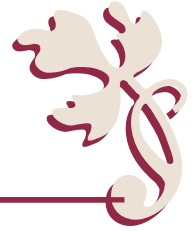


Poems



Where There Is Love

Where there is love the heart is light,
Where there is love the day is bright,
Where there is love there is song
To help when things are going wrong,
Where there is love there is a smile
To make all things seem worthwhile,
Where there is love there's quiet peace,
A tranquil place where turmoils cease -
Love changes darkness into light
And makes the heart take wingless flight.

Helen Steiner Rice

Where There Is Love and The Magic of Love are used with permission of the Helen Steiner Rice Foundation, Suite 2100, Altium Two, 221 East Fourth Street, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202.

A Walled Garden

"Your marriage" he said, "should have within it, a secret and protected place, open to you alone. Imagine it to be a walled garden, entered by a door to which you only hold the key. Within this garden you will cease to be a mother, father, employee, homemaker or any other of the roles which you fulfil in daily life. Here you are yourselves - two people who love each other. Here you can concentrate on one another's needs. So take my hand and let us go back to our garden. The time we spend together is not wasted but invested. Invested in our future and the nurture of our love."

Anon

The Magic of Love

Love is like magic and it always will be,
For love still remains life's sweet mystery!

Love works in ways that are wonderful
and strange

And there's nothing in life that love cannot change!

Love can transform the most commonplace
Into beauty and splendour and sweetness
and grace!

Love is unselfish, understanding and kind,
For it sees with the heart and not with the
mind!

Love is the answer that everyone seeks -
Love is the language that every heart speaks.

Love can't be bought, it is priceless and free,
Love, like pure magic is a sweet mystery!

Helen Steiner Rice

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Chapter One of One Thousand

For two people this dawn brought on a magical day
Now husband and wife they head on their way
As a boat setting sail may their journey begin
With calmest of waters, most helpful of wind
And if they should stumble upon turbulent sea
May it pass them unharmed - leave them be.

For here are two people whom love has well
bitten
Here opens their book which has yet to be
written
As the first page unfolds and their life inks its
path
May it write a true story where forever love
lasts
Let their journey be happy till death do they part
Of one thousand chapters may this be the start.

O J Preston

Oh Tell Me The Truth About Love

Some say that love's a little boy,
And some say it's a bird,
Some say it makes the world go round,
And some say that's absurd,
And when I asked the man next door,
Who looked as if he knew,
His wife got very cross indeed,
And said it wouldn't do.

Does it look like a pair of pyjamas,
Or the ham in a temperance hotel?
Does its odour remind one of llamas,
Or has it a comforting smell?
Is it prickly to touch as a hedge is,
Or soft as eiderdown fluff?
Is it sharp or quite smooth at the edges?
O tell me the truth about love.

Our history books refer to it
In cryptic little notes,

It's quite a common topic on
The Transatlantic boats;
I've found the subject mentioned in
Accounts of suicides,
And even seen it scribbled on
The backs of railway-guides.

Does it howl like a hungry Alsatian,
Or boom like a military band?
Could one give a first-rate imitation
On a saw or a Steinway Grand?
Is its singing at parties a riot?
Does it only like Classical stuff?
Will it stop when one wants to be quiet?
O tell me the truth about love.

I looked inside the summer-house;
It wasn't ever there;
I tried the Thames at Maidenhead,
And Brighton's bracing air.
I don't know what the blackbird sang,
Or what the tulip said;
But it wasn't in the chicken-run,
Or underneath the bed.

Can it pull extraordinary faces?
Is it usually sick on a swing?
Does it spend all its time at the races,
Or fiddling with pieces of string?
Has it views of its own about money?
Does it think Patriotism enough?
Are its stories vulgar but funny?
O tell me the truth about love.

When it comes, will it come without warning
Just as I'm picking my nose?
Will it knock on my door in the morning,
Or tread in the bus on my toes?
Will it come like a change in the weather?
Will its greeting be courteous or rough?
Will it alter my life altogether?
O tell me the truth about love.

W.H. AUDEN 1907-73
January 1938

True Love

True love is a sacred flame
That burns eternally,
And none can dim its special glow
Or change its destiny.
True love speaks in tender tones
And hears with gentle ear,
True love gives with open heart
And true love conquers fear.
True love makes no harsh demands
It neither rules nor binds,
And true love holds with gentle hands
The hearts that it entwines.

Author unknown

The Art of a Good Marriage (shortened version)

A good marriage must be created.
In marriage the little things are the big things...
It is never being too old to hold hands,
It is remembering to say "I love you" at least
once a day,
It is never going to sleep angry,
It is having a mutual sense of values and common
objectives,
It is standing together and facing the world,
It is forming a circle of love that gathers in the
whole family,
It is speaking words of appreciation and
demonstrating gratitude in thoughtful ways,
It is having the capacity to forgive and forget,
It is giving each other an atmosphere in which
each can grow,
It is common search for the good and the
beautiful,
It is not only marrying the right person, it is
being the right partner.

Wilfred Arlan Peterson

As Time Goes By...

As the two of you are married
Think on how your lives will be.
Your future lies ahead of you
Full of things you cannot see.
Just be each other's partner,
Be each other's friend.
Be each other's lover
And love will never end.
Hold each other's hand
and tell of how you feel.
Never let a doubt creep in,
Keep it live and real.
You'll share a life together,
Full of love and faith and trust.
May the two of you always recognise
Each other's needs - a must.
And when time has past
and you reflect on how
your life has been,
May you have been so happy
That - you'd do it all again.

*Jenny Dalleywater
January 2006*

Adapted from an American Indian Wedding Ceremony.

Now each of you will be warmth to the other

Now there is no more loneliness

Now you are two persons but there is only one
life between you

Go now and enter into the days of your
life together

And may your life be long and happy upon
this earth.

Anon

The Owl and the Pussy-Cat

The Owl and the Pussy-Cat went to sea
In a beautiful pea-green boat.
They took some honey, and plenty of money
Wrapped up in a five-pound note.
The Owl looked up to the stars above,
And sang to a small guitar,
'O lovely Pussy! O Pussy, my love,
What a beautiful Pussy you are,
You are, You are!
What a beautiful Pussy you are!'

Pussy said to Owl, 'You elegant fowl!
How charmingly sweet you sing!
O let us be married!
Too long we have tarried:
But what shall we do for a ring?'

They sailed away, for a year and a day,
To the land where the Bong-Tree grows,
And there in a wood a Piggy-wig stood,
With a ring at the end of his nose,
His nose, His nose!
With a ring at the end of his nose.

'Dear Pig, are you willing to sell for one shilling
Your ring?' Said the Piggy, 'I will.'
So they took it away, and were married next day
By the Turkey who lives on the hill.

They din'd on mince, and slices of quince,
Which they ate with a runcible spoon;
And hand in hand, on the edge of the sand
They danced by the light of the moon,
The moon, The moon!
They danced by the light of the moon.

Edward Lear 1812-88

I promise

I promise to give you the best of myself
and to ask of you no more than you can give.

I promise to respect you as your own person
and to realise that your interests, desires and
needs are no less important than my own.

I promise to share with you my time and my
attention and to bring joy, strength and
imagination to our relationship.

I promise to keep myself open to you, to let you
see through the window of my world into my
innermost fears and feelings, secrets and dreams.

I promise to grow along with you,
to be willing to face changes in order to keep
our relationship alive and exciting.

I promise to love you in good times and in bad,
With all I have to give and all I feel inside in the
only way I know how.
Completely and forever

Dorothy R Colgan

Valentine

My heart has made its mind up
And I'm afraid it's you.
Whatever you've got lined up,
My mind has made its mind up,
And if you can't be signed up
This year, next year will do.
My heart has made its mind up
And I'm afraid it's you.

Wendy Cope

Let me not

Let me not to the marriage of true minds
Admit impediments. Love is not love
Which alters when it alteration finds
Or Bends with the remover to remove
O no! It is an ever fixed mark,
That looks on tempests and is never shaken;
It is the star to every wand'ring bark,
Whose wart's unknown, although his height be
taken.
Love's not Time's fool, though rosy lips and
cheeks
Within his bending sickle's compass come.
Love alters not with his brief hours and weeks,
But bears it out even to the edge of doom:
If this be error and upon me proved,
I never writ, nor no man ever loved.

William Shakespeare

Romeo and Juliette

Shall I compare thee to a Summer's day?
Thou art more lovely and more temperate
Rough winds do shake the darling buds of May,
And Summer's lease hath all too short a date:

Sometimes too hot the eye of heaven shines,
And often is his gold complexion dimm'd;
And every fair from fair sometimes declines,

By chance, or nature's changing course
untrimm'd;
But thy eternal Summer shall not fade,
Nor lose possession of that fair ow'st;
Nor shall death brag thou wander'st in his shade,
When in eternal lines to time thou grow'st,

So long as men can breathe, or eyes can see,
So long lives this, and this gives life to thee.

William Shakespeare



Messages of celebration

We are here today to celebrate the marriage of (Groom's name) and(Bride's name)

These two people have known each other for quite some time. They started off as just good friends and in time they realised that life just was not the same when they were parted. It was then it struck them, they truly loved each other. They felt incredibly alive when together, and knew that with the wisdom and courage of two they could face any situation and get over the hurts and disappointments together.

Today we celebrate this happy occasion as they look forward to walking through life holding hands, laughing together about the silly things and discussing the big things with care and tenderness. We all wish you many years of happiness together and remember, emotions are like the weather; the good and the bad will both pass and can be survived together.

..... (Groom's name) and(Bride's name)
If you treasure the love that you have found in each other, the feelings you have today will last forever. With every twist and turn you will know you have the comfort of togetherness, the passion for life. The knowledge that you are loved, as much for your faults as for your strengths, will bind you even closer, to face life's joys and adversities together.

We all wish you a long and happy life as husband and wife.
