

FOR MUM, WHO LOVED WORDS – V. B.

Tomorrow Bright Before Us gathers quotes from all over the world.
Regional spellings and usage have been retained in order to preserve
the integrity of the originals.

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TOMORROW BRIGHT BEFORE US

illustrated by
Victoria Ball

INTRODUCTION

Words may be small, but they have power. With just one word, you can meet a new person. With two, you can tell them you're sorry or thank them, and with three, you can find out how they're feeling.

The very same words you use every day, shaped into a new order by another person, can make you see something completely differently. Perhaps you've learned about the activist Malala Yousafzai, and her famous quote "One child, one teacher, one book and one pen can change the world". Malala grew up in Pakistan, and was prevented from going to school by an extreme group called the Taliban. She spoke out, using her voice to fight for every girl's right to education. She became the youngest Nobel Peace Prize winner, and her words have moved so many people around the world.

In this book, you'll find lots of wise and wonderful quotes from writers, thinkers and activists who have a lot to say. When we talk about a quote, we mean a short phrase that someone else has said or written. When we share it and repeat it, perhaps because it is important, memorable or beautiful, it becomes a quote.

In these pages, there are quotes about the seasons and storytelling, kites and kindness, dreaming and daring. About music, dragons, breakfast, oceans and books. If you spot a quote you particularly love in these pages, you might want to try to remember it. Then it will be with you always, and whenever you need it, you can repeat it to yourself.

These quotes are all in English, but their speakers are from all over the world and from across centuries. In here, you'll find quotes from the British playwright William Shakespeare, who was born nearly 500 years ago, and the Persian poet Jalal al-Din Rumi, born 800 years ago. Both writers still have something to say about what it's like to grow up, to be yourself, to be a friend.

If you turn to page 76, you'll see the British poet Lemn Sissay explain "My home is here in *these* words. And by reading them, you have opened the front door. Welcome! Come on in!". There are 366 quotes in this book, and each one can open a new door. Maybe you'll look up the people who said them. Maybe you'll discover the books these people wrote, the times they lived through, the discoveries they made, or the dreams they had. Of course, people aren't perfect — even people who say amazing things! We selected quotes we think are wonderful, but we all live in our own moment in history, and the views of the past are often very different from the views of today. We hope that these quotes and the people behind them might spark a discussion, inspire a story, or help you see from a new perspective.

This book is for you and there is no right way to read it. You can use this book by yourself, or with your loved ones. You can read it all in one go, or save one quote for bedtime every day of the year. You can take time to explore all the beautiful scenes in the illustrations created by Victoria Ball. Because you're a little different every day, these quotes might feel different each time you read them — depending on the weather, where you are, or what you were thinking about before you sat down to read.

Our world is full of brilliant quotes, and even in 256 pages, we haven't been able to include them all. As you read this, you might think of a quote you'd add to your own collection — something silly a friend said to you, advice from your family, or a beautiful description from a book you've loved. Even with all that's been said, there are so many words still to say.

The title of this book comes from a poem called 'Youth' by a wonderful poet called Langston Hughes, where he writes "We have tomorrow,/ Bright before us/ Like a flame". He wrote this poem just over 100 years before this book published, at a time when Black people in America like him faced enormous prejudice and inequality. Hughes was full of dreams and full of attention, finding new ways to describe the joyful and wild and difficult lives he saw all around him. Around our world today, there is a lot that needs to be changed — perhaps you can think of ways you want the world to be different? We hope you can look to the future with the bright ambition that Langston Hughes did. Because how you describe the world changes the world.

Eleanor Cousins Brown
Editor, Nosy Crow

JANUARY

1st

The best moments in reading are
when you come across something —
a thought,

a feeling,

a way of looking at things —

which you had thought special and particular to you.

Now here it is,

set down by someone else,

a person you have never met,

someone even who is long dead.

And it is as if a hand has come out and taken yours.

Alan Bennett, *The History Boys*

2nd

Life is a splendid gift.
There is nothing small in it.

Florence Nightingale

3rd

Beauty was not simply something to behold;
it was something one could *do*.

Toni Morrison, *The Bluest Eye*

4th

What are days for?
Days are where we live.
They come, they wake us
Time and time over.
They are to be happy in:
Where can we live but days?

Philip Larkin, 'Days'

16th

It is really hard to be lonely very long in a world of words. Even if you don't have friends somewhere, you still have language, and it will find you and wrap its little syllables around you and suddenly there will be a story to live in.

Naomi Shihab Nye

18th

Letter by letter,
I rediscover
my power to decide
which words matter,
which words don't,
and whose.
Calm, now, I remember:
I get to choose.

Nikki Grimes, 'Stomp'

17th

I grabbed a handful
of words
I had never heard and
sprinkled them over a paragraph
so I could write
a magnificent story

Juan Felipe Herrera, 'Imagine'

JULY

1st

When day comes, we step out of the shade,
Aflame and unafraid.

The new dawn blooms as we free it,
For there is always light,
If only we're brave enough to see it,
If only we're brave enough to be it.

Amanda Gorman, 'The Hill We Climb'