



Ideas for using John Laing quotations with Key Stage 1 & Lower Key Stage 2

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

Quotations - ideas for use:

- Choose a quotation to talk about as a class - what does the quotation tell the pupils about John Laing? There are discussion suggestions alongside each quotation.
- Do some artwork that is inspired by a quotation and display it.
- Ask pupils whether their family has a phrase they often say
- Create a class quotation - offering advice or inspiration.
- Draw John Laing and cut out words about him from the quotations to stick around him to create a collage.
- Do a class picture of John Laing's oak tree with birds in its branches and stick the quotation on it.
- Reflect on how John Laing sets us a good example using these quotations.

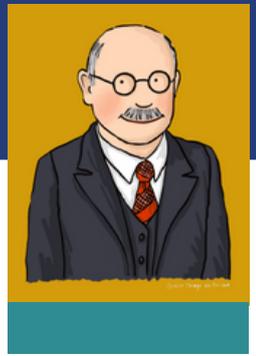
Here are 7 quotations said by, or about, John Laing – one for each day of a week. They could be used as a quick thought or reflection for the day. Each one has some questions to help you discuss it or to connect it to pupils' own experiences.

1. "Here comes Laing, happy as usual!" (As John Laing arrived at a government committee during WWII)

- What sort of things do you think made John Laing happy?
- What makes you happy?
- Who can you smile at today?

2. "Remember the men who are up to the ears in mud and drenched to the skin." (Laing to his inside office staff about his outside builders)

- Do you think it is hard work being a builder?
- Do you think John Laing was a kind boss?
- Why do you think he told his inside workers in the office to remember the outside builders?
- How can you work at understanding other people's lives and experiences?



3. “He knew everyone by name...their families and everything.” (A worker)

- Do you think John Laing’s workers liked the fact Laing remembered their names?
- Do you like it when people remember your names? Why?
- How do you think people feel when you get their name wrong?

4. “Sir John himself was a proper gentleman...he would drive to go and drink tea with an old worker.” (A worker)

- What does this tell you about John Laing?
- How do you think the old worker felt when John Laing visited him?
- Who would you like to drink tea with?
- How can you show kindness?

5. “John Laing expected you to work hard, because he himself worked hard.” (A worker)

- Do you think it is important for people to work hard?
- How does work make people feel?
- Why might people not work hard?

6. “Everything lovely and beautiful thrilled John Laing.” (A close friend of John Laing)

- What sort of things do you think John Laing found lovely and beautiful?
- What sort of things do you find lovely and beautiful?

7. “John Laing loves the view from his home, watching the birds in the garden, and constantly admires the beautiful oak tree.” (A worker)

- Is spending time in nature good for people?
- What do you like to look at in nature?
- Do you have a favourite tree or bird?

Quotations



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

(Laing to his inside office staff about his outside builders)

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“He knew everyone by name...their families and everything.”

(A worker)

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

(A worker)

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

(A worker)

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“Everything lovely and beautiful thrilled John Laing.”

(A close friend of John Laing)

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“John Laing loves the view from his home, watching the birds in the garden, and constantly admires the beautiful oak tree.”

(A worker)

