

TRUISMS



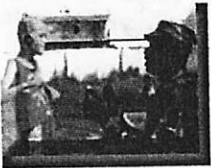
003. Even sad things are important.



124. Life has many kinds of tests.



152. Fathers have incredible dreams for their sons.



161. Music can form amazing bonds between people.



122. Sometimes ideas that seem crazy work best.



136. People create their own punishments.

Truisms: Life lessons, thematic statements, usually in third person present tense.

finding them in
what we read;
planting them in
what we
write

"I've learned that no matter what happens, or how bad it seems today, life does go on, and it will be better tomorrow. I've learned that you can tell a lot about a person by the way he/she handles these three things: a rainy day, lost luggage, and tangled Christmas tree lights. I've learned that regardless of your relationship with your parents, you'll miss them when they're gone from your life. I've learned that making a "living" is not the same thing as making a "life." I've learned that life sometimes gives you a second chance. I've learned that every day you should reach out and touch someone. I've learned that whenever I decide mitt on both hands; you need to be able to throw something back. I've learned that even when I have something with an open heart, I usually make the right decision. I've learned that I still have a lot to learn. People love a warm hug, or just a friendly pat on the back. I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."

—Maya Angelou

a life lesson;
a universal (debateable) truth;
AKA a thematic statement



138. Some places have a magic all their own.



135. Winning means more than a score.



106. There is no higher love we can show another person than to teach them something.



46. You can't know how rich you are until you lose everything.



211. Betrayal by a friend cuts more deeply than an attack by an enemy.



001. Our families help make us who we are.

Write one:

Sometimes in life, _____

Truism Generator:

Concept words
1. freedom

One positive thing about it
It's great to freely make choices

One negative thing about it -
Sometimes freedom leads to bad decisions.

- 2. _____
- 3. _____
- 4. _____
- 5. _____
- 6. _____

After reading *The Tempest*, students browsed through truisms from *Lightning in a Bottle*. They chose a truism, then asked themselves, "Which character would think this is true?" That's how they cast the characters with the truisms. So some of the following truisms are from *Lightning in a Bottle*, but some of them are written by students.

They wrote short (26-line) essays as the characters, explaining the truism, using their experiences from the story.

1. There's no telling where the road will take you. (Ariel, connection by Claire)
2. Romance doesn't change, no matter what culture, no matter what century. (Miranda, Ferdinand, Prospero..connection by Anael)
3. Even when people share a common goal, ambition sets them against each other (Antonio and Prospero, connection by William).
4. Sometimes the most confusing things make sense (Evan, for Prospero).
5. Almost anything can be overcome, if you put your mind to it. (Miriam for Prospero)
6. People have to do some things alone (Prospero by Lindsay).
7. When you fall in love, you're willing to look more foolish than any other time in life (Miranda by Lindsay).
8. Sometimes life gives you signs of things to come (Trinculo by Lindsay).
9. People have to find their own path (Ariel by Lindsay).
10. Jealousy is our choice, the way we choose to see things (Caliban by Lindsay).
11. Sometimes beauty is the first thing to catch your eye (Ferdinand and Miranda by Lindsay).
12. Being evil is fun (Antonio by Ben).
13. No dreams are greater than parents' dreams for their children (Miranda and Prospero by Anael).
14. We are defined by what we discover (Ariel by Talia).

Levels of Truisms

1. Obvious
Friends are important.

2 Clear
Friends can be the most important part of life.

3 Interesting
Friendships can change during your life.

4 Thought-provoking
Friends can hurt your feelings more than you think.

For more information:

Lesson 1 in Reviving THE ESSAY
p.88 in Crunchtime

Where can you put truisms?



brought to you by Gretchen Bernabei
gretchen.bernabei@gmail.com