

Emerson's Notion of Success



My mother carried this quote from Emerson in her wallet for many years:

The definition of success—

To laugh much;

to win respect of intelligent persons

and the affections of children;

to earn the approbation of honest critics

and endure the betrayal of false friends;

to appreciate beauty;

to find the best in others;

to give one's self;

to leave the world a little better,

*whether by a healthy child,
a garden patch,
or a redeemed social condition.;*
*to have played and laughed with enthusiasm,
and sung with exultation;*
*to know even one life has breathed easier
because you have lived
--this is to have succeeded.*
– Ralph Waldo Emerson