

## Be Determined to Change Your Life

[“Great minds discuss ideas; Average minds discuss events; Small minds discuss people”](#)

~ [Eleanor Roosevelt quotes](#) ([American](#) United Nations [Diplomat](#), [Humanitarian](#) and [First Lady](#) (1933-45), wife of [Franklin D. Roosevelt](#), 32nd US president. [1884-1962](#))



There is one change you must accept that you have to make in life if you truly want to survive as a human being and that change is reading. Knowledge comes from reading. Understanding comes from reading. Tolerance and forbearance comes from reading. If you do not read, you have effectively isolated yourself from every other human being on this planet. So today you should decide to change. Either you need to learn to read or once you learn to read you need to continue to read. And if you already know how to read you need to pick up a book written by your fellow countryman and find out what he or she is thinking. So far all I have said is to change. Now here are so thoughts on how to accomplish change some of the integral functions of change.

First of all you will need a platform to stand on. The platform is your believe in the need for you to bring change into your lie so that you can live better and be more productive so that you can lead your children into a better realm of living.

Once you establish your platform. You need to list what you need to change in your life. What it is that you do not like about yourself your circumstances, the people around you your job etc.?

Take your time and list everything. Then prioritize the list.  
For example you do not like the money you are making. You want more money to meet your expense. Problem: how do I get this money?

1. Ask for a raise.
2. invent something
3. go back to school

Look at your options then make a realistic choice.

Now you must consider time.

Then formulate a plan.

Then implementation

What tools will you need to bring about this change?

## Reading

To demonstrate just how important reading is to a person's life read these quotes:

"No matter how busy you may think you are, you must find time for reading, or surrender yourself to self-chosen ignorance." Confucius

"There are worse crimes than burning books. One of them is not reading them." Joseph Brodsky

"Some people will lie, cheat, steal and back-stab to get ahead... and to think, all they have to do is read." Fortune

"Education is a vaccine for violence." Edward James Olmos

"The no-reading children are the greatest problem in American education."  
Glenn Doman, "How to Teach Your Baby to Read"

"What a school thinks about its library is a measure of what it thinks about education." Harold Howe, former U.S. Commissioner of Education

"Not all readers are leaders, but all leaders are readers." Harry S. Truman

"Children are made readers on the laps of their parents." Emilie Buchwald

"This will never be a civilized country until we expend more money for books than we do for chewing gum." Elbert Hubbard

"When you sell a man a book you don't sell him just 12 ounces of paper and ink and glue - you sell him a whole new life." Christopher Morley

"A bookstore is one of the only pieces of evidence we have that people are still thinking."  
Jerry Seinfeld

"No skill is more crucial to the future of a child, or to a democratic and prosperous society, than literacy." - Los Angeles Times, "A Child Literacy Initiative for the

"A book is the most effective weapon against intolerance and ignorance."  
- Lyndon Baines Johnson

"Everyone has talent. What is rare is the courage to follow the talent to the dark place where it leads." Erica Jong, author

"I decided it is better to scream. Silence is the real crime against humanity." Nadezhda Mandelstam, Russian writer, *Hope Against Hope*

"Courage has no tangibility or substance yet it is particularly important to life. Without courage life has no form, execution or taste." Gloria G. Lee, author

"If some can make you believe absurdities, they can make you commit atrocities." Voltaire  
Germany and the Jews

"The greatest weapon in the hands of the oppressor is the mind of the oppressed" Steven Bilko

"We can't teach what we don't know and we can't lead where we don't want to go"  
Malcolm X

["The best revenge is massive success." Frank Sinatra](#)

["Our revenge will be the laughter of our children." Bobby Sands](#)

"It is hard to fight an enemy who has outposts in your head." [Sally Kempton](#)

The greatest quote of all was spoken over a hundred years ago but it still applies today. **"Knowledge makes a man unfit to be a slave."** Frederick Douglas. Every tyrant in history has discouraged learning. Hitler in all his glory burned a library filled with books. Stalin controlled the schools in Russia. These men knew it is easy to control a man who is not knowledgeable. You can get him to believe in voodoo, magic and little green men if he is kept ignorant. My God let man be educated and the shift in power. Bridle your mouth, Harness your dark emotions, pick up a book and begin to put information into your mind. Here are two other quotes by

Frederick Douglas.

"Power concedes nothing without a demand. It never did and it never will. Find out just what any people will quietly submit to and you have found out the exact measure of injustice and wrong which will be imposed upon them, and these will continue till they are resisted with either words or blows, or both. The limits of tyrants are prescribed by the endurance of those whom they oppress."

"One and God make a majority." — [Frederick Douglass](#)

If you want to be inspired all you have to do is read.

Frederick Douglass was born Frederick Augustus Washington Bailey. If you were a reader you would know this.

Unless you want to die on your knees allowing someone else to control your destiny you need to stand up, go back to school and commit yourself to protecting your children and raising yourself from poverty and ignorance. There is nothing wrong with falling in love, marrying having children just do not forget your mind. Your mind requires nourishment each and every day. So turn off the television set and pick up a book and make it a habit to read at least one book a month. Reading will keep you sharp and abreast of what is occurring in the world and what others think.

## **Reading is no longer a leisure activity. Reading is now a necessity.**

Reading is not a leisure activity; it has enormously power in our lives in many diverse ways. Something as simple as reading or writing will have an impact on a future job, position, or even a game show. I feel that the different texts and contents you read, will eventually turn out to be the more knowledge in different areas and fields you will come acquainted with. When I first started out reading, I read history books and books about war. Then, as this subject became one of my top interests, I started reading non-fiction books about the same topics and even about different countries during that time. In comparison, my writing started out very poorly as I used run-on sentences and improper grammar and punctuation. This has advanced greatly overtime as I wrote more and more essays, papers, and short stories. Not only does reading and writing enhance over time, it also opens the door to absorb information which affects school performances, improve the quality of life and future employment.

The ability to read well is essential to function in today's society; it stimulates our imagination and creativity powers.

### **You Must Begin To Read.**

If you do not learn to read one of two things will happen to you. You will either become a prostitute or find yourself lying beneath a man you do not respect nor love. Many of you will challenge this statement but read the statement again and think of your mother, your sister or your aunt. Don't look at the traipsing's but take a look at their lives. Look back to the times when these women did not know you were watching then and when they were not smiling. Look at the number of cigarettes they smoke. Look at the number of beers they drank before your father got home. Look at the way they shied away from talking to loan officers, lawyers, doctors etc. They did not feel competent to discuss their affairs with people. Why because they were not educated and they knew it. As long as they stayed in their little group at church they felt fine but anytime a situation required information or critical thinking they shrank from participating. Look at the number of times your mother or aunt was bullied by the chairman of a group they joined. Sit and contrast the life of a confident woman and the life of a woman

who is not confident. Now compare this contrast to your female relatives. The most outstanding characteristics of the two women you are contrasting is education, experience and knowledge. The more a person believes they know the more confident they are which increase their chances of success exponentially. Researchers say that people who read books showed stronger cognitive abilities, like recall and counting backwards—skills that, combined with reading, showed a positive relationship with living longer. [A study](#) published July 18, 2016 in the Social Science & Health shows that reading books has a significant relationship to [increased lifespan](#). Public health researchers from Yale University looked at data for 3,635 Americans over age 50 collected from 1992 to 2012. They found that those who read books were more likely to live longer. Over 12 years of follow-up, book readers were 20% less likely to die than non-book readers. The researchers calculated that book reading was associated with an extra 23 months of survival. Reading magazines or newspapers didn't have the same effect. Reading is just as important to your life as exercising.

For centuries and centuries and centuries women have been concerned with the one aspect of their lives – work. Without the ability to work women were enslaved, sold at a young age by their parents, used as sex slaves, and bartered for a herd of sheep or a milking cow. Fathers have chosen their sons over their daughters to get an education. The enslavement of women is why there is so much misery and violence in the world. Work for men and work for women are two different things. Work for men is a measure of their self-worth. Work for women represents custody of their own bodies. Work represents sovereignty over their lives. I do not have to do what you tell me to do. I can divorce you and still survive. I do not have to submit to beatings every night because you have a job and I do not. In fact I do not have to marry you at all. I can support myself by working. Women served their country in various capacities during two wars but most were forced back into the home when the war was over. They were told they were no longer needed and their new job was to have babies to regrow the population. The idea was supported by every male in the country. There is one characteristic that men have that women do not have. They support one another in the enslavement of women. They are all resolved that the women should remain in the home. She should sit down shut up and reproduce. Educated is wasted on the woman because she should be married off. Women are to breed like cows and chickens. The dichotomy is that men take the authority of defining society based on an ideology they constructed. Women do not have the authority to define themselves. Here is a statement made by a man sentenced to death for raping a young woman in Delhi India. He made this statement in a BBC documentary. "When being raped, she shouldn't fight back. "She should just be silent and allow the rape. Then they'd have dropped her off after doing her, and only hit the boy." "You can't clap with one hand – it takes two hands. "A decent girl won't roam around at 9 o'clock at night. "A girl is far more responsible for rape than a boy. Boy and girl are not equal. "Housework and housekeeping is for girls, not roaming in discos and bars at night doing wrong things, wearing wrong clothes. "About 20 per cent of girls are good." He added, he adds: "The death penalty will make things even more dangerous for girls. "Before, they would rape and say, 'Leave her, she won't tell anyone.' "Now when they rape, especially the criminal types, they will just kill the girl. Death."

This statement demonstrates the authority men take over telling half of the world's population what they can and cannot do. Look at the presumption here. The ignorance is profound. His attorney, ML Sharma told the documentary makers, "Our culture is the best. In our culture there is no place for a woman. If Mr. Sharma who is an educated man, reduces women to second class citizenship what is expected of the uneducated man, thus the rapes

and murders. Every 20 minutes a woman is raped in India. The National Crime Records Bureau recorded 33,707 rape cases in 2013. There were 24,923 rapes in 2012. Six men participated in the 2012 attack. Four were sentenced to death. One hanged himself in his cell. One of the rapists is now free. The young woman's name was Jyoti Singh. She was a 23 year old medical student who dared to ride a bus at night. This young woman was responsible for her rape because she was out late and dared to fight the men back. The documentary, India's Daughter 2015, of the death of Jyoti Singh, is banned from being broadcast in India. Who controls the airways in India? Please note that Jyoti Singh's father broke with tradition he sold his ancestral land to help pay for university education. He felt she deserved his support just as his son deserved his support. Here is the point of this statement men continue to exert force against women to keep them in their place. The men use rape as a tool. In Delhi there are at least 40 rapes a day where nearly one in three victims is under the age of 18. Sexual violence is the main instrument men use to control women. They justify rape. The Los Angeles Times released an article August 15, 2015 entitled, "Infertile Man accused of cutting off wife's hands as punishment for not bearing him children" The brutality of the act boggles the mind. The man took no responsibility in the procreation of children. If there are no children in the family it is the woman's fault. Jackline Mwendu, 35, of Machakos, Kenya was beaten and mutilated by her husband, Stephen Ngila, 35, because she failed to bare him children. He attacked her with a machete. If this act does not enrage you and cause you to act in the best interest of women I do not know what will.

Remember we said above that the documentary on the murder of Jyoti Singh could not be shown in India. If the country is not reminded of the raped that occur this murder will soon be forgotten and we can go back to things the way they were. Members of Mr. Stephen Ngila family told the Kenyan media that Mrs. Mwendu was a woman of loose morals who may have been attacked by a business rival. They claim Mr. Ngila wasn't at home when the attack happened. If Mrs. Mwendu was a loose woman and Mr. Ngila was not at home then Stephen Ngila did not attack Jackline Mwendu, selective realization.. All one has to do is ignore the fact that Ms. Mwendu could see who was attacking her. Remember our opening sentence if you do not learn to read you will either become a prostitute or find yourself lying beneath a man you do not respect nor love. When Mwendu was interviewed she had this to say. "As a Christian, I can't tell anyone to leave their marriage. "But I'd like to talk about my personal story so other people, or other victims, may learn [from it] and speak up." Domestic violence and assaults on women in Kenya is considered a low priority. 45% of Kenyan women between the ages 15 and 49 have experienced either physical or sexual violence, mostly at home. The center says only 6% of gender violence suffered by women in Kenya is perpetrated by strangers. Jackline Mwendu was the fourth child of impoverished peasant farmers in a remote village near Machakos town. Mrs. Mwendu left school in the eighth grade because her parents, with six children to support, couldn't afford to pay. She met her husband and married him. She started a business trying to increase the wealth of the family. When the couple did not have children Ms. Mwendu sought medical advice. Mr. Ngila knew he was infertile. He was advised by a doctor in 2014. Yet he blamed his wife

When women are educated and exert influence over their environment men lose the power to rape and mutilate women. Educated women hold public office. They chose to become judges, prosecutors, officers in the military, helicopter pilots, etc. Their jobs now impact the laws of the country. Reality is no longer written by men. Reality has become a collaborative affair. Please note just because I used India's and Kenya's treatment of women to make my point, do not think there is not an equal amount of violence against women in this country.

There were two women in this country, Susan B. Anthony and Louisa May Alcott, who labored tirelessly day in and day out year in and year out to bring the field of work into a reality for women. Yes women began slowly working as teachers and nurses as women began to reject working as maids, housekeepers, dance hall girls and bartenders. But women were not news reporters, congress people. Women could not dream of being an architect, a lawyer, or a clergyman. There were limitations on what women could do to earn a living. Ugly women were relegated to being house maids, cleaning bed pans or working in the kitchen etc. Pretty women were expected to marry and have children. Women used working in the factory or becoming soldiers as a way out of their dilemma when they sought careers. You probably do not remember the fictionalized series of the Wild West sharpshooter Annie Oakley or Dale Evans and Roy Rogers but these series contributed to women seeking employment outside the norm. Every week young girls and women all over this country saw Annie Oakley and Dale Evans fighting the good fight and winning and being respected. Their thinking became, if you can do it so can I. Susan B. Anthony told reporters and her followers that, "I think the girl who is able to earn her own living and pay her own way should be as happy as anybody on earth. The sense of independence and security is very sweet." Susan B. Anthony and Louisa May Alcott believed in gender equality and women having the right to earn their own living to chart their own course. Read Susan B. Anthony words again. Surely she was saying the ability of a person to pay his or her own way was paramount.

Louisa May Alcott was an American novelist. She wrote *Little Women*. She was also a feminist and remained unmarried throughout her life. She died in Boston on March 6, 1888. Here are some of her thoughts: "I believed that it is a much a right and duty for women to do something with their lives as for men, and we're not going to be satisfied with such frivolous parts as you give us." If you feel your value lies in being merely decorative, I fear that someday you might find yourself believing that's all that you really are. Time erodes all such beauty, but what it cannot diminish is the wonderful workings of your mind; your humor, your kindness, and your moral courage. These are the things I cherish so in you. I so wish I could give my girls a more just world, but I know you'll make it a better place. Far away in the sunshine are my highest aspirations. I may not reach them, but I can look up and see the beauty, in them and try to follow where they lead. Women have been called queens for a long time, but the kingdom given them isn't worth ruling. "

For a woman to reach the universe described by Susan B. Anthony and Louisa May Alcott women must learn to read. Women must learn to read and make certain that their children not only learn to read but appreciate the value of reading and hand this tradition down throughout time. When you read you can break boundaries and expand your future possibilities. When you read you can change the world. The man who invented the fire hydrant changed the world. The man who invented the car changed the world. The man who invented the submarine changed the world. The man who invented the ice box changed the world. Not only did their invention change the world. The world was changed because their inventions told other men what was now possible. With each new invention other men learn more and more things are possible in the world. Those men that resist inventing the impossible find themselves clinging to the past and believing in magic. Learning has to become part of your life. When you can't read people can cheat you. They can cheat out of your paycheck your home, and your car. The only choice you have is to believe what someone tells you because you do not have the education to verify on your own what they say. Every day men and women are humiliated because they cannot read. This is important because the lack of knowledge

leads to violence inside and outside the home. Ignorant people believe in magic. It is critical when you are poor to make certain that your children can at least read. Reading is the door to opportunity reading is the door to creativity reading is the gateway to self-knowledge. Reading is everything. When you cannot read you must rely upon someone to define reality. The women we described in this book did not rely upon someone else to define reality for them. They learned to read and took control of their lives. When you have time see if you can find a copy of the movie, Miss Firecracker released in 1989 and watch this movie. It is a comedy but the underlying nuances for women are overwhelming. One of the characters says she wants to go to ambrosia. The other movie important to the progress of women is Fire and Smoke with Geraldine Page. Geraldine Page and Shelly Winters were magnificent actresses yet they did not get the praise warranted. They did an excellent job portraying the emotions of women abandoned by life because they were poor and/or could not read. See where sexual sin will lead you when you cannot read.