



Readings and Poems

You can have one of these examples or find something you love, Its totally up to you. Let me know who will be making the reading. It is not required that you have a reading although it is a nice way to include an important someone into the ceremony.

- Blessing of the Hands - Author Unknown

These are the hands of your best friend, young and strong and full of love for you, that are holding yours on your wedding day, as you promise to love each other today, tomorrow, and forever.

These are the hands that will work alongside yours, as together you build your future.

These are the hands that will passionately love you and cherish you through the years, and with the slightest touch, will comfort you like no other.

These are the hands that will hold you when fear or grief fills your mind.

These are the hands that will countless times wipe the tears from your eyes; tears of sorrow, and tears of joy.

These are the hands that will tenderly hold your children.

These are the hands that will help you to hold your family as one.

These are the hands that will give you strength when you need it.

And lastly, these are the hands that even when wrinkled and aged, will still be reaching for yours, still giving you the same unspoken tenderness with just a touch.

-Every Time I Say I Love You- Author Unknown

Every time I say I love you I'm really trying to say so much more than those three little words: I'm trying to express so many wonderful feelings about you. I'm trying to say that you mean more to me than anyone else in the world. I'm trying to let you know that I adore you and that I cherish the time we spend together. I'm trying to explain that I want you and that I need you And that I get lost in wonderful thoughts every time I think about you. And each time I whisper 'I love you' I'm trying to remind you that you're the nicest thing that has ever happened to me

**- Believe in Marriage-
Author Unknown**

Marriage is; someone to believe in and to put their trust in you. Someone who appreciates the special things you do; Someone to be close to in your heart and in your mind Someone who's the love you might have thought you'd never find; Someone who stands by you and whose faith can make your strong Someone you will cherish every day your whole life long. The happiness of being loved, the joy that sharing brings A marriage built on faith and trust in each other and understanding, too; And a life that's very full and rich and good to both of you!

**- What is Love? -
Anon.**

Sooner or later we begin to understand that love is more than verses on valentines and romance in the movies. We begin to know that love is here and now, real and true, the most important thing in our lives. For love is the creator of our favourite memories and the foundation of our fondest dreams. Love is a promise that is always kept, a fortune that can never be spent, a seed that can flourish in even the most unlikely of places. And this radiance that never fades, this mysterious and magical joy, is the greatest treasure of all – one known only by those who love.

**- He's Not Perfect -
Bob Marley**

He's not perfect. You aren't either, and the two of you will never be perfect. But if he can make you laugh at least once, causes you to think twice, and if he admits to being human and making mistakes, hold onto him and give him the most you can. He isn't going to quote poetry, he's not thinking about you every moment, but he will give you a part of him that he knows you could break.

Don't hurt him, don't change him, and don't expect for more than he can give. Don't analyze. Smile when he makes you happy, yell when he makes you mad, and miss him when he's not there. Love hard when there is love to be had. Because perfect guys don't exist, but there's always one guy that is perfect for you.

**-A Chinese Poem-
Anon**

I want to be your friend
for ever and ever without break or decay.
when the hills are all flat
and the rivers are all dry,
when it lightens and thunders in winter,
when it rains and snows in summer,
when heaven and earth mingle
not 'til then will I part from you.

**-Why Marriage-
Dena Acolatse**

Because to the depths of me, I long to love one person,
with all my heart, my soul, my mind, my body...

Because I need a forever friend to trust with the intimacies of me,
who won't hold them against me,
who loves me when i'm unlikable,
who sees the small child in me, and
who looks for the divine potential of me...

Because I need to cuddle in the warmth of the night
with someone who thanks god for me,
with someone i feel blessed to hold...

Because marriage means opportunity to grow in love, in friendship...
Because marriage is a discipline to be added to a list of achievements...
Because marriages do not fail, people fail when they enter into marriage
expecting another to make them whole...

Because, knowing this, I promise myself to take full responsibility
for my spiritual, mental and physical wholeness
I create me, I take half of the responsibility for my marriage
together we create our marriage...

Because with this understanding the possibilities are limitless.

**- Excerpt from The Bridge Across Forever -
By Richard Bach**

A soulmate is someone who has locks that fit our keys, and keys to fit our locks. When we feel safe enough to open the locks, our truest selves step out and we can be completely and honestly who we are; we can be loved for who we are and not for who we're pretending to be. Each unveils the best part of the other. No matter what else goes wrong around us, with that one person we're safe in our own paradise. Our soulmate is someone who shares our deepest longings, our sense of direction. When we're two balloons, and together our direction is up, chances are we've found the right person. Our soulmate is the one who makes life come to life.

**- Oh the Places You'll Go -
Dr Seuss.**

Congratulations! Today is your day.
You're off to Great Places! You're off and away!
You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself
any direction you choose.
You're on your own. And you know what you know.
And YOU are the guy who'll decide where to go.
You'll look up and down streets. Look 'em over with care. About some you will say,
"I don't choose to go there." With your head full of brains and your shoes full of feet,
you're too smart to go down any not-so-good street.
You'll be on your way up! You'll be seeing great sights! You'll join the high fliers who
soar to high heights.
You won't lag behind, because you'll have the speed. You'll pass the whole gang
and you'll soon take the lead. So be sure when you step. Step with care and great
tact and remember that Life's a Great Balancing Act.
KID, YOU'LL MOVE MOUNTAINS!
You're off the Great Places! Today is your day!
Your mountain is waiting. So...get on your way!

**- The Art of Marriage-
By Wilfred A Peterson**

Happiness in a marriage is not something that just happens. A good marriage must
be created. In the marriage, the little things are the big things. It is never being too
old to hold hands. It is remembering to say, "I love you" at least once a day. It is
never going to sleep angry. It is at no time taking the other for granted; the courtship
should not end with the honeymoon, it should continue through all the years. It is
having a mutual sense of values and common objectives. It is standing together
facing the world.

It is forming a circle of love that gathers in the whole family. It is doing things for
each other, not in the attitude of duty or sacrifice, but in the spirit of joy. It is
speaking words of appreciation, and demonstrating gratitude in thoughtful ways. It
is not expecting the husband to wear a halo or the wife to have the wings of an
angel. It is not looking for perfection in each other. It is cultivating flexibility,
patience, understanding and a sense of humour. It is having the capacity to forgive
and forget. It is giving each other an atmosphere in which each can grow.

It is finding room for the things of the Spirit. It is a common search for the good and
the beautiful. It is establishing a relationship in which the independence is equal,
dependence is mutual, and the obligation is reciprocal.

It is not only marrying the right partner, it is BEING the right partner. This is The Art
of Marriage.

-TheDay-
Author Unknown

May this be the start of a happy new life that's full of special moments to share....
May this be the first of your dreams come true, and of hope that will always be there... May this be the start of a lifetime of trust and of caring that's just now begun...

May today be a day that you'll always remember the day when your hearts become one.

-TheOne-
Anon.

When the one whose hand you're holding Is the one who holds your heart, When the one whose eyes you gaze into Gives your hope and dreams their start, When the one you think of first and last Is the one who holds you tight, And the things you plan together Make the whole world seem just right. When the one whom you believe in Puts their faith and trust in you, You've found the one and only love You'll share your whole life through.

- Everything you need to know about marriage you learnt in Kindergarten -
Anon.

All of what you really need to know about how to live, and what to do, and how to be, I learned in Prep. Wisdom was not at the top of the graduate school mountain, but there in the sandpit at Primary School. These are the things I learned and that you need to remember for your marriage.

Share everything.

Play fair.

Don't hit people.

Put things back where you found them.

Clean up your own mess.

Don't take things what aren't yours.

Say sorry when you hurt somebody.

Wash you hands before you eat.

Flush and put the toilet seat down.

Warm chocolate cookies and cold milk are good for you

Share them if you feel sad.

Live a balanced life.

Always use your listening ears.

Learn some and think some and draw and paint and sing and dance and play and work every day.

Take a nap every Saturday afternoon.

Be aware of wonder.

Remember the little seed in the plastic cup? The roots go down and the plant goes up and nobody really knows how or why, but we are all like that.

Everything you need to know is in there somewhere. And it is still true, no matter how old you are, when you go out into the world, it is best to hold hands and stick together.

**-To My Dear and Loving Husband-
Anne Bradstreet**

If ever two were one, then surely we.
If ever man were lov'd by wife, then thee.
If ever wife was happy in a man, Compare with me, ye women, if you can.
I prize thy love more than the whole Mines of gold
Or all the riches that the East doth hold,
My love is such that Rivers cannot quench,
Nor ought but love from thee, give recompense.
Thy love is such I can no way repay.
The heavens reward thee manifold, I pray.
Then while we live, in love let's so preserve,
That when we live no more, we may live ever.

**-How Falling in Love is Like Owning a Dog”
Taylor Mali**

On cold winter nights, love is warm.
It lies between you and lives and breathes
and makes funny noises.
Love wakes you up all hours of the night with its needs.
It needs to be fed so it will grow and stay healthy.
Love doesn't like being left alone for long.
But come home and love is always happy to see you.
It may break a few things accidentally in its passion for life,
but you can never be mad at love for long.
Is love good all the time? No! No!
Love can be bad. Bad, love, bad! Very bad love.
Love makes messes.
Love leaves you little surprises here and there.
Love needs lots of cleaning up after.
Sometimes you just want to get love fixed.
Sometimes you want to roll up a piece of newspaper
and swat love on the nose,
not so much to cause pain,
just to let love know, “Don't you ever do that again!”
Sometimes love just wants to go out for a nice long walk.
Because love loves exercise. It will run you around the block
and leave you panting, breathless. Pull you in different directions
at once, or wind itself around and around you
until you're all wound up and you cannot move.
But love makes you meet people wherever you go.
People who have nothing in common but love
stop and talk to each other on the street.
Throw things away and love will bring them back,
again, and again, and again.

But most of all, love needs love, lots of it.
And in return, love loves you and never stops.

-“Love”-
Roy Croft:

I love you
Not only for what you are, But for what I am when I am with you.
I love you, Not only for what you have made of yourself,
But for what you are making of me.
I love you for the part of me that you bring out;

I love you for putting your hand into my heaped-up heart
And passing over All the foolish, weak things that you can't help
Dimly seeing there, And for drawing out into the light

All the beautiful belongings that no one else had looked
Quite far enough to find.

-Graffiti Moon-
Cath Crowley

If my like for you was a football crowd, you'd be deaf 'cause of the roar.
And if my like for you was a boxer, there'd be a dead guy lying on the floor. And if
my like for you was sugar, you'd lose your teeth before you were twenty.

And if my like for you was money, let's just say you'd be spending plenty.

-Love Sonnet 17-
Pablo Neruda:

I love you without knowing how, or when, or from where.
I love you straightforwardly, without complexities or pride;
so I love you because I know no other way than this: where I do not exist, nor you,
so close that your hand on my chest is my hand,
so close that your eyes close as I fall asleep.

Disney quotes

"I look at you and I'm home" – Finding Nemo

"You are my greatest adventure." – The Incredibles

"For it is plain for anyone to see, we're simply meant to be." – The Nightmare Before Christmas

"I knew at once that you were meant for me. Deep in my soul, I know that you're my destiny." – Mulan

"A dream is a wish your heart makes, when you're fast asleep. In dreams you lose your heartaches, whatever you wish for, you keep." – Cinderella

"Listen with your heart, you will understand." – Pocahontas

"You're the best thing I never knew I needed." – The Princess and the Frog

"If there ever comes a day that we can't be together, keep me in your heart, I'll stay there forever." – Winnie the Pooh

"There isn't anything I wouldn't do for you. We stick together and can see it through. Cause you've got a friend in me." – Toy Story

"They say if you dream about something more than once, it's sure to come true." – Alice in Wonderland

"How do you spell love,' said Piglet? 'You don't spell love. You feel it,' said Pooh." – Winnie the Pooh

"Yes, you'll be in my heart. From this day on, now and forever more." – Tarzan

"You mean more to me than anyone in this whole wide world." – Peter Pan

"Some people are worth melting for." – Frozen

-Comfort-

Dinah Maria Kraik

Oh the comfort—

the inexpressible comfort of feeling safe with a person,

having neither to weigh thoughts nor measure words,

but pouring them all right out

just as they are chaff and grain together,

certain that a faithful hand will take and sift them—keep what is worth keeping,

and then with the breath of kindness blow the rest away.