

# WHAT OUR POETS TELL US ABOUT HOME

Most of us don't read poetry these days. But there are sayings drawn from poetry, philosophy and music that we like so much, that they end up as T-shirts, coffee mugs and Internet memes.

Those quotes about home that we have chosen to repeat over and over are just those that speak to us about our feelings about home. We choose them and repeat because we see ourselves mirrored in them.

I started collecting these sayings about home, and found they fell into just six themes. Here they are the six, with a two sample quotes illustrating each.

## LOVE

Home is a place of loving relationships. The shortest quote saying this is:

***Where thou art, that is home.***

—Emily Dickinson

And the oldest:

***Home is where the heart is.***

—Pliny the Elder

## ACCEPTANCE

Home is a place which will always take you in, no matter what.

***The ache for home lives in all of us, the safe place where we can go as we are and not be questioned.***

—Maya Angelou

***Home is the place where, when you have to go there, they have to take you in.***

—Robert Frost

## PEACE

Home is a peaceful place. We all know that the home can also be a place of conflict, fighting and heartache. But that is not how we dream it to be. We dream it like this:

***Home is, I suppose just a child's idea. A house at night, and a lamp in the house. A place to feel safe.***

—V S Naipaul

***If I were asked to name the chief benefit of the house, I should say: the house shelters day-dreaming, the house protects the dreamer, the house allows one to dream in peace.***

—Gaston Bachelard

## CHILDREN

The home is a place for children, of children. The home is the place where the next generation of the human race is raised. What more important place could there be?

***When I come home, my daughter will run to the door and give me a big hug, and everything that's happened that day just melts away.***

—Hugh Jackman

***[The] future will be determined by the home and the school. The child becomes largely what he is taught; hence we must watch what we teach, and how we live.***

—Jane Addams

## RETURNS

The home is the place of final return: our final destination.

***And when the day arrives I'll become the sky and I'll become the sea and the sea will come to kiss me for I am going home. Nothing can stop me now.***

—Trent Reznor

***It may be that the satisfaction I need depends on my going away, so that when I've gone and come back, I'll find it at home.***

—Rumi

## CENTRALITY

And finally, our poets and songwriters tell us that while the home may be out at the edge of the city, it is the centre of the world.

***Any woman who understands the problems of running a home will be nearer to understanding the problems of running a country.***

—Margaret Thatcher

***The strength of a nation derives from the integrity of the home.***

—Confucius