# Inspiration

## Your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions. (Joel 2:28)

**Inspiration is the act of drawing the chair up to the writing table. *(Orhan Pamuk)***

**Inspiration is for amateurs. The rest of us just show up for work. *(Chuck Close, artist)***

**Aspire to inspire before you expire. *(Bits & Pieces)***

**Whatever inspiration is, it's born from a continuous 'I don't know.'" *(Wislawa Szymborska, poet)***

**Without craftsmanship, inspiration is a mere reed shaken in the wind. *(Johannes Brahms, German composer and conductor)***

**How to get a bright idea: In cartoons, the appearance of a light bulb above one's head signifies the onset of a good idea. That popular association is so entrenched, says LiveScience.com, that just showing a real light bulb to people can actually trigger insights. Psychologists at Tufts University gave volunteers a series of puzzles to solve under time pressure. Partway through the test, either a bare light bulb or an overhead fluorescent light was turned on in the room. The researchers found that volunteers exposed to the light bulb were 50 percent to 70 percent more successful at the puzzles than subjects given the fluorescent light. This "priming effect" is common; for instance, people play economic games more competitively after looking at briefcases. But if something as simple as turning on a light bulb can prompt creativity, study author Michael Slepian says, imagine "if this works in the classroom or in the workplace." *(The Week magazine, May 21, 2010)***

**Inspiration is never genuine if it is known as inspiration at the time. True inspiration always steals on a person, its importance not being fully recognized for some time. *(Samuel Butler)***

**Great composers do not set down to work because they are inspired, but become inspired because they are working. Beethoven, Wagner, Bach, and Mozart settled down day after day to the job at hand with as much regularity as an accountant settles down each day to his figures. They didn't waste time waiting for inspiration. (Ernest Newman)**

**Desperation is sometimes as powerful an inspirer as genius. (Benjamin Disraeli)**

**Don’t wait for the inspired moments; work every day or you may miss them. Little by little you may find that your best work in a sense creates itself, your hands functioning almost without a conscious control. You may come to wonder how much is really yours and how much is mysteriously a part of some universal force. (Wheeler Williams)**

**In the spring of 1891, he and his wife and a few students met together one evening to pray. As they were sitting in the silence, suddenly into the mind of Charles Fillmore flashed the name UNITY. At the moment, he had not even been thinking about a name and when it came to him it startled him. "That's it!" he cried out. "UNITY!" he told the others. "UNITY! that's the name for our work, the name we've been looking for." Later he told friends the name came right out of the ether, just as the voice of Jesus was heard by Paul in the heavens. "No one else heard it, but it was as clear to me as though somebody had spoken to me." Then and there the name UNITY was adopted. (James Dillet Freeman, in The Story of Unity, p. 61)**

**Sometimes it's the people you can't help who inspire you the most. (Melinda Gates)**

**Exhilaration is that feeling you get just after a great idea hits you, and just before you realize what’s wrong with it. *(Rex Harrison, actor)***

**Inspiration could be called inhaling the memory of an act never experienced. (Ned Rorem)**

**Insight doesn't happen often on the click of the moment, like a lucky snapshot, but comes in its own time and more slowly and from nowhere but within. (Eudora Welty)**

**You can’t wait for inspiration. You’ve got to go after it with a club. *(Jack London)***

**In my case, I’m sharpest in the morning after a good night’s sleep or when I’m exercising. But ideas hit me at all times during the day and night. That’s why I always carry a pen and paper with me, or keep a small recorder nearby if I can’t take time to write. If I get an idea during the night, I have a pad of paper and pen on my nightstand, and I get up and write it down. Sometimes, I even call my own voice mail at the office to jar my memory in the morning. I don’t trust it to memory alone. I hate to waste an idea, even if it doesn’t turn out to be great when exposed to the light of day. *(Harvey Mackay, in Outswimming The Sharks)***

**Medical practice is not knitting and weaving and the labor of the hands, but it must be inspired with soul and be filled with understanding and equipped with the gift of keen observation. (Maimonides, twelfth century Jewish physician, philosopher, and rabbi)**

**The artist who brought painting to the masses: Dan Robbins was working as a packaging designer for the Palmer Paint Company in Detroit when the company's owner approached him with a seemingly simple request: Figure out how to get people to buy more paint. Robbins came back to his boss with a diagram that resembled a colorless stained-glass window. Each blank segment on the canvas would contain a number corresponding to a pot of paint that would be included with a set -- customers would then fill in the blanks. The creation became a national sensation, with the company selling 20 million "paint-by-number" kits in 1955. Robbins said his idea was inspired by one of the great masters. "I had heard that Leonardo da Vinci used to use diagrams and number them when he was instructing his students in painting," he said in 1999." "And a light bulb went off in my head." (The Week magazine, April 19, 2019)**

**When I approach a child, he inspires in me two sentiments: tenderness for what he is, and respect for what he may become. (Louis Pasteur)**

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*Most of all, develop and practice a “passion for living.” Pablo Picasso marveled at everything. “I look at flies, at flowers, at leaves and trees around me,” he said. “I let my mind drift at ease, just like a boat in the current. Sooner or later, it is caught by something.” (Dudley Lynch, in Reader's Digest)**

**Inspiration does exist, but it must find you working. (Pablo Picasso)**

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**When the idea hit them:**

* **J.K. Rowling’s Harry Potter – while on train trip**
* **J.R.R. Tolkien’s The Hobbit – while grading papers at Oxford**
* **Mary Shelley’s Frankenstein – while in a trance**
* **Hugh Hefner’s Playboy – while working on kids magazine**
* **Walter Lantz’s Woody Woodpecker – while on honeymoon; a woodpecker was knocking on the roof. *(World Features Syndicate)***

**His work and the example of a life lived with quiet dignity are each an inspiration. (David Mamet, of Arthur Miller)  
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