

To laugh often and much;  
to win the respect of intelligent people  
and the affection of children;  
to earn the appreciation of honest critics  
and endure the betrayal of false friends;  
to appreciate beauty,  
to find the best in others; to leave the world a bit better  
whether by a healthy child, a garden patch  
or a redeemed social condition;  
to know even one life  
has breathed easier because you have lived -  
this is to have succeeded.

*Ralph Waldo Emerson*