Desiderata  
Max Ehrmann

Go placidly amid the noise and haste,  
and remember what peace there may be in silence.  
As far as possible without surrender  
be on good terms with all persons.  
Speak your truth quietly and clearly;  
and listen to others,  
even the dull and the ignorant;  
they too have their story.  
  
Avoid loud and aggressive persons,  
they are vexations to the spirit.  
If you compare yourself with others,  
you may become vain and bitter;  
for always there will be greater and lesser persons than yourself.  
Enjoy your achievements as well as your plans.  
  
Keep interested in your own career, however humble;  
it is a real possession in the changing fortunes of time.  
Exercise caution in your business affairs;  
for the world is full of trickery.  
But let this not blind you to what virtue there is;  
many persons strive for high ideals;  
and everywhere life is full of heroism.  
  
Be yourself.  
Especially, do not feign affection.  
Neither be cynical about love;  
for in the face of all aridity and disenchantment  
it is as perennial as the grass.  
  
Take kindly the counsel of the years,  
gracefully surrendering the things of youth.  
Nurture strength of spirit to shield you in sudden misfortune.  
But do not distress yourself with dark imaginings.  
Many fears are born of fatigue and loneliness.  
Beyond a wholesome discipline,  
be gentle with yourself.  
  
You are a child of the universe,  
no less than the trees and the stars;  
you have a right to be here.  
And whether or not it is clear to you,  
no doubt the universe is unfolding as it should.  
  
Therefore be at peace with God,  
whatever you conceive Him to be,  
and whatever your labors and aspirations,  
in the noisy confusion of life keep peace with your soul.  
  
With all its sham, drudgery, and broken dreams,  
it is still a beautiful world.  
Be cheerful.  
Strive to be happy.

Sonnet 79

Edmund Spencer

Men call you fair, and you do credit it,

For that yourself you daily such do see:

But the true fair, that is the gentle wit

And virtuous mind, is much more praised of me.

For all the rest, however fair it be,

Shall turn to naught and lose that glorious hue:

But only that is permanent and free

From frail corruption that doth flesh ensue,

That is true beauty; that doth argue you

To be divine and born of heavenly seed;

Derived from that fair spirit, from whom all true

And perfect beauty did at first proceed:

He only fair, and what he fair hath made:

All other fair, like flowers, untimely fade.

An Ode To Dreamers

B. R. Jording   
When dreamers dream   
And lovers love   
Do they receive their visions   
From heaven above?   
Or do they originate   
Where all things start   
Within our minds   
Within our hearts?   
I know not all   
But what I do know is this   
You cannot build a Kingdom   
Upon a flimsy wish   
So believe in your dreams   
Follow them blind   
Lest you loose them all,   
To the hands of time.

Table Of Contents

The Pianist

Sonnet 79

Ode To My Friends

Ode To Dreamers

Seeds of Change

Desiderata

**Beatriz Thames**

**Edmund Spencer**

**Beatriz Thames**

**B. R. Jording**

**Beatriz Thames**

**Maz Ehrmann**

The Pianist

My fingers running up and down a black

And white staircase. Music notes fall like rain.

My own entertainment I never lack,

And it’s crowds that I please and entertain.

Pianissimo is soft, sweet, and gentle.

Forte is thunder of a storm hitting.

In contrast to the sentimental

Sound, play louder to send the world spinning.

A voice in the darkness echoes and sings.

O still and hollow quiet disappear.

No more consuming silent noise. The ring

Of piano strings is what I want to hear.

Listen to the drum, the beat of the heart,

For it is the key to master this art.

If Galileo had said in verse that the world moved, the inquisition might have let him alone.   
 -Thomas Hardy

Ode to My Friends

When my day is shadowed by condescending gazes,

It can always be brightened by the sight of friendly faces.

Say something funny, you all don’t have to try,

To have me laughing so hard, you’ll make me cry.

When I’m feeling down, it is you to whom I run

Because in your company, I always have fun.

I can finally be myself, you’re not the kind to judge,

Our bond is so strong, we can never hold a grudge.

You’re always there for me through thick and thin.

You cheer me on, whether I lose or win.

And when my body turns to dust, and I reflect on the past

It was you that I could trust, and it’s why our friendships last.

I have the greatest friends, you have all been so true.

True to the end, so I want to say “thank you”

Los amigos son como un gran tesoro,

Guárdelos en tu corazón, que valen más que oro.

.

Seeds of Change

Everchanging leaves, impressive size

I climb this tree to realize.

With its arms holding me, I gain a better view

and look down at the earth crumbling below.

The majesties that tower over the globe

And bring balance to our atmosphere

Are cut down, with less around each passing year.

And other forms of life disappear.

Leaving behind the ghost of what life once was

To haunt us.

And we drown in our own trash and filth

Left alone with our insatiable greed.

Earth is irreplaceable

There is only one

One planet that we know

That can support all that we love

Yet so much damage has already been done

And some is irreversible, can this war be won?

Indifference to what is valuable turns to things forgotten

Our narrow focus on our own society, and what’s left is now spoiled and rotten

But there is hope, we can change

Repent our neglectful ways

But let us not wait further

For it then may be too late

Steps must be taken

Whether large or small

But given enough time

We can go very far.

Start with the soil, it feeds things that grow

take the tiny seeds that make mighty trees.

And with these small steps, maybe will see

That desired change that we want to be.