kept trying to do something and accomplished it. Quitting something never get you anywhere in life.

"Fall seven times, stand up eight" is a Japanese proverb that is used to show that you try more than when you fail. Even though it says fall seven times and stand up eight, it really means fall as many as it takes to stand up and try once more. If you are trying to climb a tree but slip on the twigs and branches and fall, but you keep trying, you never stop because you want to climb that tree. Falling will stop you but standing up makes you one step closer to your goal.

Quitting a task makes you lose self-esteem and feel worse and worse about yourself regretting everything you do, so that's why you just keep trying to complete it. Snowboarding is a very difficult sport. With this sport you really have to have patience with yourself and never give up. Do you think sport legends like Walter Payton, Michael Jordan, or Babe Ruth became what they were just by quitting? I don't think so! You must remember not to be discouraged and remember what inspired you in the first place.

The quotes "quitters never win and winners never quit" and "fall seven times, stand up eight" help you understand how hard you have to work to achieve your goal. Remember to have faith in yourself. If you don't succeed by yourself ask someone to help. Say these quotes to yourself when you get discouraged. But the most important thing of all, have PATIENCE!

By Gabbie  
Grade 5

## QUOTES

“Don’t stop”. My quotes mean never stop. The quotes that I’ve chosen are “When life gets you down...just keep swimming, swimming, and swimming”. And “fall seven times, get up eight.” Listen to those quotes and never let anyone push you around. Journey more into the quote world. “Swim! Swim! Swim!” Quote number one is “When life gets you down...just keep swimming and swimming.” The part “When life gets you down...” means that you should not let anything get you down. The part “just keep swimming” means that you should not let anyone stop you from doing anything that your heart desires. In other words, keep looking forward in life. Also don’t let the wind get out of your sail by the disappointments in life. Whatever happens to you, don’t give up! By continually trying you can achieve your goals.

“Serve! Bump! Set!” That reminds me of a recent experience I had trying to get the volleyball over the net in school. I kept trying and began to prosper. At first I thought the ball would hurt when I hit it with my hands. Then I realized it wouldn’t hurt, so I started to bump the ball but the ball wasn’t going in the right direction. After bumping the ball several times I could control the ball’s direction. I started to get into the game. As a result, the game progressed and my teammates started to bump the ball to me. My confidence grew. When it was my turn to serve I felt comfortable and was able to hit the ball over the net!

“Ouch!” Falling can hurt sometimes but you should always get back up. Quote #2 is “fall seven times get up eight”, which is the same as “If at first you don’t succeed try, try again.”

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All and all, both quotes mean just keep trying and never give up. No matter how many times you fail just keep trying and you will succeed. When you do succeed, all those other times you failed really paid off. The next time I fail, I will try again. "Keep on trucking."

"One and two and ...Fall." When I was 5 I had a hard time doing the monkey bars. I kept falling right in the middle. My arms felt so numb and sore. Some days I came back with my cousin Nick. We tried and tried, then we came back many times but never gave up. Eventually we made it all the way across the monkey bars together. We were so proud we had to show our moms. After that we both yelled with excitement "Ya-hoo!" One and two and three and .....clap!

"Don't stop believing." Both my quotes prove the point that life is not always easy. Life can be difficult but through continued effort you can succeed. Both my quotes mean keep trying and don't stop. I've tried to apply my life so I can prosper. Use the same technique in your life so that you can prevail.

By Tommy  
Grade 5