



Below are 34 quotations said by, or about, John Laing. They could be used as a quick thought or reflection for the day. Each one has some questions to help you discuss it or to connect it to pupils' own experiences.

Quotations have several educational uses:

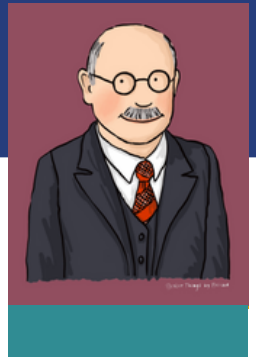
- Encourage critical thinking and analytical skills
- Aid communication skills
- Can be inspiring or motivational
- Foster a deeper understanding of life
- Connect to pupil's own life experience
- Create empathy by seeing life from Laing's point of view
- Help them to hear 'Laing's voice'
- Can enhance vocabulary

Questions to ask of a quotation:

- Does the quotation offer good advice?
- Is the quotation inspiring or motivational?
- How does the quotation connect with the pupil's life?
- What does the quotation tell pupils about John Laing?

Classroom ideas:

- Choose a quotation each lesson for class discussion
- Have pupils choose a quotation and write/discuss how it has impacted or inspired them
- Reflect quietly on how a chosen quotation has impacted them
- Create a poster using one quotation they have chosen
- Produce a piece of motivational advice of your own to display
- Look at the range of quotations and summarise what you have learnt about Laing's character
- Make a small notebook using paper/staples/ribbon - start a quotation collection with one from Laing. Collect other quotations or phrases during the coming week as you hear memorable sayings from friends, parents, teachers, film, TV etc.
- Think about whether your family has a phrase they often say
- Do pupils have a favourite quotation or song lyric?



“Always setting the example, he expects the impossible and usually gets it!”
(Emily Ridout Byrnell, John Laing’s secretary)

“If a man does not save, he just gets into an extravagant way of living and when the slump comes he will find things very difficult.” (John Laing)

“Here comes Laing, happy as usual!” (An industry rival as John Laing arrived at a government committee during WWII)

“Enthusiasm is a form of faith.” (John Laing)

“Remember the men who are up to the ears in mud and drenched to the skin.” (John Laing to his office staff)

“A man who bestrode two worlds.” (A friend)

“He was a man of great heart, who inspired and stimulated his workers, and won an unquestioned loyalty from them.” (Roy Coad, author of ‘Laing’)

“John Laing was a man big enough to see beyond himself, and to encourage others who could go where he could not.” (Roy Coad, author of ‘Laing’)

“I never knew a less conceited man.” (An elder at John Laing’s church)

“You worked hard because you knew you were appreciated.” (An employee)

“He knew everyone by name...their families and everything. When the firm grew bigger he had a list made out for him.” (An employee)

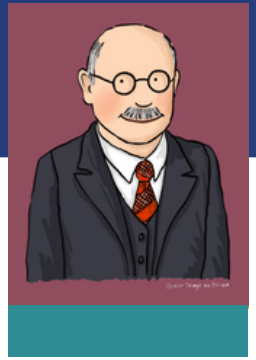
“He knew everything about you.” (An employee)

“He was a very hard man and up to a point he was tough, but it was coupled with a fairness equally as strong.” (Wallace Haughan)

“He expected commitment.” (An employee)

“I wanted to be the top contractor in the country.” (John Laing)

“The centre of my life was to be God.” (John Laing)



“He made God a participating partner in his business.”

(Brian Griffiths in his foreword to ‘Laing’ by Roy Coad)

“The influence for good of this exceptional man will be felt by many – and especially those in business – for many years to come.” (Maurice Laing – son)

“He seemed to work like a machine during the war. He gave everything he had....what a man and what a leader!” (Another leader in WWII team)

“Laings was probably the best and most conscientious company in the industry.” (Supervisor of airfield surfaces WWII)

“I can just say that life is fully as happy as it has been in any previous period of life and I think our Heavenly Father just grades our pleasures to fit our ages.” (John Laing as an old man)

“He lived a life of delightful simplicity and beaming warm – heartedness.” (A friend)

“Sir John himself was a proper gentleman...he would drive to go and drink tea with an old labourer.” (An employee)

“My father believed in his son having three years practical training, so as to get a knowledge of humanity, of the British weather, and of the difficulties of actually doing work and overcoming these difficulties.” (John Laing)

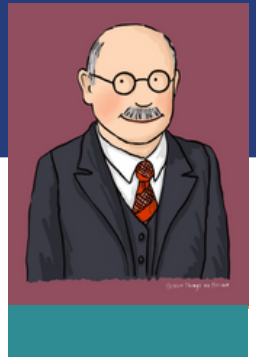
“I am not sure that people will realise the immense impression of peace, happiness, simplicity and contentment that John Laing radiated.” (Roy Coad, author of ‘Laing’)

“His method of doing business was infused with a generosity of spirit.” (Brian Griffiths in his foreword to ‘Laing’ by Roy Coad)

“Of all the building contractors in Great Britain, one of them without a doubt with the warmest place in my heart is John Laing & Son Ltd.” (Aneurin Bevan)

“I am not going to retire. I have always got pleasure from my work, although at times it has been hard, but hard times bring their reward.” (John Laing)

“John Laing had a winning, happy temperament and a disarming smile that was throughout his life to disarm tough opposition.” (Roy Coad, author of ‘Laing’)



“John Laing expected you to work hard, because he himself worked hard.”

(Clarence Payne, an employee)

“He was the most delightful of travelling companions. His capacity for enjoyment was unbounded. Everything lovely and beautiful thrilled him.” (A close friend of John Laing)

“There are very few of us who have not spent many hours in rain, mud, frost and snow, often drenched to the skin, but I do not know any life that could be more satisfying.” (John Laing)

“Sir John is interested in the simple things of life. He loves the view from his home, watching the birds in the garden, and constantly admires the beautiful oak tree. He loves nature and his enquiring mind and zest for life has made him such an interesting person.” (An employee)

“John Laing gets from this life as much satisfaction and fun as any man could wish for.”
(Godfrey Harrison, author of ‘Life and Belief in the Experience of John Laing’)



Below are 34 quotations said by, or about, John Laing. Each one has some questions to help you discuss it or to connect it to your own experiences.

1

“

Quotation

Always setting the example, he expects the impossible and usually gets it!

- Emily Ridout Byrnell, John Laing's secretary

”

Questions

- Does the quotation offer good advice?
- Is the quotation inspiring or motivational?
- How does the quotation connect with your life?
- What does the quotation tell you about John Laing?

2

“

Quotation

If a man does not save, he just gets into an extravagant way of living and when the slump comes he will find things very difficult.

- John Laing

”

Questions

- Does the quotation offer good advice?
- Is the quotation inspiring or motivational?
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3

“

Quotation

Here comes Laing, happy as usual!

- *An industry rival as John Laing arrived at a government committee during WWII*

”

Questions

- Does the quotation offer good advice?
- Is the quotation inspiring or motivational?
- How does the quotation connect with your life?
- What does the quotation tell you about John Laing?

4

“

Quotation

Enthusiasm is a form of faith

- *John Laing*

”

Questions

- Does the quotation offer good advice?
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5

“

Quotation

Remember the men who are up to the ears in mud and drenched to the skin.

- John Laing to his office staff

”

Questions

- Does the quotation offer good advice?
- Is the quotation inspiring or motivational?
- How does the quotation connect with your life?
- What does the quotation tell you about John Laing?

6

“

Quotation

A man who bestrode two worlds.

- A friend

”

Questions

- Does the quotation offer good advice?
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7

“

Quotation

He was a man of great heart, who inspired and stimulated his workers, and won an unquestioned loyalty from them.

- Roy Coad, author of 'Laing'

”

Questions

- Does the quotation offer good advice?
- Is the quotation inspiring or motivational?
- How does the quotation connect with your life?
- What does the quotation tell you about John Laing?

8

“

Quotation

John Laing was a man big enough to see beyond himself, and to encourage others who could go where he could not.

- Roy Coad, author of 'Laing'

”

Questions

- Does the quotation offer good advice?
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9

“

Quotation

I never knew a less conceited man.

- An elder at John Laing's church

”

Questions

- Does the quotation offer good advice?
- Is the quotation inspiring or motivational?
- How does the quotation connect with your life?
- What does the quotation tell you about John Laing?

10

“

Quotation

You worked hard because you knew you were appreciated.

- An employee

”

Questions

- Does the quotation offer good advice?
- Is the quotation inspiring or motivational?
- How does the quotation connect with your life?
- What does the quotation tell you about John Laing?





Below are 34 quotations said by, or about, John Laing. Each one has some questions to help you discuss it or to connect it to your own experiences.

11

“

Quotation

He knew everyone by name...their families and everything. When the firm grew bigger he had a list made out for him.

- *An employee*

”

Questions

- Does the quotation offer good advice?
- Is the quotation inspiring or motivational?
- How does the quotation connect with your life?
- What does the quotation tell you about John Laing?

12

“

Quotation

He knew everything about you.

- *An employee*

”

Questions

- Does the quotation offer good advice?
- Is the quotation inspiring or motivational?
- How does the quotation connect with your life?
- What does the quotation tell you about John Laing?





Below are 34 quotations said by, or about, John Laing. Each one has some questions to help you discuss it or to connect it to your own experiences.

13

“

Quotation

He was a very hard man and up to a point he was tough, but it was coupled with a fairness equally as strong.

- Wallace Haughan

”

Questions

- Does the quotation offer good advice?
- Is the quotation inspiring or motivational?
- How does the quotation connect with your life?
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14

“

Quotation

He expected commitment.

- An employee

”

Questions

- Does the quotation offer good advice?
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15

“

Quotation

I wanted to be the top contractor in the country.

- John Laing

”

Questions

- Does the quotation offer good advice?
- Is the quotation inspiring or motivational?
- How does the quotation connect with your life?
- What does the quotation tell you about John Laing?

16

“

Quotation

The centre of my life was to be God.

- John Laing

”

Questions

- Does the quotation offer good advice?
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“

Quotation

He made God a participating partner in his business.

- Brian Griffiths in his foreword to 'Laing' by Roy Coad

”

Questions

- Does the quotation offer good advice?
- Is the quotation inspiring or motivational?
- How does the quotation connect with your life?
- What does the quotation tell you about John Laing?

18

“

Quotation

The influence for good of this exceptional man will be felt by many – and especially those in business – for many years to come.

- Maurice Laing (son)

”

Questions

- Does the quotation offer good advice?
- Is the quotation inspiring or motivational?
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Below are 34 quotations said by, or about, John Laing. Each one has some questions to help you discuss it or to connect it to your own experiences.

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“

Quotation

He seemed to work like a machine during the war. He gave everything he had....what a man and what a leader!

- Another leader in WWII team

”

Questions

- Does the quotation offer good advice?
- Is the quotation inspiring or motivational?
- How does the quotation connect with your life?
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20

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Quotation

Laings was probably the best and most conscientious company in the industry.

- Supervisor of airfield surfaces WWII

”

Questions

- Does the quotation offer good advice?
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Quotation

I can just say that life is fully as happy as it has been in any previous period of life and I think our Heavenly Father just grades our pleasures to fit our ages.

- John Laing as an old man

”

Questions

- Does the quotation offer good advice?
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22

“

Quotation

He lived a life of delightful simplicity and beaming warm – heartedness.

- A friend

”

Questions

- Does the quotation offer good advice?
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“

Quotation

Sir John himself was a proper gentleman...he would drive to go and drink tea with an old labourer.

- An employee

”

Questions

- Does the quotation offer good advice?
- Is the quotation inspiring or motivational?
- How does the quotation connect with your life?
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24

“

Quotation

My father believed in his son having three years practical training, so as to get a knowledge of humanity, of the British weather, and of the difficulties of actually doing work and overcoming these difficulties.

- John Laing

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Questions

- Does the quotation offer good advice?
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“

Quotation

I am not sure that people will realise the immense impression of peace, happiness, simplicity and contentment that John Laing radiated.

- Roy Coad, author of 'Laing'

”

Questions

- Does the quotation offer good advice?
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Quotation

His method of doing business was infused with a generosity of spirit.

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Quotation

Of all the building contractors in Great Britain, one of them without a doubt with the warmest place in my heart is John Laing & Son Ltd.

- Aneurin Bevan

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Questions

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Quotation

I am not going to retire. I have always got pleasure from my work, although at times it has been hard, but hard times bring their reward.

- John Laing

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Quotation

John Laing had a winning, happy temperament and a disarming smile that was throughout his life to disarm tough opposition.

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Quotation

John Laing expected you to work hard, because he himself worked hard.

- Clarence Payne, an employee

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Quotation

He was the most delightful of travelling companions. His capacity for enjoyment was unbounded. Everything lovely and beautiful thrilled him.

- A close friend of John Laing

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Questions

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Quotation

There are very few of us who have not spent many hours in rain, mud, frost and snow, often drenched to the skin, but I do not know any life that could be more satisfying.

- John Laing

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- An employee

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Quotation

John Laing gets from this life as much satisfaction and fun as any man could wish for.

- Godfrey Harrison, author of 'Life and Belief in the Experience of John Laing.'

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