

MIRTH

Humor, Jestng, Laughter, Merriment and Smiles

1. ESSENCE

- 3190 Humor - Its essence is love; it issues not in laughter, but in still smiles, which lie far deeper.
Carlyle (1795-1881)
- 3191 Humor is wit and love.
Thackeray (1811-1863)
- 3192 Laughter is the sensation of feeling good all over, and showing it principally on one spot.
Josh Billings (1815-1885)
- 3193 Incongruity is the mainspring of laughter.
Max Beerbohm (1872-1956)

2. OPPOSITES

- 3194 An ounce of mirth is worth a pound of sorrow.
Richard Baxter (1615-1691)
- 3195 It was the saying of an ancient sage that humor was the only test of gravity, and gravity of humor.
Shaftesbury III (1671-1713)
- 3196 Good humor is the health of the soul, sadness is its poison.
Leszczynski Stanislaus (1677-1766)
- 3197 The vulgar only laugh, but never smile; whereas well-bred people often smile, but seldom laugh.
Chesterfield (1694-1773)
- 3198 A laugh is worth a hundred groans in any market.
Charles Lamb (1775-1834)
- 3199 Man is the only animal that laughs and weeps; for he is the only animal that is struck by the difference between what things are and what they might have been.
Hazlitt (1778-1830)
- 3200 Smiles form the channel of a future tear.
Byron (1788-1824)
- 3201 In a natural state, tears and laughter go hand in hand; for they are twin-born. Like two children sleeping in one cradle, when one wakes and stirs, the other wakes also.
Beecher (1813-1878)

- 3202 Whenever you find Humor, you find Pathos close by its side. 2 of 7
Edwin Whipple (1819-1886)
- 3203 The secret source of Humor itself is not joy but sorrow.
There is no humor in heaven.
Mark Twain (1835-1910)
- 3204 Laughter is not a bad beginning for a friendship, and
it is the best ending for one.
Oscar Wilde (1854-1900)
- 3205 Humour is the contemplation of the finite from the point of
view of the infinite.
Christian Morgenstern (1871-1914)
- 3206 Humour is emotional chaos remembered in tranquility.
James G. Thurber (1894-1961)

3. INSIGHT

- 3207 Even in laughter the heart is sorrowful; and the end
of mirth is heaviness.
Proverbs (B.C. 1000?-200?)
- 3208 For a man learns more quickly and remembers more easily
that which he laughed at, than that which he approves and
than that which he approves and reveres.
Horace (B.C. 65-8)
- 3209 Man is the only creature endowed with the power of laughter;
is he not also the only one that deserves to be laughed at?
Greville (1554-1628)
- 3210 A jest's prosperity lies in the ear of him that hears it,
Never in the tongue of him that makes it.
Shakespeare (1564-1616)
- 3211 The jest which is expected is already destroyed.
Johnson (1709-1784)
- 3212 Men show their characters in nothing more clearly
than in what they think laughable.
Goethe (1749-1832)
- 3213 Fun I love, but too much fun is of all things the most
loathsome. Mirth is better than fun, and happiness is
better than mirth.
William Blake (1757-1828)

- 3214 How much lies in laughter:
the cipher key, wherewith we decipher the whole man!
Carlyle (1795-1881)
- 3215 To provoke laughter without joining in it greatly
heightens the effect.
Balzac (1799-1850)
- 3216 Laughter is day, and sobriety is night; a smile is the
twilight that hovers gently between both, more bewitching
than either.
Beecher (1813-1878)
- 3217 Something of a person's character may be discovered by
observing when and how he smiles. Some people never smile;
they merely grin.
Bovee (1820-1904)
- 3218 Laugh and the world laughs with you,
Weep and you weep alone;
For the sad old earth must borrow its mirth,
But has trouble enough of its own.
Ella Wheeler Wilcox (1855-1919)
- 3219 Life does not cease to be funny when people die,
any more than it ceases to be serious when people laugh.
G. B. Shaw (1856-1950)
- 3220 The total absence of humour from the Bible is one of the
most singular things in all literature.
Alfred North Whitehead (1861-1947)
- 3221 Laughter relieves us of superfluous energy, which, if it
remained unused, might become negative, that is, poison.
We always have plenty of this poison in us. Laughter is the
antidote. But this antidote is necessary only so long as we
are unable to use all the energy for useful work.
Gurdjieff (1873-1949)

4. POSITIVE

- 3222 A merry heart doeth good like a medicine.
Proverbs (B.C. 1000?-200?)
- 3223 Jesters do often prove prophets.
Shakespeare (1564-1616)
- 3224 What sunshine is to flowers, smiles are to humanity.
They are but trifles, to be sure,
but, scattered along life's pathway,
the good they do is inconceivable.
Addison (1672-1719)

- 3225 The man that loves and laughs must sure do well. 4 of 7
Pope (1688-1744)
- 3226 Honest good humor is the oil and wine of a merry meeting,
and there is no jovial companionship equal to that where
the jokes are rather small, and the laughter abundant.
Washington Irving (1783-1859)
- 3227 Laughter is one of the very privileges of reason, being
confined to the human species.
Leigh Hunt (1784-1859)
- 3228 Humor has justly been regarded as the finest perfection
of poetic genius.
Carlyle (1795-1881)
- 3229 No man who has once heartily and wholly laughed can be
altogether irreclaimably depraved.
Carlyle (1795-1881)
- 3230 A good laugh is sunshine in a house.
Thackeray (1811-1863)
- 3231 The human race has only one really effective weapon
and that is laughter.
Mark Twain (1835-1910)
- 3232 That older and greater church to which I belong; the church
where the oftener you laugh the better, because by laughter
only can you destroy evil without malice, and affirm good
fellowship without mawkishness.
G. B. Shaw (1856-1950)
- 3233 It is a great loss to a man when he cannot smile and laugh.
Laughing is the best tonic to keep one healthy.
Sivananda (born 1887)

5. NEGATIVE

- 3234 Laughter has its source in some kind of meanness or
deformity.
Cicero (B.C. 106-43)
- 3235 A laugh costs too much when bought at the expense of virtue.
Quintilian (35-90 A.D.)
- 3236 A bitter jest, when it comes too near the truth,
leaves a sharp sting behind it.
Tacitus (55-117 A.D.)
- 3237 Unseasonable mirth always turns to sorrow.
Cervantes (1547-1616)

- 3238 Laughter is the hiccup of a fool.
John Ray (1627-1705)
- 3239 Madness, we fancy, gave an ill-timed birth
To a grinning laughter and to frantic mirth.
Matthew Prior (1664-1721)
- 3240 Some people are commended for a giddy kind of good humor,
which is no more a virtue than drunkenness.
Pope (1688-1744)
- 3241 Thou canst not joke an enemy into a friend,
but thou may'st a friend into an enemy.
Franklin (1706-1790)
- 3242 The most completely lost of all days is that on which
one has not laughed.
Chamfort (1741-1794)
- 3243 No one is more profoundly sad than he who laughs too much.
Richter (1763-1825)
- 3244 The man who cannot laugh is not only fit for treasons,
stratagems, and spoils, but his whole life is already a
treason and a stratagem.
Carlyle (1795-1881)
- 3245 No, you never get any fun
Out of the things you haven't done.
Ogden Nash (1902-1971)

6. ADVICE

- 3246 It better befits a man to laugh at life
than to lament over it.
Seneca (B.C. 3-65 A.D.)
- 3247 Be merry if you are wise.
Martial (43-104 A.D.)
- 3248 Frame thy mind to mirth and merriment, which bars a thousand
harms, and lengthens life.
Shakespeare (1564-1616)
- 3249 Laugh not too much; the witty man laughs least:
For wit is news only to ignorance.
Less at thine own things: lest in the jest
Thy person share, and thy conceit advance.
Herbert (1593-1632)

- 3250 One should take good care not to grow too wise
for so great a pleasure of life as laughter.
Addison (1672-1719)
- 3251 Laugh at your friends, and if your friends are sore;
So much the better, you may laugh the more.
Pope (1688-1744)
- 3252 If you want to make people weep, you must weep yourself.
If you want to make people laugh, your face must remain
serious.
Giovanni G. Casanova (1725-1798)
- 3253 Be not affronted at a joke. If one throw salt at thee,
thou wilt receive no harm, unless thou art raw.
Junius (1740-1818)
- 3254 Beware of him who hates the laugh of a child.
Lavater (1741-1801)
- 3255 Mirth is God's medicine. Everybody ought to bathe in it.
Grim care, moroseness, anxiety, - all this rust of life,
ought to be scoured off by the oil of mirth. It is better
than emery. Every man ought to rub himself with it.
Beecher (1813-1878)

7. POTPOURRI

- 3256 To laugh, if but for an instant only, has never been
granted to man before the fortieth day from his birth,
and then it is looked upon as a miracle of precocity.
Pliny the Elder (23-79 A.D.)
- 3257 I have observed, that in comedy, the best actor plays the
part of the droll, while some scrub rogue is made the hero,
or fine gentleman. So, in this farce of life, wise men pass
their time in mirth, whilst fools only are serious.
Bolingbroke (1678-1751)
- 3258 Old Times have bequeathed us a precept:
To be merry and wise,
but who has been able to observe it?
Johnson (1709-1784)
- 3259 When the green woods laugh with the voice of joy,
And the dimpling stream runs laughing by;
When the air does laugh with our merry wit,
And the green hill laughs with the noise of it.
William Blake (1757-1828)

- 3260 Let us have Wine and Women, Mirth and Laughter;
Sermons and soda-water the day after.
Byron (1788-1824)
- 3261 My mirth can laugh and talk, but cannot sing:
My grief finds harmonies in everything.
James B. V. Thomson (1834-1882)
- 3262 Laughter is an internal convulsion, producing a distortion
of the features and accompanied by inarticulate noises.
Ambrose Bierce (1842-1914?)
- 3263 A joke is an epigram on the death of a feeling.
Nietzsche (1844-1900)
- 3264 The smile that flickers on baby's lips when he sleeps-
does anybody know where it was borne?
Yes, there is a rumor that a young pale beam of a crescent
moon touched the edge of a vanishing autumn cloud, and there
the smile was first born in the dream of a dew-washed
morning.
Rabindranath Tagore (1861-1941)
- 3265 Everything is funny as long as it is happening to somebody
else.
Will Rogers (1879-1935)