It is arguably stated that Dumbledore, headmaster at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, is the greatest wizard of our time, and though he is (sadly) a fictional character, he is still one of the wisest men ever invented. Dumbledore has voiced a myriad of inspirational advice, but I only included what I thought were the most inspirational.

* “It is our choices, Harry, that show what we truly are, far more than our abilities.” –*The Chamber of Secrets*
* “It matters not what someone is born, but what they grow to be.” –*The Goblet of Fire*
* “The consequences of our actions are always so complicated, so diverse, that predicting the future is a very difficult business indeed.” –*The Prisoner of Azkaban*
* “It does not do to dwell on dreams and forget to live.” –*The Sorcerer’s Stone*
* “Fear of a name increases fear of the thing itself.” –*The Sorcerer’s Stone*
* “There are all kinds of courage,” said Dumbledore, smiling. “It takes a great deal of bravery to stand up to our enemies, but just as much to stand up to our friends.” –*The Sorcerer’s Stone*
* “People find it far easier to forgive others for being wrong than being right.” –*The Half-Blood Prince*
* “We are only as strong as we are united, as weak as we are divided.” –*The Goblet of Fire*
* “Differences of habit and language are nothing at all if our aims are identical and our hearts are open.” –*The Goblet of Fire*
* “We cannot choose our fate, but we can choose others. Be careful in knowing that.” –*The Order of the Phoenix*
* “It is important,” Dumbledore said, “to fight, and fight again, and keep fighting, for only then could evil be kept at bay, though never quite eradicated.” –*The Half-Blood Prince*
* “The truth.” Dumbledore sighed. “It is a beautiful and terrible thing, and should therefore be treated with great caution.” –*The Sorcerer’s Stone*
* “Curiosity is not a sin…but we should exercise caution with our curiosity.” –*The Goblet of Fire*
* “Numbing the pain for a while will make it worse when you finally feel it.” –*The Goblet of Fire*
* “Understanding is the first step to acceptance, and only with acceptance can there be recovery.” –*The Goblet of Fire*
* “Youth cannot know how age thinks and feels, but old men are guilty if they forget what it was to be young.” –*The Order of the Phoenix*
* “You think the dead we loved truly ever leave us? You think that we don’t recall them more clearly in times of great trouble?” –*The Prisoner of Azkaban*
* “Do not pity the dead, Harry, pity the living, and above all those who live without love.” –*The Deathly Hallows*
* “It is the unknown we fear when we look upon death and darkness, nothing more.” –*The Half-Blood Prince*
* “Let us step into the night and pursue that flighty temptress, adventure.” –*The Half-Blood Prince*
* “Ah, music,” he said wiping his eyes. “A magic beyond all we do here.” –*The Sorcerer’s Stone*
* “Of course it is happening inside your head, Harry, but why on earth should that mean it is not real?” –*The Deathly Hallows*
* “Words are, in my not so humble opinion, our most inexhaustible source of magic, capable of both influencing injury, and remedying it.” –*The Deathly Hallows*
* BONUS: "Happiness can be found, even in the darkest of times, if only one remembers to turn on the light." –*The Prisoner of Azkaban* (from the screenplay, by Steven Kloves)
* “What you fear most of all is– fear. Very wise.” –Lupin, *The Prisoner of Azkaban*
* “If you want to know what a man’s like, take a good look at how he treats his inferiors, not his equals.” –Sirius Black, *The Goblet of Fire*
* “Things we lose have a way of coming back to us in the end, if not always in the way we expect.” –Luna Lovegood, *The Order of the Phoenix*
* “Thoughts could leave deeper scars than almost anything else.” –Ron quoting Madam Pomfrey, *The Order of the Phoenix*
* “We are all human, aren’t we? Every human life is worth the same, and worth saving.” –Kingsley Shacklebolt, *The Deathly Hallows*
* “The world isn’t split into good people and Death Eaters. We’ve all got both light and dark inside us. What matters is the part we choose to act on. That’s who we really are.” –*The Order of the Phoenix*
* "Mischief Managed." --*The Prisoner of Azkaban*
* **On coping with loss:**
* Dumbledore reminds Harry to live in the present moment and not dream of a past gone or a future that could have been.
* “It does not do to dwell on dreams and forget to live.” ―  Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone

## On courage:

Courage comes in various forms, it’s not just about fighting your enemies like Harry, Ron and Hermione demonstrate, but also about confronting your friends like Neville shows us.

“It takes a great deal of bravery to stand up to our enemies, but just as much to stand up to our friends.” ― Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone

## On death:

Dumbledore points out to Harry the wisdom of accepting our mortality and not fearing the end but looking upon it as an opportunity for a new beginning.

“To the well-organized mind, death is but the next great adventure.” ―  Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone

**On choices:**

You are a consequence of your choices in life. It doesn’t matter how capable or talented you are, it’s what you do that makes a difference in the world. We are who we choose to become.

“It is our choices, Harry, that show what we truly are, far more than our abilities.” ― Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets

## On happiness:

Happiness is an inside job. It is a conscious choice and lasting happiness emanates from within and is not affected by external circumstances. We all have it within us to find that hope in the midst of despair.

“Happiness can be found even in the darkest of times if only one remembers to turn on the light” – Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban

## On character:

Do unto others as you would want them to do unto you. Treating everyone with kindness is important, as Sirius Black points out.

“If you want to know what a man’s like, take a good look at how he treats his inferiors, not his equals” – Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire

**On making the right decisions:**

**When we are faced with problems, it’s only too easy to take the easy way out but this may not always be the right choice.**

**“Dark and difficult times lie ahead. Soon we must all face the choice between what is right and what is easy.” – Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire**

## On being sensitive:

Empathize with others and put yourself in their shoes to appreciate their point of view.

“Just because you have the emotional range of a teaspoon doesn’t mean we all have.” – Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix

## On accepting and understanding ourselves:

We have all experience positive and negative thoughts, emotions, and sensations. But we have a choice not to be swayed by them, through making independent decisions on how to act appropriately.

“We’ve all got both light and dark inside us. What matters is the part we choose to act on. That’s who we really are.” – Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoeni

## On being human and recognizing the power of pain:

If we didn’t have problems, we wouldn’t appreciate the good things in life. Pain, loss, and failure is inevitable in life and brings perspective, clarity and is a catalyst for positive change, should you allow it to be.

“Harry, suffering like this proves you are still a man! This pain is part of being human … the fact that you can feel pain like this is your greatest strength. ” – Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix

## On karma:

Everything will work out eventually and for the best, even if it’s not in the way we expected it.

“Things we lose have a way of coming back to us in the end, if not always in the way we expect.” – Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix

## On the fear of death:

It is the lack of knowledge and experience that makes us fear death and darkness, just like a child may fear the shadows but as she grows and understands more, she becomes fearless.

“It is the unknown we fear when we look upon death and darkness, nothing more. ” – Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince.

## On reality and the mind:

Reality is but an illusion. Everything we experience in the world is a reflection of our mind. So our perception is colored by our internal makeup which is why different people see the same things, differently. This is J.K. Rowling’s favorite quote from the series.

“Of course it is happening inside your head, Harry, but why on earth should that mean that it is not real?” – Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows

## On using words wisely:

Words can hurt or heal so choose yours carefully. Think before you speak.

“Words are in my not-so-humble opinion, the most inexhaustible form of magic we have, capable both of inflicting injury and remedying it.” ― Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows

## On love:

True love is unconditional and eternal.

“After all this time?”  
“Always,” said Snape.” ― Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows

This quote is not from the series and was spoken by JK Rowling at the premiere of the last film. It was the perfect way to bid a fond farewell to Potter fans who mourned the end of their childhood with the end of the series; as many of us grew up with this books and movies. However, they will stay with us forever.

“No story lives unless someone wants to listen. The stories we love best do live in us forever. So whether you come back by page or by the big screen, Hogwarts will always be there to welcome you home.” ― J.K. Rowling

## 1. “Welcome to a new year at Hogwarts! Before we begin our banquet, I would like to say a few words. And here they are: Nitwit! Blubber! Oddment! Tweak!”

This first quote from Dumbledore is silly, sure, but it’s also very astute. He recognizes that words don’t matter; only actions do. As long as you do what is expected of you, you can be as ridiculous as you want.

## 2. “The consequences of our actions are always so complicated, so diverse, that predicting the future is a very difficult business indeed.”

Dumbledore would probably agree that planning too far ahead in too much detail is a fruitless endeavor. Our lives are full of surprises, and we’ll never predict all the obstacles and opportunities that come our way.

## 3. “Clever as I am, I remain just as big a fool as anyone else.”

It’s hard to think of Dumbledore as foolish, but he understands that sometimes the cleverest people among us can also be the most dim when it comes to certain matters. After all, Dumbledore was entranced by the Resurrection Stone that led to his demise, even though he knew better than to meddle with it.

## 4. “It matters not what someone is born, but what they grow up to be.”

One of my favorite quotes from Dumbledore. He knows that birthright is in many ways a myth. What you become is all that matters in the end.

## 5. “Happiness can be found, even the darkest of times, if only one remembers to turn on the light.”

This is one of the quotes from Dumbledore that has been expressed by other characters and other authors, but not quite the way he said it. Even if it’s hard to find in the dark, there’s always a light switch somewhere. All you have to do is find it and have the willingness to flip it on.

## 6. “The truth is a beautiful and terrible thing, and should therefore be treated with great caution.”

The truth is important, but it shouldn’t be taken lightly. Quotes from Dumbledore like this show his wisdom. Here he understands that the lies and the truth are not black and white.

## 7. “It does not do to dwell on dreams and forget to live.”

When Harry Potter was obsessed with the Erised mirror, Dumbledore was wise enough to find him and inform him that you can’t let fantasies get in the way of real life.

## 8. “Mysterious thing, Time. Powerful, and when meddled with, dangerous.”

Whether you’re time traveling with the Time-Turner or just growing older, time is a very fantastical concept. No one completely understands it, but Dumbledore knows that doing anything to mess with it is dangerous. That includes going backwards in time or trying to rush through life without taking the time to smell the roses.

## 9. “Do not pity the dead, Harry. Pity the living and above all, those who live without love.”

Death is sad, but a lack of love in your life is the biggest tragedy of all. Quotes from Dumbledore like this remind us of what really matters in the world.

## 10. “Dark times are ahead and there will be a time when we must choose between what is easy and what is right.”

The easy path is almost never the right one. Dumbledore knows you should never skate by when you can soar.

## 11. “Maybe a man in a million could unite the Hallows, Harry. I was fit only to possess the meanest of them, the least extraordinary. I was fit to own the Elder Wand, and not to boast of it, and not to kill with it. I was permitted to tame and to use it, because I took it, not for gain, but to save others from it.”

Quotes from Dumbledore such as this illustrate how his immense compassion enabled him to keep control of the Elder Wand. It perfectly demonstrates that people in power, whether that power be political, social, or something else, should be compassionate.

## 12. “Of course it is happening inside your head, Harry, but why on Earth should it mean it is not real?”

Things are exactly as real as we let them be. One of the last quotes from Dumbledore is also one of the most memorable, as he reminds us of the staggering power of belief.

All of us are subject to the feeling of loneliness, but are we ever truly alone? While seemingly on his own most of the time, Harry Potter always had the support of his friends and guardians, showing us that there’s no such thing as ever being truly alone. The best example of this in the series for me was when Harry wasn’t receiving any letters from his friends all summer, feeling neglected and rejected by them, only to find out Dobby had been hiding them from him the entire time. The next scene that followed, with Ron and the Weasley twins rescuing him in their flying car, was just the cherry on top of the surrounded-by-support sundae.

## 5. Friends will get you out of trouble, but best friends will get in trouble with you

Sure, a friend will help you out of a predicament (like Lupin did when Snape caught Harry with the Marauder’s Map), but a true best friend will be right there in the thick of it. Any time Harry found himself in a troubling situation, Ron and Hermione faced it with him. I mean, think about it. Can you imagine facing a whomping willow, three-headed dog, and life-size lethal chess set without your best friends? My guess is no.

## 6. Sometimes we have to face our own battles alone

## As much as it helped to have his friends through every obstacle, Harry always ended up confronting his challenger alone and for good reason. We can’t rely on our friends or family to somehow save us from our own problems every time. We have to learn to fight our own battles at some point, whether it’s dealing with the petty jealousy of a friend when you’re unknowingly entered in a contest, or defeating a massive basilisk in the demented water park of your school’s basement. No one said it’d be easy, but Harry Potter proved it’d be worth it. 7. Animals are sometimes (and often) better company

I don’t think any of us needed the Harry Potter series to learn this life truth, but somehow seeing Harry happily flying over the Hogwart’s lake with Buckbeak and stroking Hedwig’s head after a hard day made this lesson 10 times more relatable.

## 8. Confidence is not the same thing as bravery

While Gryffindor was known for producing the bravest of the Hogwart’s bunch, Ravenclaw was known for producing an imitation hero, and his name was Professor Lockhart. More than anyone in the novels, Gildroy Lockhart proved to us that bravery comes from within and cannot be confused with its egotistical cousin, confidence. And look where all that “bravery” got him – a faulty memory, a worthless book deal, and the boot from Hogwarts.

## 9. You should never let anyone get the best of you

We may not have realized it as children, but Malfoy’s slandering of Muggles, especially Hermione, was an evident example of the prominence of racially-charged bullying. Hermione’s “non-magical blood” made her an enemy in the eyes of the “pure-blood” Slytherins (tell me that’s not a reference to racism). However, Hermione showed us how we shouldn’t be defined by what we are, but rather who we are. And she certainly succeeded in doing so when she punched Malfoy in the third novel. You go, Hermione.

## 10. There’s always some mysterious force working in our favor (or to our disadvantage)

This kind of goes along the same lines as the “you’re never alone” lesson, but speaks to the surprise element of our sly support system. While Harry didn’t know it throughout the course of the series, Snape was always on the side of Dumbledore in protecting Harry from Voldemort, despite Harry’s continuous distrust in him. On the flip side, Harry trusted Mad-Eye Moody in the fourth novel and ended up in a graveyard with the reinvented Voldemort to be nearly killed. So if you think about it, the Harry Potter series destroyed our trust in everyone.

## 11. You should never go anywhere alone without telling or bringing someone

This life lesson was beaten into our brains when we were kids, but still applies to us adults. If we learned anything from Hermione discovering a psychotic troll in the girl’s bathroom while alone, it’s that we should always tell someone where we’re going or bring a buddy with us. Girls, this is a warning – never let your friends go to the bathroom in a bar alone. You never know what other kind of troll is going to be lurking nearby.

Often times we unintentionally judge others based on their appearance, but sometimes our assessments aren’t accurate. A great example of this in the Harry Potter series was the character of Sirius Black. For the majority of the third novel, all of us, including Harry, thought he was some crazy, traitorous murderer with a bone to pick with the Potter boy. Then J.K. Rowling did a 180 and turned him into the caring, cool godfather trying to avenge Harry’s parents. Talk about a plot twist.

## 13. Adolescent dances are terrible

Do I need to say more? After watching Ron pine after Hermione, Hermione cry over Ron, and Harry sit alone like every uninterested young boy after his date angrily left him to go dance, I think we could all say the movie scene brought back a lot of bad memories. Those dances should just be banned all together, right Umbridge?

## 14. Being invisible isn’t as great as we think it’d be

As great as the superpower may seem for every introvert and grumpy cat-like person, invisibility isn’t all it’s cracked up to be. Sure, it’s pretty awesome that Harry gets to move around unnoticed and avoid unwanted attention, but the costs sometimes come more than the rewards. Take for instance when Harry’s roaming around Hogsmeade in his invisibility cloak. He’s all happy, licking a lollipop, and then all of a sudden – boom. He overhears the rumor that Sirius betrayed his his parents. In the next moment, Harry’s crying in the snow and shouting, “He was their friend!” Yeah, I think I’d rather have the gift of cooking delicious Harry Potter meals instead.

## 15. Ultimate power must be used with caution

If there’s anything we’ve learned from Harry Potter, it’s that power is a great and terrible thing. When it’s used for good, power has the ability to change the world for the better. When it’s used for evil though, power has the ability to destroy it. Aside from Voldemort, the best example the novels give us of the detrimental nature of ultimate power is the creation of the elder wand. Wizards have to kill its master to own it, friends kill each other to own it…it’s just all around a machine of destruction. However, I will say the elder wand would make a fantastic travel companion. Accio best vacation ever? I think so.

## 16. With age comes wisdom

Of all the quotes I’ve accumulated in Word documents, notebooks, and Pinterest over the years, the majority of them come from the Harry Potter series – and most of those were spoken by none other than Dumbledore himself. Whenever Harry found himself in a tough situation, we could always rely on Dumbledore to give brilliant advice or offer a wise suggestion. After all, the man had lived for over a century. It’s not too far-fetched to say he’d learned a couple things or two in his lifetime.

## 17. With age comes attractiveness (or unattractiveness)

I’m not the first to say it, but I think I speak for us all when I say Neville pleasantly surprised everyone by the end of the movie series. Talk about a transformation! It just goes to show us that attractiveness can develop over time, and the same goes for unattractiveness. Not to name names, but a certain Gryffindor cutie didn’t quite turn out the way I’d hoped he would.

## 18. The power of love is stronger than the power of hatred

The phrase “kill them with kindness” applies here. We can’t possibly win over everyone, but Harry Potter showed us that we can triumph in our relationships with loved ones. Even with Voldemort’s constant death threats, Harry Potter always had a support system of family and friends to help him along the way. And in the end, that made all the difference.

## 19. Sometimes our enemies turn out to be our friends in disguise

Have you ever known someone you couldn’t stand, only to find out they were actually a pretty decent, bearable person? The question’s rhetorical, but it’s true – our original assumptions of others are often not as spot on as we think. In Harry Potter’s life, this seemed to be especially relevant. From Snape to Sirius, to even Dobby, Harry was proven wrong time and time again by his initial judgments. Then again, when you’ve got an entire band of evil misfits against you, it’s safe to say you’d be a little weary of people too.

## 20. Magic exists, even for us Muggles

“Indifference and neglect often do much more damage than outright dislike.” – Albus Dumbledore, Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix

Never shying away from caring for others, master wizard Albus Dumbledore is quick to prompt Harry, and each of us, that indifference is the real enemy of good. Spurring Harry to act on behalf of others reminds all of us to care more about the people in our lives.

## Loss does not define us.

“You think the dead we loved ever truly leave us? You think that we don’t recall them more clearly than ever in times of great trouble? Your father is alive in you, Harry, and shows himself plainly when you have need of him.” – Albus Dumbledore, Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban

Another way the Harry Potter series tackles loss is by emphasizing Harry’s memories of those around him who have passed. By learning to treasure our memories of deceased loved ones, we can feel less like we’ve lost someone dear, and more appreciative of the time we had with them.

## Hope can never be extinguished.

## Life wasted is worse than death

“Indeed, your failure to understand that there are things much worse than death has always been your greatest weakness.” – Albus Dumbledore, Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix

In chastising Voldemort, Dumbledore reminds all of us that worse than death is a life wasted. Though Voldemort seeks immortality throughout the books, what ultimately defeats him is the rest of the characters’ refusal to waste their lives in fear and suffering.

“Age is foolish and forgetful when it underestimates youth.” – Albus Dumbledore, Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince

Another incredible lesson from the Harry Potter series is that age is no barrier to what you can accomplish. Despite their youth, Harry, Ron, and Hermione conquer some of the most dangerous forces in their world. On the other hand, however, aging wizards like Dumbledore still remain powerful and capable. Emphasizing once again that choices define who you are, the Harry Potter series shows people of all ages limited only by their motivation and imagination.