

# TEACHER'S OUTLINE

## LESSON 6: "Legacy"/GRADES 9-12

### Key Concept: Quotable Quotes

The film states, "He became the world's most popular person but still was just a common man." Will Rogers' ability to remain "just a common man" throughout his life and career as a prolific writer, entertainer, and political commentator is inspirational. It was his ability to relate to people regardless of their differences and the "way he communicated that is his legacy," according to the film. This concept theme will focus upon quotable quotes by Will Rogers that best reflect his legacy and lead students to analyze Will Rogers' statements as a writer, entertainer, and political commentator.

### Learning Objectives

1. Increase awareness of Will Rogers' plethora of quotable quotes.
2. Recognize Will Rogers' satirical style peppered with humor and humility in his quotable quotes.
3. Interpret the themes and points of Rogers' quotes.
4. Demonstrate the ability to write similar quotes to those of Will Rogers in the students' own language/style.
5. Make connections between the topics of Will Rogers' quotes and contemporary issues.
6. Define satire and identify satirical speech in examples of Will Rogers' quotes.
7. Examine the humorous style of Will Rogers' speech and writing.

### Video Clip

Before completing the Learning/Media Activity or Student Handouts for this lesson, students should watch Chapter 6 of the documentary Will Rogers & American Politics. If time or resources do not allow, view the short video clip for Lesson 6. These clips can be viewed here:

<https://youtu.be/C1vWLPaKhlo?si=W6cBR4YshfHP0NM>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q0fO-noKihM>

### Learning Activity: "Quotable Quotes"

Perhaps Will Rogers is known best for his famous quotes, many of which are still commonly used today. Will's quotes were not only insightful, but they also often caused someone to have to stop and think about the true message behind the quote itself. This activity aims to make students more aware of the use of "quotes" and develop skills in analyzing and exploring the extended meaning behind many quotes. Using the supplied material in this lesson plan, students will choose two quotes from the worksheets, one about Will Rogers and one by Will Rogers. Students will list the quotes they've chosen, and then expand on what they believe the author was saying through the quote. As an instructor, you should grade students based upon their participation, thoughtfulness, and comprehension of the exercise.

### Student Handouts

Students will be challenged to demonstrate their comprehension of material covered in Lesson 6. Additionally, students will be given the opportunity to further explore and discuss various topics covered in the lesson material.



Oklahoma  
Historical  
Society

# Quotable Quotes

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

You have been given two pages of quotes. The quotes on page one are about Will Rogers, while those on page two are by Will Rogers himself. Your assignment is to choose one quote from each page and elaborate on the meaning of the quote. You should try to consider and explain why the author of the quote felt the way they did. Don't forget to write the quote you are using on the line above each box so your instructor will know which quote you've chosen.

**ABOUT WILL ROGERS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**BY WILL ROGERS:** \_\_\_\_\_

# **“He became the world’s most popular person but still **was just a common man.**”**

“He was a man of all seasons.

He crossed all cultures.

He crossed all media.

He made such an impact not just on the country but the world.”

**“There was something infectious about Will Rogers’ humor. His appeal went straight to the heart of the nation.”**

“It was the way he communicated. That’s his Legacy, having a guy that’s said an obvious truth so obviously.”

“It’s almost what this country is aching for now, a sort of simple truth-telling.”

**WILL ROGERS** said

**“I have always noticed that people will never laugh at anything that is not based on truth.”**

**“We will never have true civilization until we have learned to recognize the rights of others.”**

**“A Man only learns by two things, one is reading, and the other is association with smarter people.”**



**“It’s great to be great but it’s greater to be human.”**

# STUDENT HANDOUT

LESSON 6: "LEGACY"  
9TH-12TH GRADE

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

CLASS: \_\_\_\_\_

## CONTENT REVIEW

1. According to the documentary, at the time of his death, Will Rogers was loved by \_\_\_\_\_.
2. In the film, one contributor explains, "They listened to him not just for humor but for wisdom. And they looked at him not just to entertain but to calm their \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_."
3. Also in the film it is said about Will Rogers, "He became the world's most popular person, but still was just a \_\_\_\_\_ man."
4. Will Rogers was quoted as saying, "It's great to be great, but it's greater to be \_\_\_\_\_."
5. Who composed Will Rogers' epitaph?
6. What is Will Rogers' epitaph?

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Will Rogers' quotes are still used today by people all across the world. Why do you think these quotes are so effective with people even today?
2. Why do you think Will requested what he did for his epitaph? What do you think it means?
3. Why do you believe Will Rogers' quotes continue to be popular all around the world?
4. Even today, many people work very hard to maintain and protect Will Rogers' legacy. Why do you think it's important that we never forget the man, Will Rogers?

# STUDENT HANDOUT

LESSON 6: "LEGACY"  
9TH-12TH GRADE

# ANSWER KEY

## CONTENT REVIEW

1. According to the documentary, at the time of his death, Will Rogers was loved by millions.
2. In the film, one contributor explains, "They listened to him not just for humor but for wisdom. And they looked at him not just to entertain but to calm their fears and doubts."
3. Also in the film it is said about Will Rogers, "He became the world's most popular person, but still was just a common man."
4. Will Rogers was quoted as saying, "It's great to be great, but it's better to be human."
5. Who composed Will Rogers' epitaph? **Will Rogers**
6. What is Will Rogers' epitaph? **"I never met a man I didn't like."**

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Will Rogers' quotes are still used today by people all across the world. Why do you think these quotes are so effective with people even today?

**TEACHER'S DISCRETION**

2. Why do you think Will requested what he did for his epitaph? What do you think it means?

**TEACHER'S DISCRETION**

3. Why do you believe Will Rogers' quotes continue to be popular all around the world?

**TEACHER'S DISCRETION**

4. Even today, many people work very hard to maintain and protect Will Rogers' legacy. Why do you think it's important that we never forget the man, Will Rogers?

**TEACHER'S DISCRETION**