**Mother's Day**

**Sarah said, “God has brought me laughter,**

**and everyone who hears about this will laugh with me.”**

***(Genesis 21:6)***

**As a mother comforts her child, so I will comfort you.**

***(Isaiah 66:13)*  
For God said, Honor your father and your mother.  
*(St. Matthew 15:4)***

**And how does this happen to me,**

**That the mother of my Lord should come to me?**

***(St. Luke 1:43)***

**When the fullness of the time was come,**

**God sent forth his Son, made of a woman.**

**(*Galatians 4:4)***

**One evening a woman I know received an unexpected phone call from a ticket clerk at a major airline. He read a list of names, and asked if she knew any of the people. “Yes,” she replied. “They're all friends of my son. How can I help you?” “The crew was cleaning a plane, and they found this address book,” the clerk explained. “After seeing no identification, we looked through the entries and found one we knew could help us. It was under M for Mom!” *(Tammy L. Miller, in Reader's Digest)***

**Adele's postpartum blues: Adele has struggled to adapt to motherhood, said Lisa Robinson in Vanity Fair. After she gave birth to her son, Angelo, in 2012, the melancholic singer felt constantly exhausted and overwhelmed and suffered severe postpartum depression. She has recovered, but still feels permanently altered. "I'm not a carefree as I used to be," she says. "I'm scared of a lot of things now because I don't want to die; I want to be around for my kid." The 28-year-old doesn't plan to have another. "I'm too scared. I think it's the bravest thing not to have a child; all my friends and I felt pressurized into having kids, because that's what adults do. I love my son more than anything, but on a daily basis, if I have a minute or two, I wish I could do whatever I wanted." Adele gives herself at least one afternoon a week to spend time away from Angelo, guilt-free. But she knows that she'll probably never write another album as emotional as 21, her smash-hit record. "I don't have time to fall apart like I did then. I was completely off my face writing that album, and a drunk tongue is an honest one. I would drink two bottles of wine. Then I'd write the lyrics down and the next morning think, "F---, that's quite good." *(The Week magazine, November 18, 2016)***

**Only 10 percent of the estimated 135,000 adoptions in the U.S. each year involve an anonymous unwed mother surrendering her baby to institutions or strangers. Today, most birth mothers screen the adoptive parents, and ask for continuing, face-to-face contact with their child. *(The Philadelphia Inquirer, as it appeared in The Week magazine, December 1, 2006)***

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**Mother’s Day brings back memories of maternal advice and admonition. Picture the scene with these famous offspring:**

**Alexander the Great’s mother: “How many times do I have to tell you – you can’t have everything you want in this world!”**

**Franz Schubert’s mother: “Take my advice, son. Never start anything you can’t finish.”**

**Achilles’ mother: “Stop imagining things. There’s nothing wrong with your heel.”**

**Madame de Pompadour’s mother: “For heaven’s sake, child, do something about your hair!”**

**Sigmund Freud’s mother: “Stop pestering me! I’ve told you a hundred times the stork brought you!” *(Jane Goodsell, in Reader’s Digest)***

**Education Secretary Lamar Alexander grew up in a house where better schooling was always part of the conversation. His father served as principal of a local elementary school, and his mother ran a preschool and kindergarten in the family garage. The day he was nominated for the Cabinet post, Alexander was given some basic advice by a former teacher: his mother. In a published comment, Alexander had dismissed his chances of being the candidate by saying, “It’s not me.” Flo Rankin Alexander, 76, caught up with her only son in his office at the University of Tennessee, where he had been president since 1988. “If you are going to go about this country as Secretary of Education, you can’t say ‘It’s not me,’” she informed him. “It’s not I.” *(Kenneth J. Cooper, in Washington Post)***

**My advice to women? Don't mother anything with whiskers. *(Ruth Bryan Hudson)***

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**Affected by your mom’s life: Every woman should live a rich life, says a new study, if not for herself, then for her children. Researchers at Tufts University have found that when a female moose is exposed to plenty of mental stimulation, she improves both her own memory and that of her offspring. Enriching experiences appear to stimulate body and brain chemicals that increase the capacity for memory. While in the womb, babies’ chemical pathways are probably activated by the chemicals in their mom’s blood. In other words, as study author Larry Feig tells Scientific American, “Experiences your mother had during adolescence could influence your memory.”*(The Week magazine)***

**The world's oldest known bird is going to be a mother again. Wisdom, a 67-year-old Laysan albatross, was first spotted in Hawaii's Papahanaumokuakea Marine National Monument in 1956 -- and has been raising chicks there ever since. Though the albatrosses raise only one chick at a time, leaving the already endangered species vulnerable to natural disasters like tsunamis, Wisdom has delivered and nurtured up to 35 baby birds during her lifetime. Expecting again, she and her longtime mate, Akeakamai, remarkably show no signs of slowing down anytime soon. "It's just unprecedented that we have a bird that's 67 years old and still reproducing," says monument director Kate Toniolo. *(The Week magazine, January 19, 2018)***

**You’ve almost certainly heard people refer to the school they attended as their alma mater, but do you know where the term comes from? In Latin, “alma mater” means “bounteous mother,” and it was in the early 1800s that graduates began using it to designate their beloved schools. *(Samantha Weaver, in Tidbits))***

**More American women than ever are choosing not to have children, a new Census Bureau study found. Twenty percent of women ages 40 to 44 have no children, double the level of 30 years ago. *(The New York Times, as it appeared in The Week magazine, September 5, 2008)***

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**Let us make pregnancy an occasion when we appreciate our female bodies. *(Merete Leonharte-Lupa)***

**Man: “Ned, you can’t be so nice to girls. Haven’t you heard that girls like bad boys?” Ned: “Oh, I’m sure there’s a girl somewhere who appreciates that I’m a perfect gentleman.” Man: “Of course there is. She’s called your mother.” *(Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein, in Girls And Sports comic strip)***

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**I remember a scathing “put-down” popular in my younger years. When you wanted to label a man as spineless you sneered that “he was tied to his mother’s apron strings.” Come to think of it, though, the way the world seems to be falling apart, I can’t think of a more**

**Mothers are fonder than fathers of their children because they are more certain they are their own. *(Aristotle)*  
  
A police recruit was asked during the exam, “What would you do if you had to arrest your own mother?” He said, “Call for backup.” *(Rocky Mountain News)***

**Now, as always, the most automated appliance in a household is the mother. *(Beverly Jones)***

**The average age of a U.S. mother at first birth has risen consistently, and in 2012 reached 25.8 years old, up from 25.6 years in 2011 and about 21 in 1970. At the same time, about 12.5 percent of women ages 25 to 44 have sought medical help to become pregnant. *(The Wall Street Journal, as it appeared in The Week magazine, February 7, 2014)***

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**Babies are bits of stardust blown from the hand of God. Lucky the woman who knows the pangs of birth for she has held a star. *(Larry Barretto)***

**In 1957, when my niece Susan was 4, her mother (my sister) came home from the hospital with a baby daughter, Debbie. My sister hired a nurse to help with the baby during the 2 weeks she was recuperating. This also allowed my sister more quality time with Susan during this period. After 2 weeks, when the nurse was leaving, little Susan ran after her, yelling, “Hey, you forgot your baby!” *(Celia Solomon, in Reminisce magazine)***

**No full time babysitter should forget that “Alma Mater” is Latin for “foster mother.” *(L. M. Boyd)***

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**I figure if the kids are alive at the end of the day, I’ve done my job. *(Roseanne Barr)***

**If a woman has to choose between catching a fly ball and saving an infant's life, she will choose to save the infant's life without even considering if there are men on base. *(Dave Barry)***

**The Saint Paul Saints will be up and at 'em at dawn on Mother's Day. The Northern League team will host the Sioux Falls Canaries in an exhibition game May 8 at Midway Stadium. Game time is 5:30 a.m., the earliest start for a professional baseball game, according to the club. Fans attending the afternoon game May 7 will be allowed to stay overnight in the stadium parking lot and sleep on the field. The team said the early start will allow fans to spend more time with their mothers. *(Rocky Mountain News, April 15, 2005)***

**My mother was often heard to say that when I was born the doctor smacked me on my behind. I thought it was applause, and I’ve been looking for it ever since. *(Kathy Bates, actress)***

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**80% of women surveyed think their moms are beautiful; only 25 percent tell them. *(Glamour magazine, as it appeared in the Rocky Mountain News, May 6, 2004)***

**The truth is there’s only one most beautiful baby in the whole world. The miracle is every mother has that baby. *(Submitted by Guideposts reader Janey Clark of Mustang, Oklahoma)***

**Most of all the other beautiful things in life come by twos and threes by dozens and hundreds. Plenty of roses, stars, sunsets, rainbows, brothers and sisters, aunts and cousins, but only one mother in the whole world. *(Kate Douglas Wiggin)***

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

**The mother's heart is the child's schoolroom. *(Henry Ward Beecher)***

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**Before you were conceived I wanted you.  
 Before you were born I loved you.  
 Before you were here an hour I would die for you.  
 This is the miracle of love. *(Maureen Hawkins)***

Dr. Konrad Z. Lorenz, of Austria, in experimenting with the behavior of animals, taught two beautiful snow geese to think of him as their mother. He did it successfully and those dumb birds never did wonder why mother had a beard. Another fellow in the same role is the zookeeper in South Africa who takes care of a huge crane name Rosie. The keeper was the first thing Rosie saw when she came out of the egg and all her life (she’s a big bird now) she’s thought of the keeper as her mother and snuggles up to him, even puts on impromptu little dances for him. *(Bernie Smith, in The Joy of Trivia, p. 57)*

**Behind every great man is his mother: Mrs. Morse: “Sam, stop tapping your fingers on the table -- it's driving me crazy!” Mrs. Lindbergh: “Charles, can't you do anything by yourself?” Mrs. Washington: “George never did have a head for money.” Mrs. Armstrong: “Neil has no more business taking flying lessons than the man on the moon.” *(Modern Maturity)***

**If evolution really works, how come mothers only have two hands? *(Milton Berle)***

My grandson Derek is in first grade at St. Aloysius School. One day his teacher asked the students to draw a picture of their best friend. Derek drew a picture of a woman, and under it he printed his mother's first and last name and the word Mom. When he took his picture home and showed it to his mother, she said, “I'm so happy you chose me as your best friend!” “That's not you!” Derek corrected her. “That says ‘Vicki Ross’s Mom.’ That's Grandma -- she's my best friend. You're my mom.” Then he added, “My best mom.” *(Mrs. Ella Hartnett, in Catholic Digest)*

**Based on God's law as revealed in the Bible, Mother's day is not one of the days we are commanded to keep. It's not that God does not want us to honor mothers one day out of the year, but rather he expects us to honor our parents every day of the year. *(Richard Ames, in Plain Truth magazine)***

**The most effective form of birth control I know is spending the day with my kids. *(Jill Bensley)*  
Child rearing means taking a big bite out of your life. *(Evelyn Beilenson, in Motherhood Is Not For Sissies)***

**Three women started boasting about their sons. “What a birthday I had last year!” exclaimed the first. “My son, that wonderful boy, threw me a big party in a fancy restaurant. He even paid for plane tickets for my friends.” “That's very nice, but listen to this,” said the second. “Last winter, my son gave me an all-expenses-paid cruise to the Greek islands. First class.” “That's nothing!” interrupted the third. “For five years now, my son has been paying a psychiatrist $150 an hour, three times a week. And the whole time he talks about nothing but me.” *(Current Comedy)***

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**When your mother asks, “Do you want a piece of advice?” it is a mere formality. It doesn’t matter if you answer yes or no. You’re going to get it anyway. *(Erma Bombeck)***

**I suppose every child remembers some special virtue their mother has -- some piece of wisdom that has saved them from disaster or a word that made the path infinitely easier. I love my mother for all the times she said absolutely nothing. The times when I fell flat on my face, made a lousy judgment, and took a stand that I had to pay dearly for. Thinking back on it all, it must have been the most difficult part of mothering she ever had to do: knowing the outcome yet feeling she had no right to keep me from charting my own path. I thank Mother for all her virtues, but mostly for never once having said, “I told you so.” *(Erma Bombeck)***

**I lost everything in the postnatal depression. *(Erma Bombeck)***

**You spend a lifetime trying to get them off the ground. You run with them until you're both breathless. They crash. They hit the rooftop. You patch and comfort, adjust and teach. You watch them lifted by the wind and assure them that someday they'll fly. Finally they are airborne. They need more string and you keep letting it out. But with each twist of the ball of twine, there is a sadness that goes with joy. The kite becomes more distant, and you know it won't be long before that beautiful creature will snap the lifeline that binds you two together and will soar as it is meant to soar, free and alone. Only then do you know that you did your job. *(Erma Bombeck)*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\***

**The bond between mother and daughter is unbreakable. But when the bond has been torn, as it has with distant daughters, it will always require special care. Scar tissue will replace the tear, but scar tissue is fragile – the wound can open again. So take nothing for granted with your daughter, and never assume that your work with her is done. There are always holidays, crises, family events that will test your new relationship, and you have to be prepared for them. There are really only two ground rules to remember as you embark on this lifelong rebonding: Respect each other and stay committed to the process. Even when you learn things you never wanted to know about yourself, your family and your daughter, somehow find the will to persevere. Rough spots are inevitable, and Mother’s Day is the worst. Every mother is disappointed. Every daughter says, “I can’t please her.” Every Grandma says, “So, where are they?” If you know that these flash points are unavoidable, you can plan for them by scheduling a checkup with your therapist in advance of the holiday. *(Charney Herst, in For Mothers of Difficult Daughters: How To Enrich and Repair the Relationship in Adulthood)***

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**The moment a child is born, the mother is also born. She never existed before. The woman existed, but the mother, never. A mother is something absolutely new. *(Rajneesh)***

**A snobbish Bostonian approached the painter, James Whistler, at a party one evening, “And where were you born, Mr. Whistler?” she asked. “Lowell, Massachusetts,” replied the painter. “Whatever possessed you to be born in a place like that?” exclaimed the woman. “The explanation is quite simple,” said Whistler. “I wished to be near my mother.” *(Little, Brown Book of Anecdotes)***

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**Have you ever accidentally called your boss “mom” or “dad”? If you have, you know how embarrassing that can be. But perhaps you can take comfort in the fact that you’re not alone. According to a recent poll conducted by BusinessWeek Magazine, 6 percent of Americans under the age of 30 have done the same thing. *(Samantha Weaver, in Tidbits)***

**Mom: “Look at the way Wren is sitting. Zoe used to do the same thing.” Dad: “Really?” Mom: “And she made those exact sounds when she scooted on her tummy, except hers were higher-pitched.” Dad: “Huh?” Mom: “And I’ll never forget how Zoe used to curl the toes on her right foot when we tickled her under her arms.” Dad: “What? How can you remember all that stuff?” Mom: “I’m a Mom. My brain is permanently set on ‘kid.’” *(Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott, in Baby Blues comic strip)***

**Mothers are the sole or primary breadwinners in four out of 10 American households with children, according to a new survey. While 51 percent of Americans said they believe children are better off when a mom stays at home with her kids, 79 percent rejected the idea that women should return to “traditional roles.” *(CNN.com, as it appeared in The Week magazine, June 7, 2013)***

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**The waitress at Mom’s Diner says to Ziggy: “Breakfast is the most important meal of the day, young man, where were you?” *(Tom Wilson, in Ziggy comic strip)***

**Two children ordered their mother to stay in bed one Mother’s Day morning. As she lay there looking forward to being brought breakfast in bed, the smell of bacon floated up from the kitchen. Finally, the children called her to come downstairs. She found them both sitting at the table eating bacon and eggs. “As a surprise for Mother’s Day,” one explained, “we decided to cook our own breakfast.” *(Tidbits)***

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**A mother and son were washing dishes while the father and daughter were watching TV in the den. Suddenly, there was a crash of breaking dishes, then complete silence. The girl looked at her father and said, "It was Mom." "How do you know?" "She didn't say anything." *(Quoted in National Enquirer)***

**Motherhood brings as much joy as ever, but it still brings boredom, exhaustion, and sorrow too. Nothing else ever will make you as happy or as sad, as proud or as tired, for nothing is quite as hard as helping a person develop his own individuality, especially while you struggle to keep your own. *(Marguerite Kelly and Elia Parsons)***

**Model Christie Brinkley, on being a mom: “I wear more pasta necklaces than any other kind of jewelry. When I go out, it's like, ‘Are you going to wear it, Mom?’ And I say, ‘I sure am, honey.’ I put my string of noodles around my neck, and off I go.” *(Jeanne Wolf, in Redbook)*  
Child says to Mother: “We wanted to buy you toys, but Daddy said you'd rather play with flowers.” *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)***

**In 1927, I had a nickel to spend for Mother’s Day, so I went to the grocery store and told the owner, “I want the biggest thing I can buy for a nickel.” He sold me a head of cabbage. When I gave it to my mother, she said it was the nicest Mother’s Day present she’d ever had. *(John Muedeking, in Reminisce Extra magazine)***

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**Don't forget who's boss: Mom: Are your calls to customer service not getting results? Here's a tip: Call the boss's mom, said Micah Singleton in TheVerge.com. Philadelphia Daily News columnist, Ronnie Polaneczky has for years heard complaints from irate Comcast customers about the "horrible treatment" they received from the company, but the story of a young couple's six-week nightmare to set up Internet and cable service, with 13 days of missed work waiting for technicians who never showed, tugged at her heartstrings. So she devised a novel way to get results: She called Comcast CEO Brian Roberts's 92-year-old mother. Incredibly, that did the trick. Within a day of Polaneczky's call to the elder Roberts, technicians arrived to set up the young couple's service. It just goes to show that no matter what your age or your position in a giant company, "you still have to listen to Mom." *(The Week magazine, February 27, 2015)***

**Dolly: “Mommy, when you have lunchroom duty, should we call you Mrs. Mommy?” *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)***

**Before entering a Catholic seminary, I was interviewed by one of the priests. “Unless it’s the archbishop or the pope,” he told the secretary, “don’t put any calls through.” In the middle of our meeting, the phone rang. Annoyed, Father answered it. Then his eyes widened. “Yes,” he said. “I told her not to let any calls through unless they came from the archbishop, the pope or you, Mom.” *(Jack Terrillion, in Reader’s Digest)***

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**When a gold Mercedes-Benz sports sedan was delivered by mistake to Ruth Shepard’s driveway in Uniondale, New York, in May, 2002, she thought it was a surprise Mother’s Day present. A short time later, she was arrested for resisting police officers’ attempts to get the car back to its rightful owner. *(Universal Press Syndicate)***

**Women buy far more greeting cards year-round than men do, except before Mother's Day. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**My children are small, still lap-sized with many years ahead in my care. And yet, already I know, and I feel that one day, no matter how many diapers changed, bottles fed, books read, hands washed or faces kissed, it will never be quite long enough. (*Jennifer Graham Billings)***

**Wife says to husband: “Let's try getting up every night at 2:00 a.m. to feed the cat. If we enjoy doing that, then we can talk about having a baby.” *(Randy Glasbergen cartoon)***

**Our four-year-old son came into the house to proudly show me a caterpillar that was crawling up his arm. Trying hard to conceal my squeamishness, I said casually, "Mark, why don't you take the caterpillar back outside? His mother will be looking for him." I was feeling rather pleased at the way I had handled the situation, when Mark cane back in the house a few minutes later with two caterpillars and said excitedly, "Look! I found the mother!" *(Enid E. LeFleur, in Reader's Digest)***

**Love + Mom = Success: 79% of 208 Fortune 1000 CEOs said they were close to their mothers while growing up. *(Rocky Mountain News, March 15, 2004)***

**When my grandson was 6 years old, he gave his mother three certificates he had made in school for Mother’s Day. The first certificate said, “I will clean my room.” The second said, “I will take out the garbage.” The third one said, “Free Choice.” After his mother had thanked him with hugs and kisses, he looked up at her and said, “Now remember, Mom, you can only use them once.” *(Martha Mahon, in Country magazine)***

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**I have five siblings, three sisters and two brothers. One night I asked Mom how she had changed as a mother from the first child to the last. She told me she had mellowed a lot over the years: “When your oldest sister coughed or sneezed, I called the ambulance. When your youngest brother swallowed a dime, I told him it was coming out of his allowance.” *(Rocky Mountain News)***

**After putting her children to bed, a mother changed into old slacks, a droopy blouse and proceeded to wash her hair. As she heard the children getting more and more rambunctious, her patience grew thin. At last she threw a towel around her head and stormed into their room, putting them back to bed with stern warnings. As she left the room, she heard her 3-year-old ask with a trembling voice, “Who was that?” *(The American Legion magazine)***

**My life forever changed on the day you were conceived, your heartbeat gave me the reality of what I had achieved. The stages of your development, the picture of how you grew, never completely knowing if I should buy in pink or blue. Then came the day when I was able to hold you in my arms, hoping, as any mother would, to protect you against harm. A precious little baby with ten tiny new toes, an amazing set of lungs and a cute little button nose. As you grow with lightning speed, I promise to treasure every day, and try my best to give you a rainbow when the sky is dark and grey. *(Elizabeth Butera)*  
Maiden Names: “A few years ago, I was explaining to my 7-year-old son that when a woman gets married, she usually changes her name. With a puzzled look, he asked, “So you changed your name to Mom?” *(Maryrose Steer, in The Saturday Evening Post)***

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**Checking luggage is like how I imagine childbirth to be. You do it, it sucks, takes forever to come out, you forget, you do it again. (Olivia Wilde)**

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**When a child asks difficult questions, invention is the necessity of Mother. *(Capper’s Weekly)***

**For the first time in recorded history, more than half (54 percent) of American women ages 25 to 29 are childless, according to the U.S. Census Fertility Report. A record 31 percent of women ages 30 to 34 also haven't given birth. *(New York Post, as it appeared in The Week magazine, May 26, 2017)***

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**A mother's love for her child is like nothing else in the world. It knows no law, no pity, it dares all things and crushes down remorselessly all that stands in its path. *(Agatha Christie)***

**My parents emigrated from Greece before my birth. Although Dad received his U.S. citizenship while my siblings and I were still young, Mother couldn't take the time to learn English because she had to care for three daughters and four sons. At the age of 57, she finally appeared before a judge in the District Court of Washington, D.C., to receive her citizenship papers. After hearing the presentation, the judge asked my mother why she had not applied earlier. Pointing to her children standing next to her, Mother proudly responded, “Your Honor, I was too busy raising seven Americans.” *(Anthony C. Serkedakis, in Reader's Digest)***

**Evelyn: “Omigosh! I had no idea my son's old comic books were worth so much money!” Other woman: “Evelyn! Don't feel bad. We mothers serve a noble purpose for our country. In our relentless quest for tidiness, we create wealth by disposing of our kids' comic collections!” Evelyn: “We do?” Other woman: “Absolutely! We fuel an entire industry, bringing prosperity to dealers and happiness to collectors!” Evelyn: “I never realized that we mothers were so -- so vitally important!” *(Phil Frank & Joe Troise, in The Elderberries comic strip)***

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**My four-year-old Richard looked at me with a loving look and said in true TV commercial style, “Mother, I like you better than any other leading brand.” *(Mrs. H. Priday, in Catholic Digest)***

**Think Mother's Day is too commercialized? So did Anna Jarvis, who fought to have the day made a national holiday in 1914. Fed up with the hype, she was arrested in 1925 for disturbing the peace while protesting the growing commercialization of the event. *(Family Circle)***

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**Did any of us really know what a total commitment becoming a mom really means before we took the leap? We make commitments all of our lives – it may be to a job, a spouse, or a pet. But this is different. This one never goes away. *(Janet Van deWalle, in Women’s Edition magazine)***

**Mothers who give up work often transfer their competitive nature from the office to the home. In this instance, motherhood becomes their new “job.” It’s like being a corporate team leader – success is based upon the success of your subordinates. And in both cases, you’re dealing with a lot of whining, power struggles, and temper tantrums. *(Terri Libenson, in Pajama Diaries comic strip)***

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**Chef: “I’m having a special Mother’s Day dinner here at the diner.” Blondie: “Do you really think people will want to bring their mothers here for dinner on Mother’s Day?” Chef: “You bet! I got my mother to come over and cook for the whole day.” *(King Features Syndicate, in Blondie comic strip)***

**A Scout Master noticed a tenderfoot camper having trouble with his cooking equipment, notes Christina Kuehn from Albert Lea, Minnesota. “What’s the matter, son?” he asked. “Did you forget something?” “Yes, sir,” replied the scout, “my mother.” *(Country magazine)  
\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\**Hagar raises his glass of beer, looks at his servant, and says to him: “Here's to the one person I can always count on when things get tough!” The servant then raises his glass and says: “And here's to the one person I can always count on when things get tough! My Mom!” *(Dik Browne, in Hagar The Horrible comic strip)***

**Anna Jarvis, Mother's Day creator:  
- Never married, had no kids  
- Took nine years to gain national holiday  
- Later spent inheritance to stop commercialization  
- Filed lawsuit to stop Mother's Day festival  
- Disturbed the peace at Mother's Day convention. *(World Features Syndicate)***

**You know you’re a Mother when . . . You stop criticizing the way your mother raised you. (*Tidbits)***

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**At 3 a.m. the new mother shook her husband awake and told him to check the baby. He listened for a minute, then said, “I don't hear her crying.” “I know,” she replied. “It's your turn to see why not.” *(Rocky Mountain News)***

**Scientists are learning that infant crying may help determine whether a baby will become an abused or a cherished child. “Ideally, crying should teach the child optimism about the environment, which he learns when his cries are answered,” says Michael Lewis, professor of pediatrics at Rutgers Medical School. “An infant of eight weeks is capable of appreciating the fact that he can cause things to happen.” If a baby’s cries are not answered, the infant feels confused and powerless. On the question of spoiling babies by responding to their every cry. Susan Crockenberg, associate professor of human development at the University of California at Davis, summarizes the work of several researchers by saying, “The more responsive a mother is to her baby, the less it cries, the more securely attached it gets to be and the more readily it develops trust.” *(Dava Sobel, in New York Times)***

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**In 1935, e. e. cummings published a book of poetry with funds provided by his mother. The dedication went: “No Thanks to: Farrar & Rinehart, Simon & Schuster, Coward-McCann, Limited Editions, Harcourt, Brace, Random House, Equinox Press, Smith & Haas, Viking Press, Knopf, Dutton, Harper's, Scribner's, Covici, Friede.” All those publishers had rejected his manuscript. *(Washington Star)***

**Starting my first week as a dormitory custodian at the University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire, I was appalled at the mess in some stairwells – smashed fruit, discarded pizza and soft-drink containers. I put up a sign saying “Pretend the custodian is your mother,” hoping the students would think twice before throwing their garbage around. Under the sign the next morning was a basket of dirty laundry and a note requesting homemade cookies. *(LaVonna Thompson, in Reader’s Digest)***

**Darwin actually had mothers in mind when he came up with the “survival of the fittest” theory. *(Evelyn Beilenson, in Motherhood Is Not For Sissies)***

**David Davis, 16, has been bouncing around detention centers and foster homes in the Atlanta area since he was 7. He had always responded to crises with his fists, and once was suspended for bringing a knife to school. But soon after moving to the Haven Academy in 2004, he found that his teacher, Barbara Stephens, was getting through to him. “If I had to give up something, I would give up my bad behavior to live with Ms. Stephens,” he wrote in an essay. Deeply moved, Stephens and her husband decided to adopt Davis, and on Sunday they celebrated their first Mother’s Day together. *(The Week magazine, May 26, 2006)***

**The dictionary defines “mother” as: “a woman who has given birth to a child,” but Tenneva Jordan's definition differs: “A mother? She is a person who, seeing there are only four pieces of apple pie for five people, promptly announces she never did care for pie.” *(Kathy Wolfe, in Tidbits)***

**For a short while, our mothers’ bodies are the boundaries and personal geography which are all that we know of the world. Once we no longer live beneath our mother's heart, it's the earth with which we form the same dependent relationship. *(Louise Erdrich)***

**Mother's Day: She deserves gifts, but also a break: This year, the very best Mother's Day gift might be time alone, said Amy Schwabe in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel. Granted, "it's not an unusual request." But in 2020 the holiday is arriving when many young families have been sheltering at home for two months, and mothers have been run ragged. Where families are stuck inside, maybe all a mom can hope for is a room of her own -- preferably with a bathtub -- for an hour or more. Single mothers, of course, "will have to be even more creative to get alone time." Perhaps an hour or so on the sofa with a magazine while the kids are watching a movie. Spouses should make sure their partners are getting these breaks every day, said Sara Peterson in The Washington Post. Maybe you're working full time, in or outside the house. But don't let all parenting duties fall on one person, as they often do. Whenever you re-enter the domestic space, "swoop in with some major pep in your step, shower your kids with attention," and when you take on a chore, "think beyond. 'How can I help'? Rather, 'How can I own the task from start to finish?'" Gifts and breakfast in bed are nice, but "there are so many meaningful ways to celebrate Mother's Day." said Sara Ahmed in PopSugar.com. What really matters is honoring "the unseen sacrifices and hard work that motherhood entails." *(The Week magazine, May 15, 2020)***

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**It would seem that something which means poverty, disorder, and violence every single day should be avoided entirely, but the desire to beget children is a natural urge. *(Phyllis Diller)***

**Cleaning your house while your kids are still growing is like shoveling the walk before it stops snowing. *(Phyllis Diller)***

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**While conducting inspection one morning, I entered the quarters of a young enlisted man. His room was spotless, but I knew something wasn’t right. Then I noticed his pants were cuffed, not hanging straight as service regulations demand. “Airman,” I snapped, “have you decided to change the Air Force dress code?” “No, sir,” he replied. “My mother did. She thought the uniform looked better this way.” (*Col. Ron Cox, in Reader’s Digest)***

**Statistics prove a woman’s driving improves markedly after the birth of her first baby. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Proud mother, exhibiting her baby: “He’s eating solids now – pencils, keys, newspapers, rubber bands, spiders, and ashtrays. *(Matty Simmons, in The Saturday Evening Post)***

**Thomas Edison’s tribute to his mother: I did not have my mother long, but she cast over me an influence that lasted all my life. The good effects of her early training I can never lose. If it had not been for her appreciation and her faith in me at a critical time in my experience, I would never likely have become an inventor. I was always a careless boy, and with a mother of different mental caliber, I would have turned out badly. But her firmness, her sweetness, her goodness, were potent powers to keep me on the right path. My mother was the making of me. The memory of her will always be a blessing to me. *(Bits & Pieces)***

**Another chance at motherhood: Men can make sperm until they die, but women are born with a finite number of eggs in their ovaries – or so scientists have long believed. But a new study by Chinese scientists has found that with some hormonal stimulator, female mice can make new eggs late in life – opening the possibility that women can, too. Biologists at Shanghai Jiao Tong University were able to isolate germ-line cells (precursors to mature eggs) in the ovaries of adult mice, and develop them into real eggs. The eggs were then put back into the mice, leading to normal fertilization and the birth of healthy baby mice. If this process can be replicated in humans, it could allow formerly infertile women to give birth. “If you are looking to disprove that females cannot make new eggs, this paper proves it,” Harvard medical professor Jonathan Tilly tells The Washington Post. *(The Week magazine, May 1, 2009)*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\***

**In 1954 Elvis Presley recorded a 10-minute demo at Sun Records in Memphis, TN.  He paid $4 to record 2 songs for his mother: “My Happiness” and “That’s When Your Heartaches Begin.” *(Bob Barry, in Daily Celebrity Almanac, p. 14)***

**The music world was stunned by the sudden death of Elvis Presley on August 16, 1977, when the King was found unconscious in his Memphis home. Only 42 years old, he was the same age his beloved mother (Gladys) had been when she passed away. *(Audrey Cunningham, in Tidbits)***

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**Enlightenment is the quiet acceptance that one day your children will grow up – and leave. *(Evelyn Beilenson, in Motherhood Is Not For Sissies)*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\***

**If pregnancy were a book, they would cut out the last two chapters. *(Nora Ephron)***

**What my mother believed about cooking is that if you worked hard and prospered, someone else would do it for you. *(Nora Ephron)***

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**Excerpt from an eight-year-old’s essay on “What a Mother Means to a Child”: “A mother is a person who takes good care of her kids and gets their meals for them, and if she’s not there when you get home from school you wouldn’t know how to get dinner for yourself, and you wouldn’t feel like eating it, anyhow!” *(Mrs. L. Binder)***

**September is when millions of bright, shining, happy, laughing faces turn toward school. They belong to mothers. *(The Orben Comedy Letter)***

**One woman says to the other: “They’re always talking about The Faith of Our Fathers. Why don’t we start talking up The Faith of Our Mothers?” *(The Saturday Evening Post cartoon)***

**The kids are singing: “And on this farm he had a Mom, eeyi- eeyi-oh. With a hug-hug here, and a hug-hug there.” *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)*  
  
Hammie: “Who’s your favorite kid?” Mom: “Oh, Hammie, what a silly question! Mommies don’t have favorites, Mommies have long memories!” Zoe: “If this is about the footprint in the piecrust, I said I was sorry!” *(Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott, in Baby Blues comic strip)***

**I think every working mom probably feels the same thing: You go through big chunks of time where you're just thinking. "This is impossible -- oh, this is impossible." And then you just keep going and keep going, and you sort of do the impossible. *(Tina Fey, actor, writer, director and mom)***

**Motherhood is a first aid kit for healing our hurts, worries, and mishaps. *(Evelyn Beilenson, in Motherhood Is Not For Sissies)***

**Our daughter Hannah, 2, was admiring the flowers in our flower bed with her father, and he began naming them for her. He told her some were mums . . . to which she quickly added, “But no dads.” *(Cathy Young, in Country Extra magazine)***

**Nearly 23 percent of all people born in the U.S. in 2002 had a foreign-born mother, the largest such percentage in 90 years, according to a new study by the Center for Immigration Studies, *(Associated Press, as it appeared in (The Week magazine, July 22, 2005)***

**In Little Man Tate, Jodie Foster plays a defiant single parent who encourages a gifted child. Foster says she directed and acted in the film “because I understood it so much.” Her mother had also been a single parent with an exceptional child. It takes a smart heart and the carapace of an armadillo to emerge sane, let alone healthy, from child celebrity. Thanks to a mother who urged and loved, rather than pushed and shoved, Foster did it. “My mother had seen a lot of wayward souls in Hollywood,” Foster recalls. “She didn’t want a cripple for a daughter. She wanted me to fly. She also wanted me to have a serious and heroic career. Mother listened to me and considered me her best friend. If it weren’t for me, she wouldn’t have anything; if it weren’t for her, I wouldn’t be anything.” *(Richard Corliss, in Time)***

**No woman can call herself free until she can choose consciously whether she will or will not be a mother. *(Margaret Sanger)***

**A man who has been the indisputable favorite of his mother keeps for life the feeling of a conqueror. *(Sigmund Freud)***

**Only mothers can think of the future, because they give birth to it in their children. *(Maxim Gorky)***

**Garbage collectors were picking up our trash as my wife walked back into our house. A particular barrel was very heavy. “Lady, we can't take this,” one man called out. “It's way over the weight limit.” My wife turned her eight-month-pregnant figure toward him. “It didn't seem that heavy when I carried it out,” she said. Without another word, the man emptied the barrel into the truck. *(Gil Goodman)***

**Mom: “When Dolly was born we thought about giving her my name.” Billy: “Oh no! Then we’d have a sister named Mommy!” *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)***

**One spring, while I was planting fifty gladiola bulbs, my six-year-old asked, “What are you planting, Mommy?” “Gladiolas, honey,” I answered. “My favorite flower.” “More than anything else?” she asked in wide-eyed innocence. “More than anything else, honey,” I replied. “I wish I had given them to you,” she lamented. “Well, then,” I remarked, playing into her need to show me her love, “Whichever ones you hand me, I will believe with all my heart they are from you!” There remained only six bulbs to plant. The next week it was Mother's Day. To my surprise, my little daughter presented me with a gift, a white show box on which she had drawn blooming flowers. Unable to contain her anticipation of my response to her gift, she put her small hands to her glee-filled face and squealed in delight, “Now you can say ALL of them are from me!” The box was filled with gladiolas bulbs -- forty-four of them. My daughter had dug up the bulbs I had planted the week prior -- so that when I (re)planted them, they would be from her. *(Bettie B. Youngs, in Taste Berries for Teens)***

**Mothers are like glue. Even when you cannot see them, they are still holding the family together. *(Susan Gale, Canadian author)***

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**God could not be everywhere, and so He made mothers. *(Jewish proverb)***

**From a five-year-old: God makes mothers out of clouds and angel hair and everything nice in the world, and one dab of mean. *(S.C.U.C.A. Regional Reporter)***

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**Motherhood: If it was going to be easy, it never would have started with something called labor! *(Denver Rocky Mountain News)***

**Jane Goodall has spent the past 30 years in Africa as the world’s top authority on chimpanzees. Goodall recalls the support that helped get her started: When I decided that the place for me was Africa, everybody said to my mother, “Why don’t you tell Jane to concentrate on something attainable?” When I was two years old, I took a crowd of earthworms to bed to watch how they wriggled in the bedclothes. How many mothers would have said “Ugh” and thrown them out the window? But mine said, “Jane, if you leave the worms here they’ll be dead in the morning. They need the earth.” So I quickly gathered them up and ran with them into the garden. My mother always looked at things from my point of view. *(Newsweek International)***

**Syndicated columnist Ellen Goodman says her mother was the type "who listened to your problems until you were bored with them. *(Diane K. Shah, in Newsweek)***

**Billy says to his Mom: “Around Grandma I'll just say you're ONE of the world's best mommies, okay?” *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)***

**A Mother’s Growth: I have cried a mother’s tears but tears must one day dry. I have known a mother’s fears for I could only try to teach my children how to live the Truth that they should know for they have only come through me and on their way must go. *(Joyce Franklin)***

**Guilt to motherhood is like grapes to wine. *(Fay Weldon, author)***

**My mother’s menu consisted of two choices: Take it or leave it. *(Buddy Hackett)***

**The founder of Mother's Day, Anna Jarvis, ended up hating Mother's Day, and not just hating it, but suing to end it. She had worked hard to persuade President Woodrow Wilson to establish the yearly commemoration, but believed it had become overly commercialized and superficial, a day of profits for the greedy instead of renewed devotion to the ideals of service and love that she had envisioned. Decades later, the profits continue. Few days bring more business to florists or greeting card companies. It does not follow, however, that these firms are greedy or that even the mushy sentimental or cutesy cards somehow shove sincere affection off the map. Even if it is the only day of the year that a mother receives flowers, it is difficult to imagine many mothers mind receiving them on this second Sunday of May. Behind the commercial and shallower aspects of the day, something real resides. Here is what most of us know: Our mother sacrificed for us and adored us unconditionally; they took us from crying and crawling to talking and walking, restored us when we were broken, boosted us in ways beyond counting. We know, too, that, despite all their protests, many mothers have some of their happiest moments when their offspring -- and the fathers of those offspring -- show some sign of appreciation. *(Denver Rocky Mountain News)***

**Headache Cure for Mothers (and Nurses): If you have a lot of tension and you get headaches, do what it says on the aspirin bottle: “Take two and keep away from children.” *(Nurses: Jokes, Quotes, and Anecdotes, 2005 Calendar)***

**Heaven is at the feet of mothers. *(Persian proverb)***

**I would have been a terrible mother because I’m basically a very selfish human being. *(Katharine Hepburn, in Forbes magazine)  
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There are one hundred and fifty-two distinctly different ways of holding a baby -- and all are right. *(Heywood Broun)*  
  
Childbirth is difficult, but holding the child makes the pain worthwhile. *(Marianne Williamson***

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**Holiday Inn founder Kemmons Wilson owes his $200 million fortune to his mother! “She told me I could do anything I wanted -- and she told me so many times that she finally convinced me.” *(The National Enquirer)***

**When college football's undefeated Notre Dame was about to play Miami last November, an impromptu theological debate occurred between Fighting Irish coach Lou Holtz and Miami's chaplain, Father Leo Armbrust. In his invocation at a booster luncheon, Armbrust assured his audience that the Almighty was impartial. When Holtz got up to speak, he agreed with Father Leo. “I don't think God cares who wins tomorrow either,” said Holtz. “But His mother does.” *(Austin Murphy, in Sports Illustrated)***

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**A young boy about five or six years was talking on the telephone. As his dad listened on, the youngster told his grandparents dejectedly, “Mom is in the hospital, so the twins and Roxie, Billy, Sally, the dog, and me and Dad are all home alone.” (S.C.U.C.A. Regional Reporter)**

**My children, who had forgotten to shop for Mother’s Day, presented me with a homemade card. The contrite message read: “We know you deserve the very best, Mom. But we're glad you kept us anyway.” It is a card I will never throw away. *(Jeanne Young, in Reader's Digest)***

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**May 13 is the day we honor cooks, waitresses, nurses, teachers, maids, chauffeurs, psychologists, psychiatrists, doctors and bankers, or, to use their generic name -- MOTHERS! *(Orben's Current Comedy)*  
Mothers and fathers who think they’re all important should remind themselves that this country honors each of them only one day of the year. Pickles get a whole week. *(Bits & Pieces)***

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**I remember leaving the hospital thinking wait, are they going to let me just walk off with him? I don't know beans about babies! *(Anne Tyler)***

**With four daughters and one son always dashing to school activities and part-time jobs, our schedule was hectic. Adding to that, we kept running out of household supplies. I instructed them all to let me know when they had used the last of any item by writing it down on a notepad on the refrigerator. As a reminder, I wrote at the top: If we are out of it, write it down. When I checked the pad a few days later, to my delight I found the following message: Mom, you may be a little old-fashioned, but you are not out of it. *(Clean Laffs, in Catholic Digest)*  
It's easy to pick children whose mothers are good housekeepers; they are usually found in other yards. *(Anonymous)***

**One evening a friend and I stopped at a newly-opened restaurant. When the waitress came to take our order, my friend asked, "How's the foods?" Without a moment's hesitation the waitress replied, "Our cookin's so good, you'll think we kidnapped your mother." *(Greg Rosnett, in Ford Times)***

**With all of the children wanting Mom's attention, she thinks to herself: “If humans are still evolving, mothers will soon have more than two hands.” *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)***

**The great Mother's Day hypocrisy: Once a year, Americans honor mothers with Hallmark cards and flowers. But motherhood is "not a job America rewards," said Ezra Klein. Motherhood is rightly known "as the toughest job in the world," with moms working more than 100 hours a week, including nights, weekends, and holidays. About 70 percent of women doing this work now also work outside the home. But unlike nearly every other country in the Western world, the U.S. guarantees women no paid maternity leave whatsoever. Given that 40 percent of American moms are their household's primary earner, that leaves many mothers having to choose between "spending a month with their new-born child or keeping a roof over their child's head." Compare that with Sweden, where parents receive 480 paid days per child, split between moms and dads. To add insult to injury, studies have shown moms face strong workplace discrimination, with bosses and co-workers viewing them as less reliable and less competent. Indeed, moms "face a 5 percent wage penalty for every child they have." Flowers and cards are nice, but "if America really valued mothers, we wouldn't treat them like this." *(The Week magazine, May 22, 2015)***

**Mother of a small boy to psychiatrist: “Well, I don’t know whether he feels insecure, but everybody else in the neighborhood certainly does!” *(Matty Simmons, in The Saturday Evening Post)***

**Mothers of Invention? What Their Moms Did  
1. Chevy Chase -- concert pianist  
2. Lucy Liu -- biochemist  
3. Helena Bonham Carter -- psychotherapist  
4. Humphrey Bogart -- portrait artist  
5. Robert De Niro -- abstract expressionist artist  
6. Luciani Pavarotti -- cigar factory worker. *(World Features Syndicate)***

**A father may turn his back on his child, brothers and sisters may become inveterate enemies, husbands may desert their wives, wives their husbands. But a mother’s love endures through all. *(Washington Irving)***

**In 1986, a group of researchers published a study of Japanese mothers and mothers in Minneapolis. The mothers were asked to rank the most important things that a child needs to succeed academically. The answers tell a lot about the difference in our two cultures today. The mothers in Minneapolis chose “ability.” The mothers in Japan said “effort.” *(Richard H. Finan, in Reader’s Digest)***

**When a pastor asked the class, “Why was Jesus born in Bethlehem?” a boy raised his hand and replied, “Because his mother was there.” *(S.C.U.C.A. Regional Reporter)***

**Mom wouldn't let me say can't. “You can do anything if you put your mind to it,” she'd say. But she'd also do anything to help. *(Derek Jeter, shortstop for the New York Yankees)***

**Dolly says to her Mom while she fixes the leaky pipe under the kitchen sink: “Very good, Mommy! You're a Jill-of-all-trades.” *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)***

**Whatever else is unsure in this stinking dunghill of a world, a mother's love is not. *(James Joyce, in Elle)***

**Envy the kangaroo. That pouch setup is extraordinary: The baby crawls out of the womb when it is about two inches long, gets into the pouch, and proceeds to mature. I'd have a baby if it would develop in my handbag. *(Rita Rudner, comedian)***

**Nobody loves me but my mother, and she could be jiving too. *(B. B. King, blues musician)***

**Told she was too young to learn to cook, granddaughter Alexis sighed, “When I grow up and become a mommy, I’ll probably get fired from the kitchen.” *(Leila Blake, in Country Woman magazine)***

**Babies don’t come with directions on the back or batteries that can be removed. Motherhood is twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. You can’t “Leave the office.” *(Patricia Schroeder)***

**The most remarkable thing about my mother is that for 30 years she served the family nothing but leftovers. The original meal has never been found. *(Calvin Trillin)***

**You're not famous until my mother has heard of you. *(Jay Leno)***

**When kids have two mommies: One more is good, but might two be better? A 25-year study has found that children raised by lesbian couples had higher self-esteem and more confidence than kids in straight families; they also performed better academically and were less likely to break rules or act aggressively. The results were “something I hadn’t anticipated,” psychiatrist and study author Nanette Gartrell tells Time. The study, which began in 1986, followed lesbian couples who’d conceived using in vitro fertilization; the researchers conducted psychological interviews every few years and ended up following 78 kids through at least their 18th birthday. That the pregnancies all had to be sought and planned may be a factor, researchers said, since involved, dedicated parents make better parents in general. At the very least, says Gartrell, the results demonstrate that children of lesbian parents certainly aren’t worse off than their counterparts, and in fact “are psychologically happy and high-functioning.” *(The Week magazine, June 25, 2010)***

**Mothers today are less physically active than their 1965 counterparts. On average, today’s moms spend 7 more hours per week sitting down – largely driving, watching television, or using digital technology – than 1965 moms, who spent more time on their feet doing physical housework or child care. *(TheAtlantic.com, as it appeared in The Week magazine, December 20, 2013)***

**One day the nun in charge of the second-grade class at St. Anthony’s conducted a lesson about magnets, including a demonstration of their ability to attract and pick up other objects. Several days later as part of a review, she said to the class, “My name starts with an ‘M’, and I pick up things. What am I?” One little boy, who seldom paid much attention and ordinarily didn’t volunteer to recite, raised his hand. When Sister gave him permission to answer, he shouted, “A mother!” *(Charles C. Govin, in Catholic Digest)***

**A man wrote to READER'S DIGEST. Here is what he said: “My mother has always treated me like her baby, no matter what my age. After turning 30, I purchased a computer and learned to use it. Thinking I'd impress her with my skill and maturity, I sent her a well-written letter, complete with computer graphics, borders and an elaborate typeface. I phoned to ask her what she thought of the letter. ‘It's lovely, dear,’ she replied. ‘I have it hanging on the refrigerator for all the neighbors to see.’” *(Dr. Delia Sellers, in Abundant Living magazine)***

**I find, by close observation, that the mothers are the levers which move in education. The men talk about it, but the women work most for it. *(Frances Watkins Harper)***

**Life begins when the kids (and the grownups) go to bed. *(Evelyn Beilenson, in Motherhood Is Not For Sissies)***

**Wife: “With the back problems that your Mom has been having, maybe we should get her one of these mechanical lift chairs for Mother’s Day.” Husband: “Don’t you think that’s kind of dangerous?” Wife: “I’m sure the chairs are perfectly safe.” Husband: “I’m talking about my Mom’s reaction.” *(Tom Batiuk & Chuck Ayers, in Crankshaft comic strip)***

**A little boy forgot his lines in a Sunday school presentation. His mother was in the front row to prompt him. She gestured and formed the words silently with her lips, but it did not help. Her son’s memory was blank. Finally, she leaned forward and whispered the cue, “I am the light of the world.” The child beamed and with great feeling and loud clear voice said, “My mother is the light of the world.” *(Bits & Pieces)***

**The teenager approached the sales clerk in the dress shop with a large bag. “My mother likes this outfit -- may I exchange it?” *(Tidbits)***

**A first grader proudly walked to the front of his class and proclaimed, “When I grow up, I want to be a lion tamer. I'll walk into the cage of roaring lions and not be afraid.” As the children looked on in stunned silence, he added, “I'll have my mommy with me.” *(Jan Brunette, in Portals of Prayer)***

**Life is only lived full-time by women with children. *(Marguerite Duras)***

**I'm a cashier at a fast-food chicken restaurant, and I guess I look more motherly than I imagined. Recently a young man ordered a two-piece dinner. I asked him if he wanted original or extra crispy. “Yes,” was his unclear response. “Yes, what?” I asked again. “Oh, yes please,” he replied. *(Joan Kirk, in Reader's Digest)***

**When you are a mother, you are never really alone in your thoughts. A mother always has to think twice, once for herself and once for her child. *(Sophia Loren)***

**Joe Louis Barrow’s mother gave him money for violin lessons. She thought music would be an acceptable career for him as an adult. One afternoon, schoolmate Thurston McKinney asked Joe if he’d like to come and spar with him at the local gym. Joe took the 50 cents his mother had given him for the music lesson and rented a locker in which to stash his violin. McKinney was a local Golden Gloves champ, and when Joe almost knocked him out, McKinney exclaimed, “Get rid of that violin, boy! You belong in the ring!” Joe fought on the amateur circuit using his first and middle names so that his mother wouldn’t find out, but once he’d made a name for himself as the Brown Bomber, Mrs. Barrow gave her son her blessing. *(Jill Dorchester, in Tidbits)***

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**Can a mother’s love for her infant be described as “love at first sight?” Not always. Studies suggest 25 percent of the mothers start to love the baby even before it is born. Another 25 percent develop the love within hours after their baby is born. And about 40 percent need a week or so to build the love. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**A mother loves her children even when they least deserve to be loved. *(Kate Samperi, Australian author and advice columnist, present day)***

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**Little Benjamin sat down at the desk to write a letter to God asking for a little baby sister. He started the letter like this: “Dear God, I’ve been a very good boy.” He stopped, thinking, No, God won’t believe that. He wadded up the piece of paper, threw it away, and started again: “Dear God, most of the time I’ve been a good boy.” He stopped in the middle of the line, again thinking, God won’t be moved by this. So he wadded up the letter and into the trash can it went. Benjamin then went into the bathroom and grabbed a big terry cloth towel off the towel rack. He carried it into the living room and carefully laid it out on the couch. He smoothed out all the wrinkles. Then he went over to the fireplace mantle, reached up, and very carefully lifted down a statue of the Madonna. He had often seen his mother carefully dust the statue, and he had eyed it many times. On several occasions, his parents had told him that he could look but was not to touch the statue. Now, with all the care he could muster, he had it in his possession. Benjamin gently placed the statue in the middle of the towel, carefully folding over the edges. He then placed a rubber band around the whole thing. He brought it to the desk, took out another piece of paper, and began to write his third letter to God. It went like this: “Dear God, if you ever want to see your mother again . . .” *(Moments for Mothers)*   
  
An elementary-school teacher had just given her class a science lesson on magnets. Afterward, she asked her young students questions. Her first question was: “My name starts with ‘M’ and has six letters. I pick things up. Who am I?” All the children said together: “Mother!” *(Rocky Mountain News)***

**Throughout the world, 164 out of 168 nations surveyed guarantee paid maternity leave to working mothers. The four who do not are Papua New Guinea, Swaziland, Lesotho, and the United States. *(The Washington Post, as it appeared in The Week magazine, May 26, 2006)***

**I've learned so much from my mother, starting with the fact that the world's a nicer, happier place if everybody has a sandwich. *(Melissa McCarthy, American actress)***

**The following message appeared on a menu in a New York City diner: “Open 24 hours. American Express accepted for checks of $15 or more. No personal checks accepted. Be nice. Don't shout. Sit up straight. Smile. Don't play with your food. Have a nice day. Take care. Don't be a stranger. Murray, call your mother.” *(Helen N. Rosenberg, quoted by Glenn Collins, in New York Times)***

**When my daughter was home during college break, she came in for an eye exam at the optometrist's office that I manage. I gave her some paperwork to fill out, and had to laugh when I read what she had written under method of payment: “My mom.” (Shirley Kudrna, in Reader's Digest)**

**Little Johnny had finished his summer vacation and came back to school. Two days later his teacher phoned his mother to tell her that he was misbehaving. “Wait a minute,” she said. “I had Johnny with me for three months and I never called you once when he misbehaved.” *(Tidbits)***

**Elly: “Maybe if we received weekly paychecks, motherhood would be more satisfying. Unending housework and running after kids – it’s a treadmill, Anne!” Anne: “I don’t understand you, Elly. If you hate it so much, hire a sitter and get yourself a job!” Elly: “And miss out on everything?” *(Lynn Johnston, in For Better Or For Worse comic strip)***

**A new mother, I delighted in each stage of my son's development. The day he stretched his little arms up to me and said "Mommy" for the first time, I almost burst with pride. Minutes later, however, our Labrador retriever, Max, sauntered into the room. My son toddled toward him and called out, "Mommy!" *(Katherine J. Bandujo, in Reader's Digest)*Woman to cloistered monk: “I don't care if you have taken a vow of silence. I'm your mother -- you should have called!” *(Hickerson, Los Angeles Times Syndicate)***

**The most creative job in the world involves taste, fashion, decorating, recreation, education, transportation, psychology, romance, cuisine, designing, literature, medicine, handicraft, art, horticulture, economics, government, community relations, pediatrics, geriatrics, entertainment, maintenance, purchasing, direct mail, law, accounting, religion, energy, and management. Anyone who can handle all those has to be somebody special. She is. She’s a homemaker. *(From a United Technologies Corp. ad by Richard Kerr)***

**It is my great joy to perceive somewhat of the mother side of God -- the divine love that never fails. *(Myrtle Fillmore, Unity co-founder, who has been called the mother of Unity)***

**There were two warring tribes in the Andes, one that lived in the lowlands and the other high in the mountains. The mountain people invaded the lowlanders one day, and as part of their plundering of the people, they kidnapped a baby of one of the lowlander families and took the infant with them back up into the mountains. The lowlanders didn't know how to climb the mountain. They didn't know any of the trails that the mountain people used, and they didn't know where to find the mountain people or how to track them in the steep terrain. Even so, they sent out their best party of fighting men to climb the mountain and bring the baby home. The men tried first one method of climbing and then another. They tried one trail and then another. After several days of effort, however, they had climbed only several hundred feet. Feeling hopeless and helpless, the lowlander men decided that the cause was lost, and they prepared to return to their village below. As they were packing their gear for the descent, they saw the baby's mother walking toward them. They realized that she was coming down the mountain that they hadn't figured out how to climb. And then they saw that she had the baby strapped to her back. How could that be? One man greeted her and said, “We couldn't climb this mountain. How did you do this when we, the strongest and most able men in the village, couldn't do it?” She shrugged her shoulders and said, “It wasn't your baby.” *(Jim Stovall)***

**Benito Mussolini, too, said all he was or ever hoped to be he owed to his wonderful mother. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Insurance Forms: What is the nature of the claim? Pregnancy. Is the claim related to your employment? Yes. What is your job? Homemaker. *(Nurses: Jokes, Quotes, and Anecdotes, 2005 Calendar)***

**Dikembe Mutombo, the towering center of the Houston Rockets, has donated more than $15 million to build a 300-bed hospital in his hometown of Kinshasa, the capital of Congo. Mutombo, who has been named the NBA’s Defensive Player of the Year four times, created a foundation for the effort in 1997 when his mother died; she couldn’t get to a hospital because civil war had closed the streets. The new facility, which will open next month, will be named for her. “I felt that building a hospital was the No. 1 way to change things,” Mutombo said, “where people can go and it is not a road to death but a road to return home.” *(The Week magazine, August 25, 2006)***

**Deanna: “Your mother’s coming? But Michael, it’s one o-clock in the morning!” Michael: “It’s OK. She offered. And to be honest, Deanna, I didn’t know what else to do! You can hardly get out of bed. I can’t stop the kids from crying.” Deanna: “But getting your Mom to come here at this time of night is crazy! What’s she going to think?” The Grandma driving over to their house thinks to herself: “They need me!” *(Lynn Johnston, in For Better Or For Worse comic strip)***

**The thing you never understand about being a mother, until you are one, is that it is not the grown man you see before you, with his parking tickets, unpolished shoes, and complicated love life. You see all the people he has ever been rolled into one. *(Jojo Moyes, novelist, in Me Before You)***

**There is no such thing as a nonworking mother. *(Hester Mundis, in Powermom)***

**A mother is not a person to lean on, but a person to make leaning unnecessary. *(Dorothy Canfield Fisher, in Her Son’s Wife)***

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**Nursing a child can give the brain a bigger buzz than cocaine, says a new study in the Journal of Neuroscience. When researchers at the University of Massachusetts Medical School in Worcester compared brain scans of nursing mother rats with those of virgin rats who had been given cocaine, they found that the same areas of the brain lit up in both groups. But when given a choice, rats with young babies consistently chose suckling their pups over cocaine. The “lactation high,” researchers tell Science, was more pleasurable than the artificial kind. The results, say researchers, suggest that nature rewards mothers for nurturing their young. *(The Week magazine, January 28, 2005)***

**A recent survey finds that 39 percent of new or expectant mothers believe their employer is “extremely” supportive of breast-feeding and/or pumping while at work, but 66 percent pointed to a lack of time as the biggest barrier to nursing while on the job. *(The Wall Street Journal, as it appeared in The Week magazine, May 2, 2014)***

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**While home on a break from medical school, my daughter was so busy she seldom sat down to eat a balanced meal. Using all the authority I could muster, I lectured her on the importance of good nutrition, ending my tirade with, “The medical schools should teach our future doctors the importance of a good diet.” Hugging me, my daughter responded, “They don't need to teach us that. After all, we do have mothers!” *(Phyllis Laxton, in Reader's Digest)***

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**Winfrey's maternal alternative: Oprah Winfrey has no regrets about not starting a family, said Lacey Rose in The Hollywood Reporter. The media mogul -- who grew up in poverty in Mississippi -- has always believed in putting her career first, and knew she'd never have enough time for children. "If I had kids, (they'd) hate me," says Winfrey, 59. "They'd have ended up on the equivalent of the Oprah show talking about me; because something (in my life) would have had to suffer, and it would've probably been them." But Winfrey has found a different outlet for her maternal instincts, by creating a girls' school in South Africa. She talks daily with the kids -- most of whom will become the first members of their poor families to go to college -- about everything from boy trouble to handling success. "When you're the most successful person in your town, everybody thinks you're the First National Bank," she says. Winfrey, who is reportedly worth $2,9 billion, learned that people's needs depended on what they thought she had. "It got to the point where nobody asked me for less than $5,000. I felt pressured for a long time to say yes because I (couldn't) lie and say I don't have it. My salary is printed in the paper." *(The Week magazine, December 27, 2013)***

**Woman: “I got in! Charlene got tickets!” Husband: “For what?” Woman: “Lunch with Oprah!” Husband: “You and Charlene are going to have lunch with Oprah Winfrey?” Wife: “Yup! She's on her 'Live Your Best Life' tour! We live in one of the lucky cities she'll visit!” Husband: “Let me see that ticket.” Wife: “Okay.” Husband: “A hundred and eighty-five bucks for lunch?” Wife: “She's going to tell us how to live our lives.” Husband: “You could get the same thing having lunch with Mom!” *(Robb Armstrong, in Jump Start comic strip)***

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**Life was a lot simpler when what we honored was father and mother rather than all major credit cards. *(Robert Orben)***

**Mothers were originally named Mama or Mommy (in many languages) because they have mammary glands. *(Noel Botham, in The Book of Useless Information, p. 72)***

**Today, Marie Osmond is a devoted mother of eight – three biological kids and five adopted. But there was a time, says Richard Barber in the London Daily Mail, when motherhood became a burden too great to bear. Following the birth of her son Matthew, in 1999, Osmond succumbed to a case of postpartum depression so severe that she sometimes couldn’t get out of bed. One day, she walked downstairs and handed Matthew over to his nanny. “I can’t stay here,” I told her. “There is something terribly wrong with me.” With that, Osmond says, “I turned away from her, away from my life, and walked out the door. I have no idea how my feet carried me to the car. My body was racked with hysterical crying. I began to understand for the first time why a person would want to take their own life.” Filled with grief and sadness, she drove 250 miles and holed up in a motel. But soon, she was rescued by a phone call from her mother, Olive, who had raised nine children of her own. “I’m going to tell you something I’ve never told anyone,” said my mother. “I went through exactly the same thing when I had my last child.” “That’s my brother, Jimmy. Isn’t that extraordinary?” With medication and therapy, Osmond, now 50, recovered her equilibrium. But she’s not sure what would have happened had her mom not tracked her down. “That call,” she says, “helped me turn the corner.” *(The Week magazine, November 27, 2009)***

**An ounce of mother is worth a ton of priest. *(Spanish proverb)***

**One woman says to the other: “Jennifer, the term ‘blissfully pregnant’ is an oxymoron.” *(Dave Carpenter cartoon)***

**Bad week for: American men, after a study by Salary.com concluded that stay-at-home moms would earn $134,121 a year if they were paid for their 91.6 hours of work each week. Employed moms, the study found, put in 49.8 hours of work at home after they leave the office. *(The Week magazine, May 12, 2006)***

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**A girl's best friend is her mother. *(Dorothy Parker)***

**Mother no’s best. *(Dorothy Parker)***

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**My mom is literally a part of me. You can’t say that about many people except relatives, and organ donors. *(Carrie Latet)***

**Prize-winning novelist Louise Erdrich tells what her mother taught her: My mother is a patient woman. She had seven children by age 30. When the noise and the heat of young lives overwhelmed her, she used to press the pedal of her sewing machine flat, sending the needle into a manic frenzy. She never lashed out at a child. That lesson was profound. I do not have my mother’s patience; in fact, I started out writing poems because I couldn’t sit still long enough for longer pieces of fiction. Patience never came naturally, and even caring for our babies became a skill I did not automatically possess. Then one day I was invested mysteriously with my mother’s grace. I was alone with the children, and this was a non-sleep week for each of them. The morning of my fourth straight sleepless night, a work deadline passed for me, and our baby continued to cry. Then I broke through a level of sleep-deprived frustration so intense I thought I’d burst, into a dimension of surprising calm. I know exactly when this happened. My hand reached down, trembling with anger, toward the needy child, but instead of roughly managing her, my hands closed gently as a whisper on her body. At that moment, I was invested not with my own thin, worn endurance, but with my mother’s patience. Her hands had poured it into me. This gift had lain with me all my life, like a bird in a nest, waiting until the moment my hands needed the soft strength of wings. *(Ladies’ Home Journal)***

**It turns out the "motherhood penalty" applies to fathers, too, A series of recent studies found that men who reduced their hours for family reasons lost 15.5 percent in earnings over the course of their careers, received worse job evaluations and smaller raises, and were more likely to be demoted or laid off. *(The New York Times, as it appeared in The Week magazine, November 21, 2014)***

**There’s no way to be a perfect mother and a million ways to be a good one. *(Jill Churchill, in Grime and Punishment)***

**Pfeiffer's Hollywood hiatus: Michelle Pfeiffer doesn't regret putting her acting career aside for motherhood, said Adam Rathe in Town & Country. After a decade of starring roles in high-profile films, she and her husband David Kelley, a writer and producer, had two children in the early 1990s, and she began cutting back. "Before the kids were born, my work was my life -- and it was in a good way," Pfeiffer, now 62, says. "When they were small, I could pack them up and bring them with me. But then it became, 'OK, how long will this separate the family unit?' When they got into school, it became even more complicated, because I didn't want to just take them out of their routine." The roles began drying up. "It became challenging for people to hire me, because it was too complicated. It was easier to get somebody else to do the part." An introvert who likes her privacy, Pfeiffer didn't miss the attention. But when her daughter began looking at colleges, Pfeiffer decided going back to acting would ease the blow of her empty nest. She'd aged out of the glamorous parts, but is being offered more mature, sophisticated roles. "I guess the timing of it really worked out," Pfeiffer says, "because I don't feel I missed out on much." (*The Week magazine, March 26, 2021)***

**My mother said to me, “If you become a soldier you’ll be a general; if you become a monk you'll end up as the pope.” Instead, I became a painter and wound up as Picasso. *(Pablo Picasso)***

**A mother is a person who, seeing there are only four pieces of pie for five people, promptly announces she never did care for pie. *(Tenneva Jordan)***

**A man was called upon at a dinner of the Pilgrim Fathers to respond to the toast, “The Pilgrim Fathers.” After paying tribute to the Pilgrim Fathers for enduring the rigors of the New England winters and the privations and dangers of life in the little settlement of Plymouth, he paused. “But let us give thought,” he added with a grin, “to the Pilgrim Mothers. For they not only had to endure everything the Pilgrim Fathers endured, but mark this, they had to endure, also, the Pilgrim Fathers.” *(C. Kennedy)***

**Husband on phone: “Hi, Honey. It's me. I just wanted to remind you that Zoe has soccer practice at four.” Wife: “I can't be in six places at once!” Husband: “You mean two places at once.” Wife: “What?” Husband: “I think the phrase is, ‘I can't be in two places at once.’” Wife: “Hey, I'm a Mom, remember? I consider being two places at once a vacation!” *(Rick Kirkman and Jerry Scott, in Baby Blues comic strip)*  
 Husband: “Hi Honey. How was your day?” Wife: “Eight diapers, six spit-ups, three outfits, two screaming fits and a sore nipple. Pardon me while I go ponder the wonders of motherhood alone in a hot bath." *(Rick Kirkman and Jerry Scott, in Baby Blues comic strip)*  
My husband has a rather portly build, with a sizable potbelly. When our daughter was expecting her second child, my husband and I went to her house to take care of her three-year-old girl. The first night, our little granddaughter made the rounds to kiss us all goodnight. After she kissed her mother's cheek, she then kissed her mother's tummy, bidding the unborn baby goodnight. She ran down the hall to bed, then suddenly ran back to the living room, stopping in front of her grandfather. She bent over, kissed his belly and announced, “I forgot to kiss Grandpa's baby goodnight!” *(Ruth M. Henshaw)***

**There is no influence so powerful as that of the mother, but next in rank in efficacy is that of schoolmaster. *(Sarah Josepha Hale)***

**When Father carved Thanksgiving's bird and asked us each what we preferred. As sure as summer follows spring came mother's “Please, I'll take the wing.” She never asked for leg or breast, we thought she liked the wing the best. I was a man before I knew why mothers do the things they do. *(Richard Armour)***

**A man who always had a close relationship with his mother told a friend, “She made it a point to be present at all the important events of my life --athletic events, school plays, graduations, and things like that.” He then hesitated and added, “Mom even went out of her way to be there when I was born.” *(Ruth Burke, in The Saturday Evening Post)***

**What do you regard as the lowest depth of misery? Never to have known my mother or my grandmother. *(Marcel Proust, in 1892, at the age of 20)***

**Johnny had just been put to bed for the umpteenth time and his mother’s patience was wearing thin. “If I hear you call ‘Mother’ one more time, you will be punished,” she said sternly. For a while it was quiet. Then she heard a small voice from upstairs: “Mrs. Jones? Can I have a drink of water?” *(Rocky Mountain News)***

**CHILDREN ANSWER QUESTIONS ABOUT MOTHERS:  
- What ingredients are mothers made of? God makes mothers out of clouds and angel hair and everything nice in the world, and one dab of mean.  
- What kind of little girl was your mom? I don't know because I wasn't there, but my guess would be pretty bossy.  
- Why did your mom marry your dad? My grandma says that mom didn't have her thinking cap on.  
- What's the difference between moms and dads? Moms know how to talk to teachers without scaring them.  
- What does your mom do in her spare time? Mom's don't have spare time.  
- If you could change one thing about your mom, what would it be? She has this weird thing about me keeping my room clean. I'd get rid of that. *(Bedside Bits)***

**If I had a child to raise over again, I'd finger-paint more, and point the finger less. I'd do less correcting and more connecting. I'd take my eyes off my watch and watch with my eyes. I would care to know less and know to care more. I'd take more hikes and fly more kites. I'd stop playing serious and seriously play. I'd run through the fields and gaze at more stars. I'd do more hugging and less tugging. I would be firm but affirm much more. I'd build self-esteem first and the house later. I'd teach less about the love of power and more about the power of love. *(Diane Loomans)***

**Real mothers:   
Don't eat quiche; they don't have time to make it.   
Know that their kitchen utensils are probably in the sandbox.   
Often have sticky floors, filthy ovens and happy kids.   
Don't want to know what the vacuum just sucked up.   
Sometimes ask “Why me?” and get their answer when a little voice says “Because I love you.”  
Know that a child's growth is not measured by height or years. It is marked by the progression of Mama to Mommy to Mom. *(Rocky Mountain News)***

**A mother never realizes that her children are no longer children.  
*(Holbrook Jackson, British critic and historian)***

**There’s a good reason why it’s called labor. *(Evelyn Beilenson, in Motherhood Is Not For Sissies)***

One of the youth league soccer coaches didn’t care much for my refereeing and had no problem letting me know it. Fed up, I threatened him with a penalty if he didn’t can it. He calmed down, but an older woman took up where he’d left off. “You’d better control your sideline,” I warned the coach. The coach turned to the woman and barked, “Knock it off, Mom!” *(Joseph Wheeler, in Reader’s Digest)*

**Rose says that this is the day. I am dubious. After all, there have been no clarion cries from the heaven, no storks seen fleeting against the still wintery sky. It's much too ordinary a day for such a remarkable event as the birth of our baby. *(Martin Paule)***

**I remember with remorse how my mother told us children, “Just when you all got interesting, you all left home.” *(Liz Carpenter)***

**Mother by numbers: 40% of households responding to a National Restaurant Association survey said they will dine out on Mother’s Day. That’s up from 30 percent in 1996. 44% of adults in households of three or more people ate a Mother’s Day meal at a restaurant last year, compared with 24 percent in one-person households. Respondents under age 25 and people 35 to 44 years old were more likely than older respondents to dine out on Mother’s Day: 47 percent and 42 percent, respectively. *(Rocky Mountain News, May 3, 2005)***

**It is only when the rigidity of advanced pregnancy sets in that you appreciate fully how useful it was to be able to bend at the waist. *(Audrey Hull)***

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**Snoopy: “Here's the world famous beagle scout starting off on a rock hunting expedition. Ah! Here's a nice one. Oooo! Here's a beauty! Ah!” Lucy: “This is your rock collection? Let me see. Boy, what a dumb looking rock collection! It looks like you found them all in a driveway! No one would ever be interested in a bunch of rocks like that.” Snoopy: “Not even their mothers?” *(Charles M. Schulz, in Peanuts comic strip)***

**The hand that rocks the cradle usually is attached to someone who isn’t getting enough sleep. *(John Fiebig)  
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I think, at a child's birth, if a mother could ask a fairy godmother to endow it with the most useful gift, that gift would be curiosity. *(Eleanor Roosevelt)***

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**Neurotics build castles in the air. Psychotics live in them. My mother cleans them. *(Rita Rudner)***

**Life is tough enough without having someone kick you from the inside. *(Rita Rudner)***

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**Research indicates that 13 of 17 new mothers -- within two hours after first exposures to their infants -- can identify their babies' clothing by scent. Takes about six weeks for the majority of babies to identify their mothers' clothing that way. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**If there were no schools to take the children away from home part of the time, the insane asylums would be filled with mothers. *(E. W. Howe)***

**California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger observed Mother's Day in his weekly radio address by recalling that when he was a boy his mother would carry him in a backpack over a mountain to visit the doctor. While the former movie star often talks about his father -- a police chief in his native Austria -- he rarely speaks about his mother, Aurelia, who died in 1998. He said her “unconditional love” was illustrated by the mountain treks she took when he was sick. “It was an hour and a half hike,” the Republican said Saturday. “But it didn't matter to her if it was snowing, or raining, or bitter cold. All that mattered to her was taking care of me.” *(Rocky Mountain News, May 9, 2005)***

**You know those little self-stick notes? Market researchers wanted to know who used them most frequently. Turns out it's working parents. It has been said a whole generation of children only communicate with their mothers by way of small messages on refrigerator doors. *(L. M. Boyd)***

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**More than 155,000 American women have served in the Iraq and Afghanistan wars. Among their ranks, the Pentagon said, are more than 16,000 single mothers. *(The Washington Post, as it appeared in The Week magazine, December 8, 2006)***

**In 1942, mothers of U. S. servicemen met in Flint, Michigan, to organize the Blue Star Mothers of America, which became a national troop-support group. Participating mothers displayed flags with a blue star to indicate a child in service and a gold star to signify a casualty. *(American Profile magazine)***

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**Many people in the large company where I worked shared the same first names. It could be a problem when customers called without knowing the appropriate surname. They would try descriptions like “tall Pat” or “short Pat.” One day I got a call from a woman wishing to speak with Lisa. “Which Lisa?” I asked. “The pretty blonde who's really nice,” she replied. Recognizing the description, I informed her that Lisa was out of the office, but I would be happy to take a message.” “Please tell her that her mother called.” *(Joyce Weyant, in Reader's Digest)***

**Many new moms complain of feeling dull-witted from anxiety and lack of sleep. But a new study suggests that, in rats at least, motherhood may sharpen the mind. Researchers at the University of Richmond, say hormones produced by rats during pregnancy, combined with the stimulation gained from caring for offspring, apparently improve the animals' memory and learning skills. The researchers suspect the rodents' brains make new neural connections as a result of the sensory stimulation -- sights, sounds and cuddling -- that parenting provides. And the benefits are not necessarily limited to biological mothers. Rats that had never given birth but served as foster parents performed better when finding food hidden in an enclosure. Anything that makes a rat mother more efficient “translates into better survivability for her and her offspring,” said Craig Kinsley, a professor of neuroscience. *(Rick Callahan)***

**Shields' biggest challenge: Motherhood has not been easy for Brooke Shields, says Frances Hardy in the London Daily Mail. After the actress gave birth to her daughter, Rowan, two years ago, she suffered from major postpartum depression. Her traumatic labor left her physically exhausted, and that, combined with the strain of caring for Rowan, drove her to the breaking point. "Just as I began to fall into an exhausted sleep," she recalls, "Rowan's little bark, like Chinese water torture, would wake me up. I began to feel delirious." She contemplated running away or even killing herself. "All I wanted was for life to return to how it was before I had her. I remember looking out of the window and imagining myself jumping." Worse still were the visions she had of her baby dying. "I sat holding her and could not avoid the image of her flying through the air and hitting the wall in front of me. I didn't see myself as the one throwing her, thank God, but the wall morphed into a video game, and in it her little body smacked the surface and slid down to the floor." Antidepressants and therapy eventually restored her health. But Shields still recalls that time as "the most devastating challenge I have ever faced." *(The Week magazine, June 3, 2005)***

**Dolly asks her Mom: “Will you take my dolls shopping so they can get me something for Mother's Day?” *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)***

**Shouting to make your children obey is like using the horn to steer your car, and you get about the same results. *(Rocky Mountain News)***

**The greatest sight one sees beneath the stars is the sight of worthy motherhood. *(George W. Truett)***

**Telltale Signs of Motherhood: The phrase “Ready for bed” means that all you have to do is pack tomorrow’s lunches, check homework, fill out permission forms for a field trip, straighten up the living, and fold two loads of laundry. *(Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott, in Baby Blues comic strip)  
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**Employed mothers sleep an average of 3.6 fewer hours a week than those who are full-time homemakers. *(The New York Times, as it appeared in The Week magazine, April 21, 2006)***

**For Mother's Day, my young daughters promised to be quiet and let their mother sleep in. One morning weeks later, I overheard a conversation between my daughter Alyssa and her grandfather. “Where's your mom?” he asked. “Oh,” said Alyssa, “she's upstairs pretending it's Mother's Day.” *(Gene F. Nicolai, in Reader's Digest)***

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**Mom says to the neighbor lady: “I was sure motherhood would be hard work when it began with something called labor.” *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)***

**To a mother, a son is never a fully grown man; and a son is never a fully grown man until he understands and accepts this about his mother. *(Anonymous)***

**Lars says to the man: “The goldfish died. Oh, and speaking of death, your mother called.” *(J. C. Duffy, in The Fusco Brothers comic strip)***

**Father: “Happy Mother's Day!” Woman: “Thank you.” Child: “What is Mother's Day anyway?” Father: “What is it? It's a special day when mommies get special treatment.” Child: “Like what?” Mother: “All kinds of stuff. Somebody else cooks the meals, somebody else cleans the house, somebody else takes care of the kids.” Father: “Basically, it's a day mommies can relax and let somebody else do the work.” Child: “Ohhh, now I get it. There's one Mother's Day, and the rest are all Daddy's days.” Mother: “Exactly.” Father: “What?” *(Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott, in Baby Blues comic strip)***

**MOTHERLY LOVE: $11.4 billion is expected to be spent on flowers, cards and gifts to be showered upon American moms, wives, sisters, daughters and grandmothers on Mother's Day this year, May 8. That's a 10 percent jump from 2004, according to Ellen Tolley of the National Retail Federation. *(Rocky Mountain News, April 27, 2005)***

**There are only two things a child will share willingly – communicable diseases and his mother’s age. *(Benjamin Spock)***

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**According to a Pew Research Center report, the share of stay-at-home mothers is rising after decades of decline, reaching 29 percent in 2012 after hitting an all-time low of 23 percent in 1999. Almost half of these stay-at-home moms are minorities or have no more than a high school education, while more than a third live below the poverty line. *(CNN.com, as it appeared in The Week magazine, April 18, 2014)***

**5.4 million mothers stayed home with their children last year, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. That's about 850,000 more than the number who did so 10 years earlier. And 88 percent of them said they made the choice primarily to care for children. *(Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, as it appeared in the Rocky Mountain News, December 3, 2004)***

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**Motherhood is not for the fainthearted. Used frogs, skinned knees, and the insults of teenage girls are not meant for the wimpy. *(Danielle Steele)***

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

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**A Mother’s Role: Despite her many professional accomplishments, Meryl Streep says she has always visualized herself as a mother first. When choosing roles, she keeps in mind her four children. “Everything we put out in my business leaves an imprint on kids who are way too young to be looking at much of the stuff that's out there,” Streep says. “Yet my kids want to see what they perceive as tough and edgy because edgy is the adjective of the day. All it is to me is depressing.” *(Matthew Gilbert, in Boston Globe)***

**Motherhood has a very humanizing effect. Everything gets reduced to essentials. *(Meryl Streep, Academy-Award-winning actress and mother of four)***

**The interesting thing about being a mother is that everyone wants pets, but no one but me cleans the kitty litter. *(Meryl Streep, in Vogue)***

**Actress Meryl Streep had this reply when asked about the possibility of winning a third Oscar: “I'd rather be voted mother of the year by my family, because nobody realizes that being a good mother is harder than making a movie. Being a housewife and a mother is much more difficult.” *(Bits & Pieces)***

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**Think of stretch marks as pregnancy service stripes. *(Joyce Armor)***

**Billy says to his Mother after arriving home from school: “We had a substitute teacher and a substitute bus driver today. I’m glad there isn’t a substitute here for YOU!” *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)***

**A suburban mother’s role is to deliver children obstetrically once, and by car forever after. *(Peter De Vries)***

**Surrendering to motherhood means surrendering to interruption. *(Erica Jong)***

**Mom's Survival Tips: To my kids who have left home and are on their own, I pass on a list of life lessons:**

**1. Don't sweat your every mistake or faux pas. They make up for the things you got away with that nobody knows about.**

**2. Avoid marrying anyone who deliberately flushes the toilet when you're taking a shower.**

**3. When someone tells you that what he's about to say is "for your own good," expect the worse.**

**4. The value of a dog is its constant reminder of how much fun it is to be idiotic.**

**5. If you are lavishly praised, enjoy the taste but don't swallow it whole.**

**6. When a politician says, "Let me make something perfectly clear," remember that he usually won't.**

**7. Your children may leave home, but their stuff will be in your attic and basement forever.**

**8. If someone says, "I know what I mean, but I just can't put it into words," he doesn't know what he means.**

**9. Two people cannot operate a TV remote control in the same room at the same time.**

**10. Don't waste time trying to be your own best friend. You can't pat yourself in the back, and its unsatisfying to cry on your own shoulder. Find a real friend instead. *(Charlotte Johnstone, in Family Circle)***

**Sweater: garment worn by child when its mother is feeling chilly. *(Ambrose Bierce)***

**A newborn baby may smell the sight of its mother's face, taste the sound of her voice or hear the touch of her hand. The senses cross-connect. The condition is called "synesthesia" and most babies outgrow it. But a few grownups continue to experience it. Composer Rimsky-Korsakov did, for example. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**When a woman takes leave from her job to care for her newborn baby, her working hours almost double, the experts say. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Why mothers talk more to baby girls than to baby boys I do not know, but such is the contention of the researchers. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Having a baby is like getting a tattoo on your face. You really need to be certain it's what you want before you commit. *(Elizabeth Gilbert, author)***

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**When my oldest granddaughter, Debbie, was about 3 years old, her parents and siblings came to visit us on the farm. We took a little drive around the area, and when we passed a one-room schoolhouse, I told the kids I used to teach there. “Your Uncle Lance and Uncle Marvin went to school there,” I added, “and I was their teacher.” We drove on for another quarter mile or so before Debbie asked, “Who was their mother then?” *(Dorothy Sterns, in Country magazine)*During my senior year at Pequot Lakes High School in Minnesota, a new English teacher was hired. Early in the first week of classes, a group of us gathered to discuss our teachers. “Do you have Mrs. Hauser for English?” one boy asked me. When I said I did not, the other students went on to describe how strict she was, how she would not tolerate misbehavior and how tough her academic standards were. As they reached the end of their complaints, I nodded and said, “I know.” “But you told us you didn't have her class,” they responded with puzzled looks. “I don't,” I said. “She's my mom.” *(Carolyn Corbett, in Reader's Digest)***

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**A mother who navigates the waters of the terrible twos can weather any storm. *(Evelyn Beilenson, in Motherhood Is Not For Sissies)***

**Throughout my brother's college career, Dad gave him pep talks about redirecting his interest from parties to studies. On several occasions, Dad held his thumb and forefinger about an inch apart, saying he was "that close" to dragging my brother out of school if his grades didn't improve. When the next grade report came home, Dad commented that his latest talk must have worked. "No," my brother admitted. "It was Mom who turned me around. She said she was finally 'that close' to letting you." *(Cathy Lewis, in Reader's Digest)*  
Before becoming a mother I had a hundred theories on how to bring up children. Now I have seven children and one theory: Love them, especially when they least deserve to be loved. *(Kate Samperi)***

**No one else, ever, will think you’re great the way your mother does. *(Mary Matalin, in Letters to My Daughter)***

**Hammie: “Wanna play twactors, Zoe?” Zoe: “I am a girl, and girls don’t play with tractors!” Hammie: “Wanna play tractors, Mom?” Mom: “Okay!” Zoe: “Hey!” Hammie: “She’s not a girl, she’s a Mom.” *(Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott, in Baby Blues comic strip)***

**Five-year-old David was playing next door with little Tracy Lynn, whose mother was expecting a new baby very soon. Presently he came across the yard, leading Tracy Lynn by the hand. "Mama," he said. "Tracy wants to sit on a lap and her mother doesn't have one." *(Mrs. Marjorie A. Farley, in Catholic Digest)***

**Ruthie: “Mom, what if my tree gets hurt by the storm?” Mom: “There’s nothing we can do about it tonight, Ruthie. Now try to get some sleep.” Ruthie: “I can’t sleep! I’ll be worrying all night about my poor little Suzette! You don’t know what it’s like to be a Mom, Mom!” *(Rick Detorie, in One Big Happy comic strip)***

**Rose: “There! I’ve successfully tucked myself in. Hmmm, it feels a little empty and cold! Momma! I’ve reconsidered my position on being tucked in!” Mom: “What changed your mind?” Rose: “I’m a better tuckee than a tucker!” *(Pat Brady & Don Wimmer, in Rose Is Rose comic strip)***

**My colleague, a professor of clinical psychology at Victoria University in Wellington, New Zealand, included a lecture on crowd psychology in his annual course. To illustrate mass hysteria, he regularly showed TV news footage of teenage crowds greeting the Beatles at the local airport in the 1960s. Last year, when he ran the footage, he heard squeals and bursts of laughter from his students. When the film ended he asked what had caused the hilarity. Replied one student, “We recognized some of our mothers!” *(Roger Robinson, in Reader’s Digest)***

**My mother had a great deal of trouble with me, but I think she enjoyed it. *(Mark Twain)***

**The counselor was helping his kids put their belongings away on their first morning at summer camp. He was surprised to see one of the youngsters had an umbrella. The counselor asked, “Why would you bring an umbrella to camp?” With his face turning red, the child replied, “Did you ever have a mother?” *(Bedside Bits)***

**In the United States, Mother's Day has been a very special occasion since 1914 when President Woodrow Wilson signed a resolution recommending that Congress and all the departments of the government observe Mother's Day. The second Sunday in May is set aside in the United States as Mother's Day. In numerous other countries Mother's Day, or its equivalent, falls at a different time of the year. *(Richard Ames, in Plain Truth magazine)***

**The TV says: “Due to the graphic nature of the following program, viewer discretion is advised.” Mom then turns off the TV and the child says to her: “It said viewer discretion, not mother of viewer discretion!” Mom: “Too bad!” *(Kevin Fagan, in Drabble comic strip)***

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**Anthony DeCasper, professor of psychology at the University of North Carolina, at Greensboro, devised an ingenious experiment. He placed padded earphones over a newborn’s ears and gave him a bottle nipple attached to a closed rubber tube. Changes in pressure in the tube switched channels on a tape recorder. If the baby paused extra long between bursts of sucking, he heard one channel; if he paused shorter than average, he heard the other. The baby now had the ability, in effect, to change channels. DeCasper found that newborns choose the recording of their mother’s voice over that of another woman’s. The baby, however, has no innate interest in his father’s voice, which is heard in the womb only now and again, while the mother’s voice is ever-present. Within two weeks after birth, however, the baby can recognize Dad’s voice too. *(Henci Goer, in Reader’s Digest, 1989)***

**Children in deep sleep awoke to recordings of their mothers’ voices even if they slept through the beeping sound a smoke alarm makes, according to a study being released today by Columbus Children’s Hospital in Ohio. 23 of 24 children ages 6 to 12 in the study awoke to the recorded voice of their mother. Fourteen also awoke to the traditional tone alarm. 100 decibels: Loudness of both types of alarms. That’s about four times louder than levels used in standard home alarms. *(Associated Press, as it appeared in the Rocky Mountain News, October 2, 2006)***

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**A man with three children entered the restaurant where my friend Sarah was waitressing. As he led his kids to a table in Sarah’s section, the restaurant owner remarked to her, “It’s nice to see a father treat his kids to dinner out on Mother’s Day so his wife can have a quiet evening.” Sarah laughed. The man was her husband, and the kids were theirs. *(Kim Dupuis, in Reader’s Digest)***

**During the Revolutionary period, George Washington himself came very close to becoming a part of the British forces fighting against America. As a young man in his teens, he was determined to join the British Navy. He needed his mother's consent because of his young age, which she verbally gave. He made his way to the port, had his baggage placed on the frigate, and was trying to embark when it was discovered his mother had changed her mind and had refused to sign the papers allowing him to go. In all probability, as a member of the British Navy, he would have been fighting against America, instead of leading it to its independence. *(D. James Kennedy)***

**No matter how old a mother is, she watches her middle-aged children for signs of improvement. *(Florida Scott-Maxwell, in The Measure of My Days)***

**The elderly waitress at Mom's Diner says to Ziggy: “No more water for you! You'll be up all night!” *(Tom Wilson, in Ziggy comic strip)***

**A soldier was standing at attention during a parade drill when he waved to one of the spectators. The drill instructor went over to the young man and growled. “Soldier, don’t ever do that again!” But as his company marched past the reviewing stand, the young man waved a second time. When the troops got back to the barracks, the drill instructor barreled in and barked at the soldier. “I told you not to wave! Aren’t you afraid of me?” “Yes, sir,” the private replied, “but you don’t know my mother!” *(Our Daily Bread)***

**Children wear out their mothers faster than their shoes. *(Evelyn Beilenson, in Motherhood Is Not For Sissies)***

**Mom says to the crying baby: “What is it, Lizzie? Something hurts? Sore tummy? No pins, no fever. Is it teeth, Lizzie? Are you hungry? What’s the matter, baby, tell me! Tell me! Why aren’t they all born speaking English?” *(Lynn Johnston, in For Better or For Worse comic strip)***

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**Conversation between man and wife: "According to the Guinness Book of World Records, a Russian woman produced 69 children." "Sixty-nine kids! That's hard to believe." "I wonder why she didn't go for an even 70?" "Who knows? Maybe she wanted a career, too." *(Jim Berry, Newspaper Enterprise Association)***

**I don’t know why they say “you have a baby.” The baby has you. *(Gallagher)***

***\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\**All women become like their mothers. That is their tragedy. No man does. That's his. *(Oscar Wilde)***

**There is no breathing human being on this planet (who) did not benefit by a woman saying yes twice: yes to make you, and yes to have you. *(Pharrell Williams, musician, in GQ)***

A U.S. winery is suing another one for using the word “Mommy” on its label. The New Jersey-based distributors of “Mommy’s Time Out” say that California winery Clos LaChance violated their trademark by selling a wine named “Mommyjuice.” A Clos LaChance spokesman responds, “Mommy” is a generic word that they don’t have a monopoly on.” *(The Week magazine, May 6, 2011)*

**No delusion is greater than the notion that method and industry can make up for lack of motherwit, either in science or in practical life. *(Thomas Huxley)***

**Good job! Continue to make movies of inspiration and humor! And always remember to help others. It is true with age comes wisdom. Love, Mom. *(Text Reese Witherspoon received from her mom the day after the Golden Globe Awards ceremony; she had been nominated for best actress, but didn't win)***

**The word for “mother” begins with an “m” sound in almost every language on earth. *(L. M. Boyd)***

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**Every work of art is the child of its time; often it is the mother of our emotions. *(Wassily Kandinsky)***

**Fifty-eight percent of mothers with children age 5 and under work outside of the home. That number rises to 74 percent for women with kids ages 6 to 17. Ninety percent of fathers are employed. *(Money magazine, as it appeared in The Week magazine, February 3, 2006)***

**Working Contagious for Mothers: 60% of working mothers surveyed by Harris Interactive for Working Mother magazine are daughters of working mothers. 41% of the mothers of women polled worked full time. 19% of previous-generation working mothers were on the “mommy track,” moving in and out of the workforce. *(Rocky Mountain News, April 11, 2005)***

**When moms juggle work and family roles, they stay healthier longer, says a large British study. Researchers at the University College, London compiled data from more than 2,500 middle-aged women, and found that those who had worked full time while raising their families reported fewer health problems as they grew older: Full-time homemakers fared worse – 38 percent of them were obese in middle age, as opposed to just 23 percent of working moms. Some critics of the study have suggested that healthier women choose to juggle more roles, but senior researcher Anne McMunn says that’s probably not the case. Instead, she says, multiple roles keep women psychologically limber and physically fit. “While it may be stressful for them at the time,” she tells the London Times, “their long-term health is better.” *(The Week magazine, June 2, 2006)***

**Working mothers on average spent 12 hours a week on child care in 2003, an hour more than stay-at-home mothers did in 1975. *(The New York Times, as it appeared in The Week magazine, March 17, 2006)***

**All mothers are working mothers. *(Anonymous)***

**Working mother's system: Put all mending and ironing in a big box in a closet corner. Label TO BE OUTGROWN. *(Rose Schwenneker, in Reader's Digest)*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\***

**One study shows young mothers worry less than any other category of person. Why? They don’t have time. How much you worry depends mostly on how much time you have to devote to that hobby. Or so say the experts. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**I would be the worst mother. I’m too neurotic. If my kid yelled to me in the middle of the night, “Mommy, I think there’s a monster under my bed!” I’d be like, “Of course there is, honey. That’s why I’m not coming in there.” *(Jen Kirkman, in Reader’s Digest)***

**A very dirty little fellow came in from playing in the yard and asked his mother, “Who am I?” Ready to play the game she said, “I don’t know! Who are you?” “WOW!” cried the child. “Mrs. Johnson was right! She said I was so dirty, my own mother wouldn’t recognize me!” *(Tidbits)***

**Whenever I fill out an application, in the part that says “If an emergency, notify,” I put “DOCTOR.” What’s my mother going to do? *(Steven Wright)***

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Zoe: “When you were born, people called you Wanda.” Mom: “Uh-huh.” Zoe: “When you became a young woman, they called you Wanda, and when you got married they still called you Wanda.” Mom: “Yeah.” Zoe: “But when I was born, you became Mom! Zoe McPherson, life-changing event!” *(Rick Kirkman and Jerry Scott, in Baby Blues comic strip)*

My three-year-old son: "I don't know what I want to be when I grow up." Me: "You can be anything you want, son." Son: (After a few minutes) I think I'll be a mother." *(Mary Lahl, in Reader's Digest)*

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**Grandpa: “Did you have a nice Mother’s Day, Dear?” Grandma: “Yes, thanks for the flowers.” Grandpa: “I guess I should’ve cooked dinner for you, but you know how I am in the kitchen. Anyway, you know how I feel about you. You’re the light of my life, the pearl of my oyster, the apple of my eye, and you’re the potato of my couch.” *(Brian Crane, in Pickles comic strip)***

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