

VALEDICTORY
By Dorothy Delamarter

Parents, teachers, and friends. We are glad that you are here tonight to witness the closing of the last chapter of the first section of our books of life.

These records were started when we were born and our birth is the front cover. Our parents gave us our name, which is the title page.

These accounts were given a good start by our parents and are therefore being dedicated to them. They, along with our teachers and friends are the publishers of our accounts because they have served as our guides.

The first section tells of joyous childhood days when we didn't have a care in the world. It relates the good times we had in grade school and of work and play together in high school. Often we have thought that the time was being wasted, but as we look back tonight and as we will look back in the future, we see that the four years spent here have been very worthwhile as well as enjoyable.

Graduation is a sad occasion but a happy and victorious one. We have worked and hoped for this day. We thought happiness would be ours when we finally reached this point. We are happy tonight, but also a little sad since we will not meet again as a class.

Up to now you have been largely responsible for the success of our books, but from now on we must take over. Because of the same educational back ground, our narratives have been quite similar thus far; but in the future, they will differ. Some of these stories will be thrilling and give accounts of brave deeds while others will be less exciting but will relate of services to mankind. Even though the world may not be aware of the things we do, the book of life will reveal the shining record.

Not many authors are successful in their first attempts. All of us will not be victorious in our undertakings at first but if we accept defeat in the right spirit we may rise higher the next time--as Berton Braley said in "Opportunity",

"With dismay you are smitten,
You think there's no chance for you, son?
Why, the best books haven't been written,
The best race hasn't been run."

This war may change the course of many of our lives but it will challenge us to do our best under adverse circumstances. We must all assist in planning a peace which we hope will be a lasting one, so that in the future young people all over the world may lead the kind of lives they want to lead without interruption.

As we strive to do our best we will try to remember our class motto: "What we seek we shall find, what we find, we shall conquer." We will all be seeking different things but we shall each conquer that thing regardless of what it is.

Unless a book is used it isn't any good. If our lives aren't used in service for others they are like books whose covers are never opened. We hope that our narratives will be opened with expectation and closed with profit.

We shall try to remember the lines of the poem, "Be the Best of Whatever You Are" by Douglas Malloch.

If you can't be a pine on the top of the hill
Be a scrub in the valley--but be
The best little scrub by the side of the rill;
Be a bush if you can't be a tree.

If you can't be a bush be a bit of the grass,
And some highway some happier make;
If you can't be a muskie then just be a bass--
But the liveliest bass in the lake!

We can't all be captains, we've got to be crew,
There's something for all of us here.
There's big work to do and there's lesser to do,
And the task we must do is the near.

If you can't be a highway then just be a trail,
If you can't be the sun be a star;
It isn't by size that you win or you fail--
Be the best of whatever you are!