**Famous People on Fatherhood**

**Photographer Ansel Adams as a fidgety child who had difficulty adjusting to traditional schools. His father decided to teach him at home, and the next years were extremely fruitful. Learning experiences were always tapped into the young boy’s intrinsic interests and ranged from playing the piano to visiting an exposition. Years later, after he had become internationally known for his creative photography, Adams paid tribute to the courage of a father who was willing to take risks, to listen to that “different drummer” unique to each child. In his autobiography, Adams wrote: “I am certain he established the positive direction of my life that otherwise, given my native hyperactivity, could have been confused and catastrophic. I trace who I am and the direction of my development to those years of growing up in our house on the dunes, propelled especially by an internal spark tenderly kept alive and glowing by my father.” *(Teresa Amabile, in Growing Up Creative)***

**My father once looked through one of my information-crammed books and asked, "How did you learn all this, Isaac?" "From you, Pappa." "From me? I don't know any of this." "You didn't have to, Pappa. You valued learning and you taught me to value it. Al the rest came without trouble. *(Isaac Asimov, in Memory Yet Green, on the power of fatherly advice)***

**The most important thing a father can do for his children is to love their mother. *(Henry Ward Beecher)***

**Don’t be a pal to your son. Be his father. What child needs a 40-year-old for a friend? *(Al Capp, cartoonist)***

**One day my father sat me down and probably gave me the best advice of my life. He said, “Whatever you do, don’t wake up at 65 years old and think about what you should have done with your life.” *(George Clooney, Academy Award nominated actor and producer)***

**“I was 15 when my father died,” says singer Natalie Cole, remembering Nat King Cole, who died of lung cancer at the age of 45. “It’s a hard age for a girl to lose her dad, especially when you considered yourself to be Daddy’s little girl.” Cole has released an album, “Unforgettable With Love,” in which she sings 26 of her father’s hits, one electronically engineered to create a duet between father and daughter. “There was a time when making a record like this was the last thing I wanted to do,” says Cole. “People were always saying, ‘You’re Nat Cole’s daughter. Why don’t you sing his music?’ I was afraid I would never be allowed to be my own person, and so I took offense. This album means a lot to me. It’s a chance for me to say hello to my father, and good-by – and I miss you.” *(Stephen Holden, in New York Times)***

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**Nothing I’ve ever done has given me more joy and reward than being a good father to my children. *(Bill Cosby)***

**Fatherhood is pretending the present you love most is soap-on-a-rope. *(Bill Cosby)***

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**What Depp learned from his parents: Johnny Depp is determined not to repeat his parents' mistakes, says Brian Hiatt in Rolling Stone. Although the actor split last year from Vanessa Paradis, the mother of his two children, he remains a devoted father. "With my kids, they're told 75 times a day that they're loved," he says. By contrast, Depp had what he calls "a relatively violent upbringing. If you did something wrong, you got hit. If you didn't do something wrong, you got hit." His home life was chaos, with his family constantly moving around the U.S. to escape the bailiffs. His civil engineer father and waitress mother "went into, like, a quadruple bankruptcy every Christmas." Depp, 50, is now rich enough that he need never worry about money again. But his nomadic youth still troubles him. "When it's time to pack, even to go on vacation, I'm a wreck, man," he says. "Because it reminds me so much of having to move all the time. There are films that I still haven't unpacked from. Somewhere in a storage locker I know I've got a suitcase from (1990s) Edward Scissorhands and Cry-Baby. These little time capsules just laying there because I couldn't deal with it." *(The Week magazine, August 2, 2013)***

**Do I want to be a hero to my son? No. I would like to be a very real human being. That's hard enough. (*Robert Downey, Jr., actor)***

**You are in the far country, the Father is at home. *(Meister Eckhart)***

**In his Autobiography, Ben Franklin wrote affectionately about his father: “He was ingenious, could draw pretty, was skilled a little in music, and had a clear, pleasing voice, so that when he played psalm-tunes on his violin and sung withal, as he sometimes did in an evening after the business of the day was over, it was extremely agreeable to hear.” *(Ben Franklin’s Almanac)***

**I cannot think of any need in childhood as strong as the need for a father's protection. *(Sigmund Freud)***

**Americans are like a rich father who wishes he knew how to give his son the hardships that made him rich. *(Robert Frost)***

**My father was a statesman. I’m a political woman. My father was a saint. I’m not. *(Indira Gandhi)***

**What you have inherited from your father, you must earn over again for yourselves, or it will not be yours. *(Johann Wolfgang von Goethe)***

**To be a successful father there’s one absolute rule: when you have a kid, don’t look at it for the first two years. *(Ernest Hemingway)***

**The most important thing a father can do for his children is to love their mother. *(Theodore Hesburgh)***

**My father used to play with my brother and me in the yard. Mother would come out and say, “You’re tearing up the grass.” “We’re not raising grass,” Dad would reply. “We’re raising boys.” *(Harmon Killebrew, hall-of-fame baseball player)***

**Today is Father’s Day, so everyone out there: Happy birthday!
*(Ralph Kiner, baseball announcer for the New York Mets)***

**Children learn from the words, attitudes, and deeds of their parents. Like tape recorders that never get turned off, their minds are constantly picking up impressions that are being dictated by our lives. And in the years to come, the playback will have a familiar sound, either for good or for evil. Among more than 3,000 Americans who have received the Congressional Medal of Honor, there is one father/son combination. The father won his medal for a single act of bravery in a crucial battle of the Civil War. By the time he retired in 1909, he was a high ranking officer in the United States Army and one of the most famous soldiers of his era. But his son rose to even greater fame. In 1941 he headed up the U.S. forces in the Philippines, and he led the gallant defense of the Bataan peninsula and the island of Corregidor. Although the battles fought there ended in defeat, the bravery displayed by the Americans and their leader provided inspiration to thousands of soldiers and sailors and to millions of workers on the homefront. This man’s name was General Douglas MacArthur, and his father was Arthur MacArthur, Jr. No doubt, the son’s greatness can be traced in part to the outstanding heritage left to him by his dad. Our children may not follow that closely in our footsteps. Yet the virtues of courage, honesty, and love for God can leave such a deep impression on their lives that whatever career they may choose, we will never forget the example set for them. “Like father, like son” is a compliment when both generations walk in the ways of the Lord. *(The Revival Evangelist)***

**Every bowl of cereal I eat has an effect on the music. Everything that happens to us has an effect. And having a baby is the biggest thing you can do -- apart from a double album *(Chris Martin, lead singer of Coldplay, when asked whether fatherhood has had an impact on his music. (Rocky Mountain News, August 16, 2005)***

**McConaughey's family faith: Fatherhood has changed Matthew McConaughey, said Brett Martin in GQ. In his 30s, he was a bohemian playboy who spent much of his time tooling around in an RV and playing the hunky love interest in mindless romantic comedies. But after the birth of his first son, Levi, in 2008, he says, the actor changed both his life and his career, and started taking more challenging roles in critically acclaimed movies like Killer Joe and Dallas Buyers Club. "Never is a man more of a man than when he is the father of a newborn," says McConaughey, 45, who now has three children. "Whatever decisions you make in the first six months of becoming a father, double-down on them. You know what's important. Bam! And the clarity of that is like, 'Whew.' I definitely got more selfish. And at the same time, I got more compassionate." He also began going to church again. "As soon as we had children, I was like, 'You know what? That was important to my childhood.' I noticed how much I missed it and needed it." So he and the family attend a nondenominational Christian church every Sunday. "It's a time for me to take inventory, to look at what's in the future and say my thanks-yous and think about what I can work on to do better." *(The Week magazine, November 14, 2014)***

**A father is very miserable who has no other hold on his children's affection than the need they have of his assistance, if that can be called affection. *(Montaigne, in Essays)***

**If it wasn't for a crooked grocery man, J.C. Penney might have become the owner of a grocery store rather than the owner of a dry goods chain and the nation's leading merchandiser. When he was a teenager, Jim worked for a grocery man in Hamilton, Missouri. He liked the work and had plans to make a career of it. One night he came home and proudly told his family about his “foxy” employer. The grocer had a practice of mixing low quality coffee with the expensive brand and thus increasing his profit. Jim laughed as he told the story at the supper table. His father didn't see anything funny about the practice. “Tell me,” he said, “if the grocer found someone palming off an inferior article on him for the price of the best, do you think he would think they were just being foxy, and laugh about it?” Jim could see his father was disappointed in him. “I guess not,” he replied. “I guess that I just didn't think about it that way.” Jim's father instructed him to go to the grocer the next day and collect whatever money due him and tell the grocer he wouldn't be working for him any longer. Jobs were not plentiful in Hamilton, but Mr. Penney would rather his son be unemployed than be associated with a crooked businessman. J. C. Penney came that close to becoming a grocer. *(Paul Lee Tan, in Encyclopedia of 7700 Illustrations, p. 434)***

**It is easier for a father to have children than for children to have a real father. *(Pope John XXIII)***

**Comedienne Gilda Radner was very close to her father, a Detroit businessman who died when she was 14. With complimentary tickets given to him by road-company actors who stayed at a hotel he owned, father and daughter regularly attended touring-company productions of Broadway shows. “My dad was in real estate and investments,” Miss Radner recalls, “but he loved show biz. He loved to sing, and he couldn’t carry a tray of food to the table without tripping to make us kids laugh and make my mother nervous. As I perform now, I feel that some part of my father is alive in me, back doing what he always wanted to do.” *(Tracy Young, in New Times)***

**Rob Reiner followed in his father’s footsteps when he went from acting to directing. From playing Archie Bunker’s son-in-law in TV’s “All in the Family,” Reiner went on to direct such films as When Harry Met Sally and Ghosts of Mississippi. Reiner says that as a boy, he admired his father so much that he wanted to have his name changed to Carl. During summer vacations the boy went every day to the set of “The Dick Van Dyke Show,” which Carl Reiner wrote and produced. “I wanted to be my father,” says the younger Reiner. “What my father taught me was that the best stories come out of your own experience and who you are.” *(Willie Morris, in The Ghosts of Medgar Evers)***

**The fundamental defect of fathers is that they want their children to be a credit to them. *(Bertrand Russell)***

**My father was a barber (like Charlie Brown’s father). Frequently in the evenings I went to the barbershop to wait for my father to finish work and then walk home with him. He loved to read the comic strips and we discussed them and worried about what was going to happen next to certain characters. On Saturday evening, I would run to the local drugstore at 9:00 when the Sunday pages were delivered and buy the two Minneapolis papers. The next morning, the two Saint Paul papers would be delivered, so we had four comic sections to read. *(Charles M. Schulz, in Peanuts: A Golden Celebration)***

**It is a wise father that knows his own child. *(William Shakespeare, in The Merchant of Venice)***

**It is clear that most American children suffer too much mother and too little father. *(Gloria Steinem)***

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**At the White House, a writer once remarked to President Harry Truman that Truman's father was a failure. “How could he be called a failure,” Truman answered, “if his son became President of the United States?” *(David McCullough, in Truman)***

**I have found the best way to give advice to your children is to find out what they want and then advise them to do it. *(Harry S Truman)***

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**Dad taught me everything I know. Unfortunately, he didn’t teach me everything he knows. *(Al Unser, Jr.)***

**Denzel Washington’s message to dads: Denzel Washington wants African-American fathers to raise their game, said Michael Hainey in GQ. “One of the things that saddens me the most about my people is fathers that don’t take care of their sons and daughters,” the actor says. “And you can’t blame that on ‘the man’ or getting frisked. (Fathers need to) look in the mirror and say, ‘What can I do better?’” Washington’s relationship with his own dad, a Pentecostal preacher, deteriorated after his parents split when he was 14 years old. “I was away in private school. And my mother came and said, ‘Go get your keys, we don’t live in our house no more.’” He rarely saw his father after the separation. “I was in school. So 70 percent of the year, I was away. In the summer, I wasn’t looking to track him down. I was ready to hit the streets.” When he did visit his father, they had little in common. “The things I did, like sports, he wasn’t really (interested in). Not to say that I didn’t love him as a dad. But we didn’t play ball, those type of things.” His father died in 1991, while Washington was filming Malcolm X. “I never shed a tear for my father,” he says. “I never did all through the funeral and all that. There was no connection.” *(The Week magazine, October 12, 2012)***

**Fathers should be neither seen nor heard. That is the only proper basis for family life. *(Oscar Wilde)***

**It’s a wonderful feeling when your father becomes not a god but a man to you – when he comes down from the mountain and you see he’s this man with weaknesses. And you love him as this whole being, not as a figurehead. *(Robin Williams, in Rolling Stone)***

**In the most poignant triumph of his storied career, Tiger Woods won the British Open this week, after registering a remarkable 5-under-par 67 in the final round. The victory, Woods’ 11th major championship, was his first since his father and mentor, Earl Woods, died on May 3. After sinking his last putt, Woods collapsed in tears in the arms of his caddie, Steve Williams. “After the last putt, I realized my dad’s never going to see this again, and I wish he could have seen this one last time,” Woods said. “He was out there today, keeping me calm.” *(The Week magazine, August 11, 2006)***

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