



**COMPILATION OF  
“FIFTEEN (15) WORDS OR LESS [SIC]”  
ON ANY SUBJECT  
SUBMITTED BY MEMBERS OF HARVARD RADCLIFFE  
CLASS OF 1970  
ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR DEFERRED 50<sup>TH</sup> REUNION  
JUNE 2022**

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"Do not go gentle into that good night..." Dylan Thomas.

May the bad karma get lost.

"Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all."  
Aristotle addressing Harvard.

Clean for Gene. University Hall. Chicago. Students stood up then. Women  
need us now.

Am I eating right and getting plenty of exercise only to outlive fucking democracy?

Yeats wrote:

Cast a cold eye

On life, on death.

Horseman, pass by!

The clock's looking for its hands.

Please wait a little longer.

Peace is running late.

UNDERPANTS ABOVE THE WAIST. GOT TO BE GOOD LOOKING  
CAUSE WE'RE SO HARD TO SEE.

I can't keep up with the dishes.

Damn Harvard until we set aside billions, not millions, to atone for  
complicity with slavery!

Relationships — the essence of all that's good, but often a pain.

No howl - just cooing over my brand-new granddaughter, who'll keep me  
away from Reunion.

COVID but then MEDITATION LONG WALKS MENTORING  
COUNSELING NEW CONNECTIONS EMPATHY who knew?

I'm creating a legacy that repairs the world and the best is yet to come.

We can't go back to yesterday, and we cannot control tomorrow. So live for  
today.

BE INVOLVED. ELECTRIFY YOUR CAR AND YOUR HOUSE.  
ORGANIZE A PARTY. DANCE. SING. VOTE.

Now, when people ask me where I went to college, I say “Harvard,” not  
“Boston.”

Two years isolation, quarantine, four vaccines, Covid-19 attacked after  
judge lifted masks, now I scream.

After Emily Dickinson “ –I did not start with Life, my life started with Me.”

Lately it occurs to me...what a long, strange trip it's been!

There are only two benefits to aging - senior discounts and the forward tees  
in golf.

Before all the water goes under the bridge, let's go for a swim!

How can I retire when everything is getting so interesting?

Happy 52nd Reunion — We never could follow directions.

Et iterum venturus est cum gloria judicare vivos et mortuos cujus regni non  
erit finis (from Bach Mass in B Minor)

Six continents traveled, over seven productive decades. Still humming pop  
tunes from my youth. Wuh?

A forever image – Pete Varney rising above the mob to haul in that final  
pass.

History becomes personal  
Silver Jew Ancestry  
Biracial Grandchildren  
Married my cousin  
Happy Life

Freedom means little if you're alone; we need community if we're to survive.

The most consequential accomplishment of my life: self-acceptance. It was a long, hard trip.

Can't decide if "Don't Worry, Be Happy" or "Carpe Diem" should be my mantra.

Ride a bike. It's not exhaust - ing. [soft mobility placard, Philadelphia 1973]

Wish I had my wisdom of 74 years a half century ago.

I grew up in the shadow of Harvard Yard, and Harvard has shadowed me since.

If I move my feet fast enough, I won't fall down.

Growing older by the day and pondering missed opportunities comprise much of my "Golden Years."

Playing My Little Ponies with my granddaughter rocks, but existential threats constantly intrude.

Finally accepting that I can no longer run up 2 flights of stairs in 15 seconds

Harvard is my dream from which I have not yet awakened.

It's odd that living a long life is appealing, but getting old isn't.

I saw the best minds of my generation reduced to napping and wearing orthotic shoes.

How will several hundred harvard septuagenarians make sense out of this crazy world?

Who knew Dan Quayle could be a hero.

How little the issues have changed!

Sadly, the arc of the universe bends not toward justice, but toward inequality. Fix it.

Wife – love; Grandchildren - laugh; Children - worry; Sports - old knees;  
Work – learn; Ocean – sail; Life - sweet.

I want to feel young(er) so I  
spend time with very old people....

Positives: Wife, Children, Grandchildren, Friends, Leisure, Music.  
Negatives: Sorry state of the country and world.

Admission to Harvard grants equity into the institution. Let's use our lives and resources to make a positive contribution to generations to come.

1970 graduation, a Harvard history inflection point, was preparation for subsequent technology-enabled social change.

sing motherache  
beneath our stormy boy  
mad music sad sea

In the sudden absence of the familiar, I hope to liberate new aspects of myself.

Arrhythmia? Stenosis? Cataracts? COVID? WTF is next? Growing older ain't for the faint of heart!

I once was so very lost, but now am found,  
Was blind, but now I see.

Consciousness has the attributes of a spirit. Reality has the attributes of a god.

Had we stayed silent, would we now inhabit a lower or higher circle of hell?

We four Hollisers prayed these weren't our lives' best 4 years - we were wrong.

Time to worry less about being chunky.

I didn't know grandchildren were so great. I could have skipped the children.

Family says it all...

My granddaughter watched "Howl's Moving Castle" with me shortly after this survey came.

Reunion question: "What do you wish you had learned at Harvard?"  
Answer: "To floss every day."

Children now in school will still be alive in the twenty-second century - if they're lucky.

There are no beginnings and no endings, only middles. Robert Frost

Redistribute wealth, expand human rights, welcome justifiable immigration; and diversity; fight for democracy, the planet.

The New Yorker Caption Contest is not an IQ test. Wait, of course, it is!

Tempora mutantur, et nos mutamur in illis. [Times are changing and we are changing with them.]

We are stardust. We've got to get ourselves....back to the garden.

What good and generous life can I now sculpt from the marble of mortality?

Life after 70: grandchildren; still in love with my high school sweetheart; rediscovering the Beatles.

You want the truth? You can't handle the truth!

"Self-respect: the secure feeling that no one, as yet, is suspicious." H.L. MENCKEN

"Doing great for your age" is not exactly the same as "doing great."

Hedgehog or Fox, Abraham or Buddha, Plato or Aristotle, Newton or Einstein, Hemingway or Joyce.

Becoming is superior to being. Paul Klee

Two good heads are better than one.

Nothing is as easy as you think.

Seek ways to make things better - nothing is so good it cannot be improved!

Average life expectancy is 76, meaning we still have two years to get a job!

I don't deserve to be so happy, but (like Scrooge) I can't help it.

Listeria reminds us that lettuce doesn't kill people. Farmers kill people. Now you know.

Sex just keeps getting better and better.

Baton Rouge, Boston, back. Hitchhiking - actual, metaphorical. Damn we were. Still are.

A life of serendipity

One wife, 50 years; three children, two with Harvard degrees, thirteen grandchildren. God is Good.

I love beautiful places.

Life is wonderful – why must it end?

LIVE WHERE YOU CAN, BE AS HAPPY AS YOU CAN IN YOUR BED OF ROSES

Never tweeted, never zoomed. Let's just say I've been consumed with baking the perfect macaroon.



Every birthday is a gift.

Since I imperfectly speak three foreign languages, would Charlemagne have said I have four souls?

I am ashamed that Harvard has censored free speech unless it is liberal propaganda!

I toast the wisdom of our classmate whose Reunion write-up stated:  
“Grandchildren are consistently underrated.”

I used to say “Living well is the best revenge.” But now I’ll add “Time is running out.”

I dream I’m fighting an enemy and wake to discover I’m strangling the desk lamp.

Sorry, grandkids, leaving you a mess to clean up but also a great playlist.

Time spent with cats is never wasted.

I grow old...I grow old...  
I shall wear the bottoms of my trousers rolled. — TS Eliot

Balding, mostly retired, barely relevant, and adamantly opposed to the WOKE liberal lunacy pervading America!

I'd rather be meditating

Thrilled and grateful to be alive and active and not poisoned by wokeness.

I am filled with gratitude for a full life filled with family, friends, meaningful work and political/social engagement.

A hundred years from now, what the heck difference will it make? -- Betsey Ross

White lives have always mattered. "Black Lives Matter," too, precisely because "All" lives should matter.

Old age is a gift. I plan to wear out rather than rust out!

I'm grateful to attend our belated 50th, and sorry for those who can't.

Maybe anything is possible, but everything is impossible ...

CIA assassinates JFK, RFK; Hoover assassinates MLK; 9/11 false flag; COVID bioweapon -- Veritas is AWOL.

Awakening to penetrations  
of psyche  
from stars in the heavens,  
after so many years  
wondering.

Sometimes I'm so busy I forget to brush my teeth...

I thought that educated people  
would make the world better--  
but we're outshouted by jerks. (Except tonight!)

Why do aliens visit our Solar System so infrequently? Check the guidebook  
-- only one star.

What's my mother doing looking back at me in my mirror? She died in 2011

Lamenting the state of the world. How did we let this happen? Where is hope?

I no longer need to be efficient, nor am I in any hurry

Doing it again, one more time, while I can.

Time is subjective, memory fallible. I think it's been a good journey but....

Life is one big adjustment.

Wither goeth 1970's latitudinarians? Now em-bubbled in their orthodoxy, shields up, razor tongues. Wither Harvard?

Whenever I am triggered by something about Harvard, "it feels like yesterday is here now."

The Earth is the Lord's. What a Divine mess!

"Ambition without skill is fine when you're 7, after that you're a blockhead."

"Sparkles turn into sputters. Will I return from oblivion in the curved space-time of eternity?"

No friends, no music, no sex, just endless work; a Harvard grad longs for death.

Veritas? There is and always has been one truth and that is God's truth.

Just catch the next wave and see where it takes you.

At the time of our 150th reunion, remaining humans will not have forgiven us.

Success is not measured in big accomplishments, rather in small acts of kindness and love.

The hygienist leans heavy on her scraper, chips away age, pandemic plaque, still smooth enamel.

It's time to stop fooling around, to go unafraid, and to write poems of love

Need little; want less. Know the raw silk and the uncut wood. From the Tao Te Ching (Ursula LeGuin's translation)

As Rodney King said before me, 'Can we all just get along?!'

The end of postwar babyhood!  
War ruins in my Europe! Fast forward in fascinated fear.

Life's reflections, meanders critical  
Current times, partisan hypocritical  
Future times, effect unknown  
Children? World undone?

Everything and nothing is as funny as it used to be

Caring for our dog with heart failure reminds me why I became a physician.

Most has gone better than expected, though numerous body parts are now under strict scrutiny.

I want my dog's health plan.

James Ackerman to a near-empty lecture hall: "When I said not to come if you didn't do the reading, I didn't mean not to do the reading."

I think I'm more useful than most people realize, but I can't prove it.

The older I get, the older I get.

I don't think we need to Beyoncé any more.

wondering how much longer - for me, democracy, marginalized folks, environment; blessed by family, friends, health

Where have all the conservatives gone? Short time clowning! The Answer.  
. . . nope, there's no answer.

Always evolving, ever conscious, forever positive—to make the world a better place!!

"Tell me, what is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?"  
Mary Oliver

A.M. creeps  
Contemplation  
retiring beckons.  
Muses  
precis reckons.

Do emojis have the power to transmit super human intelligence? Do humans believe they do?

Of all the things I've lost in my life, I miss my mind the most.

Lively grandchildren and enjoyable retirement life in rural Oregon  
sometimes cause missed college class deadlines!

Time to smell the roses and enjoy the grandchildren on the fields.

I sing Alleluia in the reciprocal flow of the Divine Life Force.

Too many of my friends keep dying. Hope not to join them too soon.

1970: shot out of a cannon. Multiple landings. Grateful for good earth.

I left when I should have stayed,  
stayed when I should have left  
A life in syncopation,  
always off the beat

A water strider walks upstream, each step against the flow. The current  
pulls it seaward.

Arrived wobbly, left boldly,  
Adventuring, Careering,  
Marriage, Children, Joy/Grief,  
Glad living in interesting times

STILL SINGING

STILL WRITING

STILL DANCING

STILL LOVING

REMEMBERING

STILL BECOMING

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