

# Funeral Poems and Readings

## **A Mother's Love**

**Joy Allen - Funeral Celebrant © 2018**

You welcomed me into this world  
Your tiny bundle of joy  
Your nurtured me with kindness and love  
Gave me the best childhood memories and toys.

At school you helped at the canteen  
Sewed sports uniforms for lots of teams  
You quietly stood along the sidelines  
Always encouraging our sporting dreams.

We didn't ask about your day  
You cooked, you cleaned, you laboured  
You were there when we arrived home  
Home cooking treats we savoured.

As we grew to young adults  
To find our way in the life  
You allowed us freedom to make our choices  
Praying it wouldn't end in strife.

You taught life lessons in your quiet ways  
Be considerate, kind, lend a hand  
Love the environment and its precious resources  
For we all share this promised land.

Your legacy will live on  
In generations now and to come  
We love you Mum for all you've done  
Rest easy now – your time is done.

## **Cry Not For Me**

**Ruth Van Gramberg**

Shadows fall upon the world of my loved ones  
They no longer see the dew upon the rose  
The sun has slipped behind a darkened rain cloud  
Their souls are clenched in pain as sorrow grows  
From the surface of their minds they have set forth  
Pursuing each daily chore with melancholy face  
That yields no more, no less than asked  
And yet, I long to reach right out and say aloud  
Cry not for me my friends, hear the music in my heart  
And kiss my memory- *'Farewell'*.

I have lived so well upon this earth  
I have followed many paths to reach the sun  
If I had troubles, or pain, or heartaches  
I cherished more the smiles, a thousand more, when one  
Had said to me in friendship – *'I wish you well!'*  
They were sweet words I treasured long.  
To the hilltops, to the clouds to the moon and stars  
beyond  
To a pasture glistening with fresh rain – I run  
So, cry not for me, my friends, hear the music in my  
heart  
And kiss my memory *'Farewell'*.

## **Because Of You**

**Faye Kilday**

Because of you,  
The world is a much nicer place.  
Because of you,  
I have faith in the human race.  
Because of you,  
I know what it means to love unconditionally.  
Because of you,  
I know what it means to give unselfishly.  
Because of you,  
I believe in magic and mystery and worlds unseen.  
Because of you,  
There is joy - wherever you are and have ever been.  
And all because of you!

## **I'm Glad You Are My Sister**

**Judith L Sloan**

When I say to someone  
"She is my sister ...."  
It is impossible to keep the warmth from my voice  
Or the love from my eyes.  
I not only admire you,  
But like you as well;  
We share a bond even more unbreakable than that of  
family ....  
To have lived through the pains of growing up  
together and still be able to say these words is quite  
amazing.  
Too many sisters cannot say them  
But we are closer now than ever  
And I want you to know that I am very, very glad you  
are my sister.

## **After Glow**

**Author unknown**

I'd like the memory of me  
To be a happy one.  
I'd like to leave an afterglow  
Of smiles when life is done.  
I'd like to leave an echo,  
Whispering softly down the ways.  
Of happy times and laughing times  
And bright and sunny days.  
I'd like the tears of those who grieve  
To dry before the sun.  
Of happy memories that I leave  
When my life is done.

### **Sometimes (Footsteps)**

**Maggie Dent**

Sometimes, on our journey through life  
We meet people, who leave footprints on our mind  
They challenge us to see things differently  
And to question our personal reality.

Sometimes, on our journey through life  
We meet people, who leave footprints on our heart  
They create a safe place for us  
To open our hearts to feel loved and special.

Then sometimes, on our journey through life  
We meet people who leave footprints on our souls  
They share themselves with us so profoundly  
That they touch the very essence of who we are  
In that secret quiet place.

(Insert name) has left gentle footprints on the minds,  
hearts and souls of many here today  
May we always remember  
The beauty of her love, her kindness and  
The sacred way she touched our lives.

### **Don't Cry For Me**

**Carol Pool**

Don't cry for me now that I'm not here  
I've just gone beyond to somewhere quite near  
My troubled soul now freed from pain  
Has now returned from whence it came  
I've taken now't with me, nothing new, nothing old  
But the love you gave me and the memories I hold  
Those are the things that mattered to me  
But I was blind - I could not see  
So stretch out your hand, help another in strife  
And something worthwhile, will be gained from my  
life!

### **In Memory**

**Author unknown**

God saw that you were weary .....  
He knew you'd had your share.  
He gently closed your tired eyes,  
And took you in His care.

Away to the beautiful somewhere,  
Sheltered from sorrow and pain.  
You rest in Gods beautiful garden.....  
Until we meet again.

### **Families**

**Author unknown**

Family – What comfort the word implies  
Family by blood, by obligation, by necessity  
By desire, and sometimes when one is very lucky – by  
Love.

It is a word that implies solidity.

A rock, solid foundation  
A place to go home to – to grow away from  
And yet, remember and hang onto.

The memories like painted Ivory from a single tusk  
And softer ones faded sometimes so dim as to be  
almost forgotten

And yet, never to be ignored or left behind.

The place one begins, and hopes to end...

The thing one works hard to build on one's own...

The pieces like building blocks, reaching high into the  
sky...

Family... what images that conjures...

What memories .... beautiful memories... What  
dreams!!

### **Miss Me, But Let Me Go**

**Author unknown**

When I come to the end of the road  
And the sun has set for me  
I want no rites in a gloom-filled room  
Why cry for a soul set free.

Miss me a little, but not too long  
And not with your head bowed low,  
Remember the love that we once shared.  
Miss me – but let me go.

For this is a journey that we all must take  
And each must go alone.  
It's all part of the Master's plan,  
A step on the road to home.

When you are lonely and sick of heart,  
Go to the friends we know  
And bury your sorrows in doing good deeds,  
Miss me – but let me go.

### **When Life Comes To An End**

**Ruth Van Gramberg**

When Life comes to an end, when all seasons are spent...  
When death comes and claims its right, to say to me  
"This is the End!"  
I want to step through that door, full of curiosity,  
wondering  
What is it going to be like ... that unknown realm of  
obscurity?  
I will then look upon the past, as no more than an idea  
– a fleeting span,  
That started some yesterday and raced through years  
concealed.  
When it's over, I want to say – Yes, that was Me!!  
I had gazed around with 'amazement', searching for  
answers  
I lived, I breathed, I felt and touched ... I followed  
many a dream!  
And, when it's over, I don't want to wonder if I made  
my existence  
Something particular, something unreal or something  
notable...  
I don't want to leave ashamed or frightened,  
imploping 'one *more day*'!  
To rectify some worthless deed...  
I don't want to end up simply having visited this  
terrain and failed.  
I want to leave – having stained it with my struggles, a  
palette of varied hues,  
I shared, simply or expansively, wildly or silently, with  
payments and dues,  
Life's complexities and triumphs hand in hand  
As I did exist - from birth till now! And, it was 'Grand'!!  
Pages brushed elusively with music, tears and mirth  
I hungered for the unknown, and sought what  
touched my soul...  
*And proudly leave it 'Spectacular', for having lived and  
loved upon this earth!*

### **Because I Fly**

**Brian Shul**

I laugh more than other men  
I look up and see more than they I know how the  
clouds feel  
What it's like to have the blue in my lap  
To look down on birds  
To feel freedom  
Who but I can slice between God's billowed legs?  
Who else has seen unclimbed peaks?  
The rainbow's secrets?  
The real reason birds sing?  
Because I fly, I envy no man on earth.

### **A Long Cup Of Tea**

**Michael Ashby [www.thefuneralpoem.com](http://www.thefuneralpoem.com)**

Death is too negative for me  
So I'll be popping off for a long cup of tea  
Do splash out on two bags in the pot  
And for my god's sake keep the water hot  
Please pick the biggest mug you can find  
Size really does matter at this time  
I'll pass on the lapsang with that souchong  
And that stuff with bergamot  
And stick with my favourite friend  
You know the English breakfast blend  
Breakfast! thanks for reminding me  
There's just time before I fail  
To stand on ceremony  
Two rashers of best back, Should keep me  
Smelling sweet up the smokestack  
So, mother, put the kettle on for me  
It's time, mother, for my long cup of tea.

### **Buried With My Mobile Phone**

**Michael Ashby [www.funeralpoem.com](http://www.funeralpoem.com)**

I want to be buried with my mobile phone  
To ring in the changes at my new home  
With central heating and a marble ensuite  
And thermal sock for my poor cold feet  
I'll be able to give in to a takeaway  
And watch favourite movies on a rainy day  
And if I'm feeling a bit under the weather  
I'll talk to you until I begin to feel better  
I've party hats, fairy cakes and songs to sing  
In case somebody should drop in  
Which is more likely than you'd think  
As my coffin roof is on the blink.  
I'll be leaving you now as I've a waiting call  
From my friend over by the cemetery wall  
I watched this service yesterday through my periscope  
Burying him with his mobile for a joke  
But he'll have the last laugh  
When his bill drops through their door  
Fourteen hundred and forty minutes a day for eternity  
and evermore.

### **When I Am Dead, Cry For Me A Little**

**Author unknown**

When I am dead  
Cry for me a little  
Think of me sometimes  
But not too much.  
Think of me now and again  
As I was in life.  
At some moments it's pleasant to recall  
But not for long  
Leave me in peace  
And I shall leave you in peace  
And while you live let your thoughts be with the living.

**God Saw****Author unknown**

God saw the road was getting rough,  
The hill was hard to climb;  
He gently closed those loving eyes  
And whispered "Peace Be Thine."

The weary hours, the days of pain,  
The sleepless nights have passed;  
The ever patient worn-out frame  
Has found sweet rest at last.

God Saw that you were weary  
So He did what He knows best.  
He came and stood beside you,  
And whispered, "Come and rest."

**Moving On****David Harkins**

You can shed tears that she/he has gone  
Or you can smile because she/he has lived.  
You can close your eyes and pray she/he will come  
back

Or you can open your eyes and see all that she/he has  
left you.

Your heart can be empty because you can't see  
her/him

Or you can be full of the love that you have shared.

You can turn your back on tomorrow and live  
yesterday

Or you can be happy for tomorrow because of  
yesterday.

You can remember her/him and only that she/he has  
gone

Or you can cherish her/his memory and let it live on.

You can cry and close your mind, be empty and turn  
your back

Or you can do what he/she would want you to do .....

Smile, open your eyes, live and go on.

**As Long As We Can Dream****Author unknown**

As long as we can dream, as long as we can think

As long as we have memory

We will love you

As long as we have eyes to see and ears to hear and  
lips to speak

We will love you

As long as we have a heart to feel, a soul stirring  
within us,

And imagination to hold you

We will love you.

As long as there is time,

As long as there is love and as long as we have breath  
to speak your name

We will love you.

**Today Is A Gift****Laszlo Kotro-Kosztandi**

Many people will walk in and out of your life,  
But only true friends will leave footprints in your heart  
To handle yourself, use your head;  
To handle others, use your heart.

Anger is only one letter short of danger.

If someone betrays you twice, it is your fault

Great minds discuss events;

Small minds discuss people.

He who loses money, loses much;

He who loses a friend, loses much more;

He who loses faith, loses all.

Beautiful old people are works of art.

Learn from the mistakes of others

You can't live long enough to make them all yourself.

Friends, you and me ... you brought another friend ...

and we started our group ... our circle of friends ... and

like a circle ... there is no beginning or end ...

Yesterday is history.

Tomorrow is mystery.

Today is a gift.

**Best Friends Are Forever!****Author unknown**

I sit alone thinking of you

And all the things we've both been through

You are my soul mate, my very best friend

And I know you'll be there until the end

Although we're going separate ways

you're in my heart till my final days

Nothing can make a person see

How special a friend you are to me.

We've been together through good and bad

You made me laugh when I was sad

And no one else could ever be

As good of a friend as you are to me.

**The Clock Of Life****Robert H Smith**

The clock of life is wound but once,

And no one has the power

To tell just where the hands will stop

At late, or early hour.

To lose one's wealth is sad indeed,

To lose one's health is more

To lose one's soul is such a loss

As no one can restore.

The present only is our own

To seek to do God's will,

Tomorrow holds no promise,

For The clock may then be still.

**I Leave ...It Is My Time*****Ruth Van Gramberg***

I need to leave, no anguish, no trace of being  
 Of having unreservedly experienced and loved  
 I must not tarry, nor linger for the final scene  
 As I was never 'comfy' with any saddened word  
 I need to fly this land,  
 Leave no imprint on sand  
 As silently as a whisper, without sign – unheard.  
 Turn pages in an Album – if you must  
 Remember with a smile, but leave no frame  
 As comprehension of the 'once that was'  
 Would unsuspectingly – freely gather dust  
 Do not fear for me, for I have severed earthly ties  
 I cannot change or trick the mechanism  
 Nor ponder on the contrite 'might have been'  
 As I – just I, perceived what lay before my eyes.  
 Wrong or Right – I was my 'jury' it would seem  
 No feigned regret or impassioned woe implore  
 It's time to leave – I now entreat you please  
 Say 'Farewell' and softly close the door!

**Lines Of Comfort*****Author unknown***

Bless you for all your kindness, for all you've done for  
 me,  
 For little courtesies of heart  
 With no one near to see.  
 For moments when without your smile I would have  
 lost my way,  
 For these and all the other things, bless you, my  
 dear/family/friends, I say.  
 Bless you for all the nights of prayer and watch when I  
 was ill,  
 When faith shines like a steady light  
 In long dark hours and still.  
 And bless you for your morning smile when dawn  
 breaks clear at last.  
 Oh bless you, dear, stay in my heart, where I will hold  
 you fast.

**Memories And Peace*****Gloria Matthew***

Why smile in such sadness?  
 It's because of the memories, of laughter, shared in  
 the past.  
 The humour of life,  
 The fun and the joy,  
 The reminiscences certain to last, Why relief in such  
 sadness?  
 It's because there is peace  
 With no more chance of pain No-one can hurt, nor  
 take away  
 There will never be fear again.

**The Man Was A Success*****adaptation from Ralph Waldo***

ell, laughed often and loved much;  
 He has gained the respect of intelligent men and  
 women and the love of children;  
 He has filled his niche and accomplished his task;  
 He leaves the world better than he found it,  
 He has never lacked appreciation for Earth's beauty or  
 failed to express it;  
 He looked for the best in others' and gave the best he  
 had.

**Death Is Nothing At All*****Henry Scott Holland***

I have slipped away into the next room.....  
 I am I... and you are you...  
 Whatever we were to each other, which we are still....  
 Call me by my old familiar name, speak to me in the  
 easy way you always used  
 Put no difference into your tone wear no forced air of  
 solemnity or sorrow.  
 Laugh as we always laughed at the little jokes we  
 enjoyed together.  
 Play, smile, think of me, pray for me  
 Let my name be ever the household word that it  
 always was.  
 Let it be spoken without effect without the ghost of a  
 shadow on it.  
 Life means all that it ever meant it is the same it ever  
 was;  
 There is absolute unbroken continuity.  
 What is this death but a negligible accident?  
 Why should I be out of mind because I am out of  
 sight?  
 I am but waiting for you  
 For an interval somewhere very near, just around the  
 corner  
 All is well.

### **Memories Are A Treasure**

**Author unknown**

Memories are a treasure time cannot take away,  
So may you all be surrounded by happy ones today.  
May all the love and tenderness of golden years well  
spent,  
Come back today to fill your hearts with beauty and  
content.

May you walk down memory lane and meet the one  
you love,  
For while you cannot see her, she'll be watching from  
above.

And if you trust your dreaming your faith will make it  
true,

And if you listen with your heart she'll come and talk  
to you.

So, for her sake be happy and show her that her love  
Has proven strong and big enough to reach down  
from above

You will never walk alone when memories door sways  
wide

For you will find that your (*wife ... relationship*) is  
always at your side.

### **When Tomorrow Starts Without Me**

**David M Romano**

When tomorrow starts without me  
And I'm not there to see  
If the sun should rise and find your eyes  
All filled with tears for me.

I wish so much you wouldn't cry  
The way you do today  
While thinking of the many things  
We didn't get to say.

I know how much you love me  
As much I love you  
And each time that you think of me  
I know you miss me too.

But when tomorrow starts without me  
Please try to understand  
That an Angel came and called my name  
And took me by the hand.

And said my place was ready  
In heaven far above  
And that I'd have to leave behind  
All those I dearly love.

So when tomorrow starts without me  
Don't think we're far apart  
For every time you think of me  
I'm right there in your heart.

### **My Hands Were Busy**

**Author unknown**

My hands were busy through the day,  
I didn't have much time to play.  
The little games you asked me to,  
I didn't have much time for you.

I'd wash your clothes; I'd sew and cook,  
But when you'd bring your picture book,  
And ask me, please, to share your fun,  
I'd say, "Yes, later, little one".

I'd tuck you in all safe at night,  
and hear your prayers, turn out the light.  
Then tip-toe softly to the door,  
I wished I'd stayed a minute more.

For life is short and years rush past,  
A little child grows up so fast.  
No longer are they at your side,  
Their precious secrets to confide.

The picture books are put away.  
There are no children's games to play.  
No goodnight kiss, no prayers to hear,  
That all belongs to yesteryear.

My hands once busy, now lie still  
The days are long and hard to fill.  
I wish I might go back and do  
The little things you asked me to.

### **Around The Corner**

**Anders Lim**

Around the corner I have a friend, in this great city  
that has no end:  
yet days go by and weeks rush on  
and before I know it a year has gone,  
and I'll never see my old friend's face for life is swift  
and a terrible race.

He knows I like him just as well as in the days when I  
rang his bell  
and he rang mine, we were younger then,  
and now we are busy, tired men- tired with playing a  
foolish game,  
tired with trying to make a name.

"Tomorrow", I say, I will call on Jim just to show that  
I'm thinking of him.

But tomorrow comes and tomorrow goes,  
and the distance between us grows and grows.  
Around the corner-yet miles away,  
"Here's a telegram, sir" "Jim died today'."

And that's what we get, and deserve in the end,  
around the corner, a vanished friend.

### **Mothers Never Really Die**

***Helen Steiner Rice***

Death beckoned her with outstretched hands  
And whispered softly of an unknown land  
But she was not afraid to go  
For though the path she did not know  
She gently took death by the hand  
And journeyed to the Promised Land  
And there with steps so light and gay  
She polishes the sun by day  
And lights the stars that shine at night  
And keeps the moonbeams silvery bright  
For mothers never really die  
They just keep house up in the sky  
And in the heavenly home above  
They wait to welcome  
Those they love....

### **The Door That Never Closes**

***Rhaas***

There's a door that never closes, though it opens one way  
It's the door that leads to heaven at the end of life's long day.  
It's the threshold of forever where the heart is always glad,  
It's a respite for the weary and a comfort for the sad.  
It's the door to peace and healing and the door to joy and grace  
Where the Master greets each guest by name and with a warm embrace.  
And the loved ones who pass through into the light that's shining there  
Find a sweet and perfect home within our Father's loving care.

### **A Single, Perfect, Scarlet Rose**

***Author unknown***

A single, perfect, scarlet rose its petals damp with dew,  
Damp with nature's morning tears, as the tears we shed for you.  
The dawning of each newborn day will bring a longing to our hearts.  
A longing just to hear your voice that we miss now we're apart.  
Now our rose has died but her memory we retain,  
Her love for us will never die and in our hearts she will remain

### **Time**

***Patience Strong***

Tender and light is the touch  
Of time upon the wound of grief...  
Gentle the pressure of the years  
That bring the heart relief.  
Time from our memories draws the sting –  
Thus we forget the pain  
Only the sweetest recollections of the past remain.  
Dark turns to dawn and sight to songs,  
Harsh notes to harmony....  
Death leads to life and  
Love lives on through all eternity.

### **Message**

***Author unknown***

I leave myself to your memory, with love.  
I leave my thought, my laughter,  
my dreams; to you whom I have treasured.  
I give you what no thief can steal, the memories of our times together,  
the tender moments,  
the success we have shared,  
the hard times that brought us closer together  
and the road we have walked side by side.  
And all I take with me as I leave  
is your love and the millions of memories  
of all that we have shared  
so I truly enter my new life as a millionaire.  
Fear not nor grieve at my departure  
you whom I have loved so much for my roots and yours  
are forever intertwined.

### **Do Not Weep That I Have Gone**

***Author unknown***

Do not weep that I have gone, But rejoice that I have been.  
For I have known life, To its fullest measure.  
I have felt pain and I have known pleasure.  
Tears I have cried, in grief and in laughter.  
I have known love and all that comes after.  
I have tasted the salt and bitterness in tears.  
I've walked in the rain when the day is done,  
Felt soft summer breeze, the warmth of the sun.  
I've sat by the sea and heard waves pound  
Of the hand that is friendship  
And its richness abound.  
Yes I have known life and I will learn death,  
So weep not for me that I have gone  
But rejoice that I have been  
And that I have known you.

### **Yesterday, Today And Tomorrow**

**Author unknown**

#### **YESTERDAY**

You were in our midst - a loving, caring person.  
A pillar; a rock; a devoted and adored friend.  
Without our knowledge, you brought closure to your darkness.  
How we wish we could have looked deep into your eyes and willed you to stay;  
cemented your soul to ours; saved you from torment.

#### **TODAY**

There is a void. Disbelief. An absence.  
Gone from our lives, is what we cherished the most.  
Empty, puzzled and bereft, we suffer our loss together.  
Your burden of sadness has shifted to us.  
We search for answers in the hope that by sharing and understanding, we can somehow retrospectively lessen your anguish.  
Rest now, released from your pain.

#### **TOMORROW**

We will trudge on carefully and slowly, negotiating a safe route through an unknown path.  
We will try to let go of our anger, and any regrets; we will try not to lose our way.  
We will accept what we cannot change. We will be calm.  
We will hope for happiness.  
We will remember you, with love.

### **Give Me A Quiet Corner**

**Author unknown**

Give me a quiet corner and a little time to hear  
The singing of the birds from dawn to dusk  
throughout the year  
Give me a chance to think things out before it's time to go  
Give me a place where I can sit and see the sunset glow.  
Give me a cottage far from all the bustle of the town  
Give me a garden I can tend until the sun goes down  
Give me the opportunity to see the seasons turn  
Watching nature at work, there is so much to learn.  
Give me a window with a view that's beautiful to see  
Give me the joy of gathering my fruit from bush and tree.  
Give me good days and sleep-blessed nights  
When I have closed the door and anyone can have the world  
I'll never ask for more.

### **Don't Remember Me With Sadness**

**Author unknown**

Don't remember me with sadness  
Don't remember me with tears  
Remember me with the laughter  
We shared throughout the years  
Then when the summer's sunshine  
Awakes the flowers in bloom  
I will walk that light from heaven  
Around the corners of every room.  
Do the things we did before  
The same in every way  
Just whisper a little prayer to me  
At the dawn of every day.  
Just think of me as present  
Don't think of me as past  
For a friend's love is a blessing  
In death it still can last.  
Forget your troubles and your worries  
They are mine forever more  
I will watch, care for and love you  
From heavens open door  
And when your road gets rough and rocky  
Or you are down and need a crutch  
Remember I am right beside you  
And love you all so much.



**If I Be The First Of Us To Die****Author unknown**

If I be the first of us to die, let grief not blacken your sky.  
Be bold yet modest in your grieving.  
There is a change but not a leaving,  
For just as death is part of life,  
The dead live on forever in the living.  
And all the gathered riches of our journey,  
The moments shared, the mysteries explored,  
The steady layering of intimacy stored,  
The things that made us laugh or weep or sing,  
The joy of the first unfurling of the spring.  
The wordless language of look and touch, the knowing.  
Each giving and each taking, these are not flowers that fade,  
Nor trees that fall and crumble, nor are they stone,  
For even stone cannot the wind and rain withstand  
And, mighty mountain peaks in time reduce to sand.  
What we were, we are. What we had, we have.  
A conjoined past imperishably present.  
So when you walk where we once walked together,  
And scan in vain for my shadow,  
Or pause where we always did  
Upon the hill to gaze across the land,  
And spotting something reach by habit for my hand,  
And finding none, feel sorrow start to steal upon you.  
Be still, close your eyes. Breathe.  
Listen for my footfall in your heart,  
I am not gone but merely walking within you.

**An Airman's Prayer****Author unknown**

My God, this night I have to fly and ere I leave the ground.  
I come with reverence to Thy throne where perfect peace is found.  
I thank Thee for the life I've had, for home and all its love  
I thank Thee for the faith I have that cometh from above  
Come with me now into the air, be with me as I fly.  
Guide Thou each move that I shall make way up there in the sky  
And should it be my time to die, be with me at the end  
Help me to die a Christian's death, on Thee, God,  
I depend Then as I leave this mortal frame, from human ties set free  
Receive my soul, O God of love, I humbly come to thee.

**To Those Whom I Love And Who Love Me****Mary Ramish**

When I am gone, release me, let me go  
I have so many things to see and do.  
You must not tie yourself to me with tears,  
Be happy that we had so many years.  
I gave you my love, you can only guess  
How much you gave me in happiness.  
I thank you for the love you each have shown,  
But now it is time I travelled on alone.  
So grieve a while for me, if grieve you must  
Then let your grief be comforted by trust.  
It is only for a while that we must part  
So bless the memories within your heart.  
I will not be far away, for life goes on  
So if you need me, call and I will come.  
Though you cannot see or touch me, I will be near,  
And if you listen with your heart, you will hear  
All of my love around you soft and clear.  
Then, when you must come this way alone,  
I will greet you with a smile and a "Welcome Home".

**What Is A Mother?****Helen Steiner Rice**

It takes a mother's love to make a house a home  
A place to be remembered no matter where we roam  
It takes a mother's patience, to bring a child up right  
And her courage and cheerfulness,  
to make a dark day bright  
It takes a mother's thoughtfulness to mend the heart's deep hurts  
And her skill and her endurance, to mend little socks and shirts  
It takes a mother's kindness to forgive us when we err  
To sympathise in trouble and bow her head in prayer  
It takes a mother's wisdom to recognise our needs  
And to give us re-assurance by her loving words and deeds  
It takes a mother's endless faith, her confidence and trust  
To guide us through the pitfalls of selfishness and lust  
And that is why, in this entire world, there could not be another  
Who could fulfil Gods purpose as completely  
As a mother.

### **Loving Memories**

**Author unknown**

Your gentle face and patient smile with sadness we recall,

You had a kindly word for each and died beloved by all.

The voice is mute and stilled the heart that loved us well and true,

Ah, bitter was the trial to part from one as good as you.

You are not forgotten loved one

Nor will you ever be

as long as life and memory last we will remember thee.

We miss you now, our hearts are sore,

As time goes by we'll miss you more,

Your loving smile, your gentle face,

No one can fill your vacant place.

### **A Grandmother's Angel Wings**

**Chris R Slater**

Ever unfolding,

Like Angels radiant Wings, Is the Magical love,

And Kindness,

That a Dear Grandmother Brings.

Ever unailing,

As the Sea that beats the Shore, Is the special care,

Given to us,

That will grow forever more.

Ever timeless, like a feather, falling gently,

Through the air, Is the love,

Of Our Dear Grandmother,

To which nothing can compare.

### **Grandfather**

**Author unknown**

A wonderful Grandfather so loving and kind.

What beautiful memories you leave behind.

Sharing and caring and always content.

Loved and respected wherever you went.

A happy smile, a heart of gold.

You were the best this world could hold.

A special Grandfather so kind and true.

What wonderful memories we all have of you.

### **Granddad**

**Author unknown**

We want you to know that we loved you.

You were a very important part of our lives.

Our relationship, our memories and moments shared

And the love you've given us, are all so very precious to us.

We count our blessings to have had a Granddad like you,

And we hope that you realised that you have always been our inspiration.

You have guided us in each decision, and encouraged us to reach for every dream.

You have helped us through your guidance, wisdom, and the strength of your love

To become the person you wanted us to be.

We want you to know that though we may not have told you often enough

You mean so much more to us that words can say.

We thank you and we love you with all our hearts

You were the greatest Granddad of all.

### **Memories Of You**

**Author unknown**

I remember everything about you,  
your voice, your smile, your touch,  
the way you walked, the way you talked,  
the way you looked at me meant so much.

I remember all the words you said to me,  
some funny, some kind, some wise,  
all of the things you did for me,  
I see now with different eyes.

I remember every moment we shared,  
seems like only yesterday,  
or maybe it was ages ago,  
It's really hard to say

I know that you have left me now,  
but one thing they can't take away,  
your memory resides inside my heart,  
and lights up my darkest days.

## **Friendship**

***Kahlil Gibran***

And a youth said, "Speak to us of Friendship." Your friend is your needs answered.

He is your field which you sow with love and reap with thanksgiving. And he is your board and your fireside.

For you come to him with your hunger, and you seek him for peace.

When your friend speaks his mind you fear not the "nay" in your own mind, nor do you withhold the "ay."

And when he is silent your heart ceases not to listen to his heart;

For without words, in friendship, all thoughts, all desires, all expectations are born and shared, with joy that is un-acclaimed.

When you part from your friend, you grieve not;

For that which you love most in him may be clearer in his absence, as the mountain to the climber is clearer from the plain.

And let there be no purpose in friendship save the deepening of the spirit.

For love that seeks aught but the disclosure of its own mystery is not love but a net cast forth: and only the unprofitable is caught.

And let your best be for your friend.

If he must know the ebb of your tide, let him know its flood also. For what is your friend that you should seek him with hours to kill? Seek him always with hours to live.

For it is his to fill your need, but not your emptiness.

And in the sweetness of friendship let there be laughter,

## **His Journey's Just Begun**

***E. Brennehan***

Don't think of him as gone away

His journey's just begun,

Life holds so many facets

This earth is only one.

Just think of him as resting from the sorrow and the tears,

In a place of rest and comfort

Where there are no days or years.

Think how he must be wishing That we could know, today,

How nothing but our sadness

Can really pass away.

And think of him as living

In the hearts of those he touched,

For nothing loved is ever lost

And he was loved so much.

## **A Letter From Heaven**

***Ruth Ann Mahaffy***

To my dearest family

Some things I'd like to say

First of all to let you know

That I arrived OK

I'm writing this from heaven

Where I dwell with God above

Where there are no more tears or sadness

There's just eternal love

Please do not be unhappy

Just because I'm out of sight

Remember that I'm with you

Every morning, noon and night.

And do not be afraid to cry

It does relieve the pain

Remember there would be no flowers

Unless there was some rain.

And to my very many friends,

Trust, God knows what is best

I'm still not far away from you

I'm just beyond the crest.

There are rocky roads ahead of you

And many hills to climb

But together we can do it

Taking one day at a time.

When you are walking down the street

And you've got me on your mind

I'm walking in your footsteps

Only half a step behind.

And when you feel that gentle breeze

Or the wind upon your face

That's me giving you a great big hug

Or just a soft embrace.

And when it's time for you to go

From that body to be free

Remember you're going

You are coming here to me.

and sharing of pleasures.

For in the dew of little things the heart finds its

morning and is refreshed.

## **Mothers**

**Author unknown**

"Mothers... "A Labor of Love".  
Even in spite of all the "Joys of Motherhood" they  
have encountered,  
it's still the greatest joy ever known.  
There is a legend that says that since God could not be  
physically present amongst all of His people at all  
times,  
He created Mothers to take His place.  
Looking at the smile on the face of a Mother  
as she looks at her baby explains it all very clearly.  
As we age, we begin to realize the value of a mother's  
love and the enormous depth of her commitment to  
us.  
No other relationship we form can ever be as close  
or profound as that with our mothers.  
Every human being carries with him or her the seal of  
"Maternal Love."  
We always remember the maternal tenderness which  
is very hard to remove from the heart.  
Even when we grow old, there remain the distant  
memories and the strong desire to see our Mothers  
once again.  
Sadly, we have now lost her at the young age of  
seventy-five.  
She will always live on in a very special part of our  
heart".

## **Memories Of The Heart**

**Author unknown**

Feel no guilt in laughter, He knows how much you  
care.  
Feel no sorrow in a smile That he's not here to share.  
You cannot grieve forever, He would not want you to,  
He'd hope that you would carry on  
The way you always do.  
So talk about the good times  
And the ways you showed you cared.  
The days you spent together,  
All the happiness you shared.  
Let the memories surround you,  
A word someone may say  
Will suddenly recapture  
A time, an hour, a day.  
That brings him back as clearly  
As though he were still here,  
And fills you with the feelings  
That he is always near.  
For if you keep those memories  
You will never be apart  
And he will live forever  
Locked safe within your heart.

## **Grief**

**Author unknown**

I think about you every day,  
The pain I feel won't go away.  
It's the price I pay and always hold,  
And unlike the stories I get told.  
Time does nowt to help me heal,  
Don't plan to lose the way I feel.  
Why would I try to just forget,  
There's not a second I regret.  
The precious times we got to share,  
Those memories forever there.  
So I'll think about you every day,  
It's the price and pain I have to pay.  
But please don't think that I don't miss,  
And what I'd give for one more kiss.  
But I know, I'll cease to grieve,  
When it comes my time, for me to leave.  
Until that time and who knows when,  
I hope somehow, we'll meet again.

## **May I Go Now?**

**Susan A Jackson**

May I go now?  
Do you think the time is right?  
May I say good-bye to pain filled days and endless  
lonely nights?  
I've lived my life and done my best, an example tried  
to be.  
So can I take that step beyond and set my spirit free?  
I didn't want to go at first, I fought with all my might.  
But something seems to draw me now to a warm and  
loving light.  
I want to go. I really do.  
It's difficult to stay.  
But I will try as best I can to live just one more day.  
To give you time to care for me and share your love  
and fears. I know you're sad and afraid, because I see  
your tears.  
I'll not be far, I promise that, and hope you'll always  
know  
that my spirit will be close to you wherever you may  
go.  
Thank you so for loving me. You know I love you, too.  
That's why it's hard to say good-bye and end this life  
with you.  
So hold me now just one more time and let me hear  
you say,  
because you care so much for me, you'll let me go  
today.

## **Ecclesiastes**

### **Chapter 3 Verses 1-8; New King James Version**

To everything there is a season  
and a time for every purpose under heaven  
A time to be born and a time to die  
A time to plant and a time to pluck what is planted  
A time to kill and a time to heal  
A time to breakdown and a time to build up  
A time to weep and a time to laugh  
A time to mourn and a time to dance  
A time to cast away stones and a time to gather  
stones  
A time to embrace and a time to refrain from  
embracing  
A time to gain and a time to lose  
A time to keep and a time to throwaway  
A time to tear and a time to sew  
A time to keep silent and a time to speak  
A time to love and a time to hate  
A time of war and a time of peace.

## **Emotions**

### **Author unknown**

Our emotions sometimes take control when we lose  
someone we love.  
For when a person that we've cared about is called  
from up above,  
There is an aching in our heart and many tears left to  
be cried,  
but the tears we shed are for ourselves for the  
sadness we feel inside.  
For you who has passed is not suffering; not in pain,  
nor full of sorrows,  
just gone forward to a beautiful place  
to spend all of your tomorrows.  
We must realize about those we've loved as a relative  
or a friend  
that although their earthly existence has now come to  
an end,  
In time, we'll meet with them once more and no  
reunion could be greater.  
So for now *insert name*) we will not say "Goodbye..."  
we'll just say "See you later!"

## **One Solitary Life**

### **Dr James Allan**

He was born in an obscure village, the child of a  
peasant woman.  
He worked in a carpentry shop until he was thirty,  
and then for three years He was an itinerant preacher.  
When the tide of popular opinion turned against Him,  
His friends ran away.  
He was turned over to His enemies.  
He was tried and convicted.  
He was nailed upon a cross between two thieves.  
When He was dead, He was laid in a borrowed grave.  
He never wrote a book. He never held an office.  
He never owned a home. He never went to college.  
He never travelled more than two hundred miles from  
the place where  
He was born.  
He never did one of the things, that usually  
accompanies greatness.  
Yet all the armies that ever marched, and all the  
governments that ever sat,  
and all the kings that have ever reigned,  
have not affected life upon this earth as powerfully as  
has this  
One Solitary Life.

## **Sometimes - 'Footprints' poem**

### **Author unknown**

Sometimes on our journey through life  
we meet people who leave footprints on our mind  
*-they challenge us to see things differently and to  
question our personal reality.*  
Sometimes on our journey through life  
we meet people who leave footprints on our heart  
they create a safe place for us  
to open our hearts to feel loved and special  
Then sometimes on our journey through life we meet  
people who leave  
footprints on our souls  
*-they share themselves with us so profoundly that they  
touch the very essence of who we are in that secret  
quiet place*  
*The deceased* has left gentle footprints on the minds,  
hearts and souls of many here to-day.  
May we always remember the beauty of her/his love,  
her/his kindness and the special way she/he touched  
our lives.

### **Footprints In The sand**

*Author unknown*

One night I dreamed I was walking along the beach  
with the Lord.  
Many scenes from my life flashed across the sky.  
In each scene I noticed footprints in the sand.  
Sometimes there were two sets of footprints;  
other times there were one set of footprints.  
This bothered me because I noticed that during the  
low periods of my life,  
when I was suffering from anguish, sorrow or defeat,  
I could see only one set of footprints.  
So I said to the Lord, "You promised me Lord, that if I  
followed you,  
you would walk with me always.  
But I have noticed that during the most trying periods  
of my life  
there have only been one set of footprints in the sand.  
Why, when I needed you most, you have not been  
there for me?"  
The Lord replied,  
"The times when you have seen only one set of  
footprints in the sand,  
is when I carried you".

### **I'm Free**

*Author unknown*

Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free I'm following the  
path God has laid you see.  
I took His hand when I heard him call I turned my back  
and left it all.  
I could not stay another day  
To laugh, to love, to work, to play.  
Tasks left undone must stay that way I found that  
peace at the close of day.  
If my parting has left a void  
Then fill it with remembered joy.  
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss  
Oh yes, these things I too will miss.  
Be not burdened with times of sorrow I wish you the  
sunshine of tomorrow.  
My life's been full, I savored much  
Good friends, good times, a loved one's touch.  
Perhaps my time seemed all too brief  
don't lengthen it now with undue grief.  
Lift up your hearts and peace to thee  
God wanted me now; He set me free.

### **Gone From My Sight**

*Henry Van Dyke*

I am standing upon the seashore.  
A ship at my side spreads her white sails to the  
morning breeze  
and starts for the blue ocean.  
She is an object of beauty and strength.  
I stand and watch her until at length  
she hangs like a speck of white cloud just where the  
sea and sky come  
to mingle with each other.  
Then, someone at my side says; "There, she is gone!"  
"Gone where?"  
Gone from my sight. That is all.  
She is just as large in mast and hull and spar  
as she was when she left my side  
and she is just as able to bear her load of living freight  
to her destined port.  
Her diminished size is in me, not in her.  
And just at the moment when someone at my side  
says, "There, she is gone!"  
There are other eyes watching her coming, and other  
voices ready to take up the glad shout;  
"Here she comes!" And that is dying.

### **Flanders Fields**

*John McCrae*

In Flanders Fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row on row,  
That mark our place, and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.  
We are the Dead. Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow  
Loved and were loved, and now we lie,  
In Flanders Fields  
Take up our quarrels with the foe,  
To you from failing hands we throw  
The torch, be yours to hold it high  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow In Flanders  
fields

### **Poem of Life**

**Author unknown**

Life is but a stopping place,  
A pause in what's to be,  
A resting place along the road, to sweet eternity.  
We all have different journeys,  
Different paths along the way,  
We all were meant to learn some things,  
but never meant to stay...  
Our destination is a place  
Far greater than we know.  
For some the journey's quicker,  
For some the journey's slow.  
And when the journey finally ends,  
We'll claim a great reward,  
And find an everlasting peace,  
Together with the lord.

### **Funeral Blues**

**W. H. Auden**

Stop all the clocks, cut off the telephone,  
Prevent the dog from barking with a juicy bone,  
Silence the pianos and with muffled drum  
Bring out the coffin, let the mourners come.  
Let airplanes circle moaning overhead  
Scribbling on the sky the message He Is Dead.  
Put crepe bows round the white necks of public  
doves;  
Let the traffic policemen wear black cotton gloves.  
He was my North, my South, my East and West.  
My working week and my Sunday rest,  
My noon, my midnight, my talk, my song;  
I thought that love would last forever; I was wrong.  
The stars are not wanted now: put out every one;  
Pack up the moon and dismantle the sun;  
Pour away the ocean and sweep up the wood;  
For nothing now can ever come to anyone.

### **Untitled**

**Author unknown**

The time has come and now we part,  
Thoughts of you so close to our heart,  
The loss is like a burning pain.  
We would give it all to see you again.  
But no, you're gone. In time we know  
The pain will fade away,  
The thoughts and memories will still be there  
As in our heart you will always stay.

### **Memories**

**Author Unknown**

Memories are not framed in gold  
or hung for all to see,  
they are held deep within our hearts  
that's where you will always be.  
Since you have left us our lives are not the same  
so walk with us throughout our lives until we meet  
again.  
Remember,  
It was not the body you loved  
it was the unique and precious spirit that dwelled  
within.  
That spirit is still with you Spirit is eternal ...  
it does not die,  
though unseen, *[insert name]* walks besides you.... as  
before,  
safe in the love you always knew.

### **Let Me Go**

**Author unknown**

We've known lots of pleasure,  
At times endured pain;  
We've lived in the sunshine  
And walked in the rain.  
But now we're separated  
And for a time apart,  
But I am not alone-  
You're forever in my heart.  
Death always seems so sudden,  
And it is always sure,  
But what is oft' forgotten-  
It is not without a cure.  
I'm walking now with someone,  
And I know He'll always stay,  
I know He's walking with you too,  
Giving comfort everyday.  
There may be times you miss me,  
I sort of hope you do,  
But smile when you think of me,  
For I'll be waiting for you.  
Now there's many things for you to do,  
And lots of ways to grow,  
So get busy, be happy, and live your life,  
Miss me, but let me go.

### **Gates Of Prayer**

**Author unknown**

As long as we live, they too will live;

For they are now a part of us:

As we remember them!

At the rising sun and at its going down we remember them.

At the blowing of the wind and in the chill of winter we remember them.

At the opening of the buds and in the rebirth of spring we remember them.

At the blueness of the skies and in the warmth of summer we remember them.

At the rustling of the leaves and in the beauty of the autumn

we remember them.

At the beginning of the year and when it ends we remember them.

As long as we live, they too will live, for they are now a part of us.

As we remember them.

When we are weary and in need of strength we remember them.

When we are lost and sick at heart we remember them.

When we have decisions that are difficult to make we remember them.

When we have joy we crave to share we remember them.

When we have achievements that are based on theirs we remember them.

For as long as we live, they too will live,

For they are now a part of us, as we remember them.

### **Traditional Gaelic Blessing**

**Author unknown**

May the road rise to meet you,

May the wind always be at your back,

May the sunshine warm upon your face

And the rains fall soft upon your fields,

And until we meet again

May God hold you in the palm of his hand.

When you are sorrowful

Look again in your heart

And you shall see that in truth

You are weeping for that which has been your delight.

### **A Dog's Poem**

**Also known as Missing You by Colleen Fitzsimmons**

I stood by your bed last night, I came to have a peep.

I could see that you were crying, You found it hard to sleep.

I whined to you softly as you brushed away a tear, "It's me, I haven't left you, I'm well, I'm fine, I'm here."

I was close to you at breakfast, I watched you pour the tea,

You were thinking of the many times, your hands reached down to me.

I was with you at the shops today, Your arms were getting sore.

I longed to take your parcels, I wish I could do more.

I was with you at my grave today, You tend it with such care.

I want to re-assure you, that I'm not lying there.

I walked with you towards the house, as you fumbled for your key.

I gently put my paw on you, I smiled and said " it's me."

You looked so very tired, and sank into a chair.

I tried so hard to let you know, that I was standing there.

It's possible for me, to be so near you everyday.

To say to you with certainty, "*I never went away.*"

You sat there very quietly, then smiled, I think you knew...

In the stillness of that evening, I was very close to you.

The day is over... I smile and watch you yawning

and say "good-night, God bless, I'll see you in the morning."

And when the time is right for you to cross the brief divide,

I'll rush across to greet you and we'll stand, side by side.

I have so many things to show you, there is so much for you to see.

Be patient, live your journey out...then come home to be with me.



## **God's Garden**

### ***Adaptation - Anonymous***

They say it's a beautiful journey  
From the old world to the new  
Some day we'll take that journey  
Up the staircase that leads to you.

And when we reach that garden  
Where all are free from pain,  
We'll put our arms around you  
And we'll never part again.

A golden heart stopped beating  
Two hands were laid to rest  
God broke our heart to prove  
He only takes the best.

If tears could build a stairway  
And memories build a lane  
We would walk right up to heaven,  
And bring you back again.

God looked around his garden  
And found an empty space,  
He then looked down upon the earth  
And found a tired face.

He put his arms around you  
And lifted you to rest,  
The garden must be beautiful  
Because, he only takes the best.

## **A Dog's Poem**

***Also known as Missing You*** by Colleen Fitzsimmons

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