**Growth**

**You grow up the day you have your first laugh at yourself. (Ethel Barrymore, actress)**

**As I remember it, the biggest disappointment about growing up was finding out that adults didn’t really have any secret knowledge about what to do in times of trouble. *(Beryl Pfizer, in Ladies’ Home Journal)***

**Perpetual growth: All your body slows down its growth rate when you get older. Only your ears keep growing. (The Diagram Group, in Funky, Freaky Facts, p. 183)**

**A boy becomes an adult three years before his parents think he does, and about two years after he thinks he does. *(General Lewis B. Hershey, Selective Service director)***

**Do butterflies keep on growing? Butterflies don’t grow at all. As caterpillars, they boost their birth weight 3,000 times. But once they’re out of the chrysalis, that’s it. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Growth for the sake of growth is the ideology of the cancer cell. *(Edward Abbey, author and environmentalist)***

**A child becomes an adult when he realizes that he has a right not only to be right but also to be wrong. *(Thomas Szasz, psychiatrist)***

**The third-grade class had just finished the week’s Bible study on the Exodus and entry to Canaan. The teacher asked for students’ questions. “Mr. Morkert,” Billy called to the teacher, “there is one thing I didn’t understand!” “What’s that?” asked the teacher. “Well, according to our Bible history book, the children of Israel crossed the Red Sea, right?” “Right,” Mr. Morkert confirmed. “And the children of Israel fought and won the battle at Jericho, right?” “That’s right.” “And the Children of Israel built the temple, right?” “That’s also correct,” agreed the teacher. “So what’s your question, Billy?” “What I’d like to know,” Billy continued, “is what were all the grown-ups doing?” *(The Lutheran Witness)***

**Our growth depends not on how many experiences we devour, but on how many we digest. *(Ralph W. Sockman pastor and author)***

**First little boy: “But I don’t want to work before I can have fun!” Older boy: “Last week, you couldn’t wait to be a grown-up. Now you’re putting it off.” Second little boy: “We just wanted to be allowed to stay up and watch David Letterman.” *(Jef Mallett, in Frazz comic strip)***

**Egypt’s population goes up another million every nine months. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Helga: “A mother’s job is important but . . . she must know when to turn her son over to the wisdom and maturity of his father.” Daughter: “When will that be?” Helga: “As soon as his father becomes wise and mature.” *(Chris Browne, in Hagar comic strip)***

**When my grandson Brian was about 3, I asked him what he wanted to be when he grew up. I wasn’t surprised when he said, “I want to be a truck driver, just like Grandpa.” Then he asked me what I wanted to be when I grew up. Since Grandpa is 6-foot-2 and I’m only 5 feet tall, I guess he thought I had more growing to do. *(Patricia Palmer, in Country magazine)***

**Growth is a process which creates a constant need for adjustment in life and viewpoint. *(Manly P. Hall)***

**In its first 12 months, a hippopotamus goes from 40 pounds to 600 pounds. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**It is so easy to get settled in a rut, where we stay until some great problem or desire lifts us out, or some tragedy blasts us out. All growth starts with desire. *(Stella Terrill Mann, in How to Use the Power of Your Mind)***

**Dennis says to his friend: “Margaret says she’s got maturity. I sure hope we never catch it!” (Hank Ketcham, in Dennis the Menace comic strip)**

**Little Johnny says, “I want to be a musician when I grow up.” Mom says, “Honey, you can’t do both.” *(Tidbits)***

**None of us is immune*.* We don’t leave cliques or peer pressure behind when we grow up or when we become parents. We just graduate to a new level with adults now playing the roles. *(Rosalind Wiseman)***

***\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\**As the couple approaches the ticket window, the woman says: “One adult and one childish adult.” *(J. C. Duffy, in The Fusco Brothers comic strip)***

**Growing up is, after all, only the understanding that one’s unique and incredible experience is what everyone shares. *(Doris Lessing, author)***

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**Bad week for: Twentysomethings, after British neuroscientists said brain studies show that people don't fully grow up until they're in their 30s. The idea that adulthood begins at 18 or 21, said Peter Jones of Cambridge University, "looks increasingly absurd." *(The Week magazine, March 29, 2019)***

**Billy says to Jeffy: “I’ll read this list to Mommy next time she says, ‘Why don’t you grow up?’” *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic p?’ strip)***

**There is a renewing Spirit within me that buds with new ideas, that blossoms with new experiences, that grows through new endeavors. I keep my mind and heart open to this renewing Spirit. I shed old thoughts and feelings as a tree sheds its old leaves in the fall, making ready for new growth. (Helen Hopper)**

**After being away all winter, my rapidly growing nephew, Nanue, returned to the camp that his Grandpa Bob and Grandma June operate during the summer. He turned to them and said, “Grandpa, you lowered the bunks!” *(Lori Vial, in Country Extra magazine)***

**Everybody thinks you reach a certain age and you're a grown up, but it's not true. Nobody knows up until the day they croak. (Keith Richards)**

**We would have broken up except for the children. Who were the children? Well, she and I were. *(Mort Sahl)***

**Charlie Brown: “Let me ask you something: Do you know exactly what you’re going to be when you grow up?” Lucy: “Of course. A smart cookie!” *(Charles M. Schulz, in Peanuts comic strip)***

**Not Really a Secret: It was that time of the year, late April, and my Sunday school class of 15, including my own girls, Jeannie, 14, and Cindy, 8, were with me, walking along the side of a road and picking up a winter’s worth of litter. Our trash bags were almost full when Cindy asked why we were picking up other people’s junk. Jeannie, who was on her knees trying to gather up a pile of cigarette butts, looked up at Cindy and said, “The secret to being grown up, Sis, is to show God you’re willing to do things even when you don’t really want to do them.” Then Jeannie spotted more trash in some nearby bushes. She stood up and hurried over to pick it up. Cindy smiled at me with her big brown eyes. “But, Mom,” she asked, “why does it have to be a secret?” (Jannett L. Grady, in The Lutheran Witness)**

**Shrimp, which wear their skeletons on the outside of their bodies, have been known to discard their shells as many as 26 times during a lifetime. They shed their shells to accommodate their growing bodies. Perhaps we human beings can take a lesson from the shrimp. Do we have some shells that need discarding? It may be a good idea to examine our lives and shed a few shells occasionally. The growing person is constantly shedding his shells. (*William Arthur Ward)***

**Dolly says to Mom: “I bet Barfy wishes he didn’t grow too big for laps.” *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)***

**Mom says to Dad: “Maybe Billy has grown up. He just walked around that puddle.” *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)***

**When you grow up, who you were as a teenager either takes on a mythical importance or it's completely laughable. *(Julie Buntin, novelist)***

**Biologically, adults produce children. Spiritually, children produce adults. Most of us do not grow up until we have helped children do so. Thus do the generations form a braided cord. *(George F. Will, in Washington Post)***

**Nowadays people come and go much quicker than they used to, and I guess the reason I’m still around is because I’ve tried to stay consistent about what I did, always trying to grow with my music. *(Stevie Wonder)***

**The more one grows, the more one likes indecency. *(Virginia Woolf)***

**My Favorite Saying: “You have to do your own growing, no matter how tall your parents were.” *(Mary Ellis, in Reminisce magazine)***

**Mr. Fillmore and I are “growing young” as fast as we can and we have all eternity in which to grow. We should help others to get away from the old race beliefs about life – that we are born, grow to maturity, have children, rear them, and decline and die. We can and must help others catch the higher vision of living – the development of soul qualities which make life a beautiful and helpful experience. There is so much to be seen, and learned, and done, that surely one can’t get all of it in three score years and ten. *(Myrtle Fillmore, co-founder of Unity)***

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