

Generations

Mother's Day tributes

It's been more than 100 years since Woodrow Wilson proclaimed Mother's Day a national celebration in May of 1914.

To mark the occasion, now celebrated annually on the second Sunday in May, you could send flowers, mail a Hallmark card, take your mother to lunch, offer to babysit, offer to dog/cat sit, offer to clean the house, offer to wash and vacuum out her car, or just about anything else that would make her day just a little bit easier.

What all mothers love, however, is the way you say how much you love her and how much she means to you. But what if you can't think of just the right words? I'll bet you can, but if you're truly drawing a blank, here are some quotes from notable figures who paid tribute to their mothers and I don't think they would mind if you borrowed a word or two just to get the perfect sentiment on a handwritten card.

Although he might have seemed like a rather stern man when we read about him in the history books, Abraham Lincoln was all mush when it came to his mother: "All that I am or ever hope to be, I owe to my angel mother. I remember my mother's prayers and they have always followed me. They have clung to me all my life."

Not to be outdone, George Washington credited all his success to his mother: "My mother was the most beautiful woman I ever saw. All I am I owe to my mother. I attribute my success in life to the moral, intellectual and physical education I received from her."

Perhaps the most poignant quote came from novelist George Elliot who said simply, "Life began with waking up and loving my mother's face."

Roald Dahl, author of many

books, including *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, paid



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tribute to his mother in a way which he knew best — with humor: "It's a funny thing about mothers and fathers. Even when their own child is the most disgusting

little blister you could ever imagine, they still think that he or she is wonderful."

Acclaimed mystery writer Jill Churchill offers super moms a good piece of advice with her quote: "There's no way to be a perfect mother and a million ways to be a good one."

Maya Angelou always had a unique way with words and her quote was particularly stirring: "To describe my mother would be to write about a hurricane in its perfect power. Or the climbing, falling colors of a rainbow."

Regarded as one of the most influential authors of the 20th Century, Irish novelist James Joyce might have been critical of the world around him, but never his mother: "Whatever else is unsure in this stinking dunghill of a world, a mother's love is not."

And Oliver Wendell Holmes got it right to the core of Momism: "Youth fades; love droops; the leaves of friendship fall; A mother's secret hope outlives them all."

Basketball great Michael Jordan isn't shy about his love for his mother and inspires other athletes to pay homage to a son's biggest supporter with his quote: "My mother is my root, my foundation. She planted the seed that I base my life on, and that is the belief that the ability to achieve starts in your mind."

We can see where author of many horror novels got his first inkling of the genre

that brought him fame with his quote: "My mother was a reader, and she read to us. She read us *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* when I was 6 and my brother was 8; I never forgot it."

Harry Potter creator J.K. Rowling had a lovely sentiment about her mother: "Love as powerful as your mother's for you leaves its own mark ... to have been loved so deeply .. will give us some protection forever."

Former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice pays homage to her mother with a cute quote, "My parents elected me president of the family when I was 4. We actually had an election every year and I always won. I'm an only child, and I could count on my mother's vote."

I loved actor Jason Segel's remembrance to his mother: "My mother taught me to be nice to everybody. And she said something before I left home. She said, 'I want you to always remember that the person you are in this world is a reflection of the job I did as a mother.'"

And there were two quotes that I thought were my favorites and I could not decide which one was at the top of my list: from author Rudyard Kipling, "God could not be everywhere, and therefore he made mothers," and from nonviolent activist Mahatma Gandhi, "It may be possible to gild pure gold, but who can make his mother more beautiful?"

Happy Mother's Day to each and every one of you, including the mothers of our four-legged, furry friends that we care for with tenderness and great love.

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