

What can we learn from Lemony Snicket?

- “One of the most difficult things to think about in life is one’s regrets. Something will happen to you, and for years afterward you will wish you had done something different”
- “One of the most troublesome things in life is that what you do or do not want has very little to do with what does or does not happen.”
- “Assumptions are dangerous things to make, and like all dangerous things to make – bombs, for instance, or strawberry shortcake – if you make even the tiniest mistake you can find yourself in terrible trouble.”
- “People who think nothing can go wrong are usually disappointed.”
- “Fate is like a strange, unpopular restaurant filled with odd little waiters who bring you things you never asked for and don’t always like.”
- “...the table of elements does not contain one of the most powerful elements that make up our world, and that is the element of surprise.”
- “Accidents happen all the time.”
- “Knowing that something is wrong and doing it anyway happens very often in life, and I doubt I will ever know why.”
- “People often forget to look at something right in front of them.”
- “As I am sure you know, when people say, ‘It’s my pleasure,’ they usually mean something along the lines of, ‘There’s nothing on Earth I would rather do less.’ [...]”
- “No news is good news.” ... simply means that if you don’t hear from someone, everything is probably fine, and you can see at once why this expression makes such little sense, because everything being fine is only one of many, many reasons why someone may not contact you. Perhaps they are tied up. Maybe they are surrounded by fierce weasels, or perhaps they are wedged tightly between two refrigerators and cannot get themselves out.” “The expression might well be changed to “No news is bad news,” except that people may not be able to contact you because they have just been crowned king or are competing in a gymnastics tournament.” “The point is that there is no way to know why someone has not contacted you, until they contact you and explain themselves. For this reason, the sensible expression would be no news is no news.”

- "...it is hard not to jump at all when you are jumping to conclusions, and it is impossible to make sure that you are jumping to a safe place, because all 'jumping to conclusions' means is that you are believing something is true even though you don't actually know whether it is or not."
- "There are many difficult things in this world to hide, but a secret is not one of them."
- "At times the world can seem an unfriendly and sinister place, but believe us when we say that there is much more good in it than bad. All you have to do is look hard enough. And what might seem to be a series of unfortunate events may, in fact, be the first steps of a journey."
- "Sometimes words are not enough. There are some circumstances so utterly wretched that I cannot describe them in sentences or paragraphs or even a whole series of books."
- "In an emergency, one often learns that one's companions can be of even less help in extraordinary circumstances than they are during an average evening."
- "We are all told to ignore bullies. It's something they teach you, and they can teach you anything. It doesn't mean you learn it. It doesn't mean you believe it. One should never ignore bullies. One should stop them."
- "But there are times in this harum-scarum world when figuring out the right thing to do is quite simple, but doing the right thing is simply impossible..."
- "...Your initial opinion on just about anything will change over time."
- "But the sad truth is that the truth is sad, and that what you want does not matter. A series of unfortunate events can happen to anyone, no matter what they want."
- "It is very easy to say that the important thing is to try your best, but if you are in real trouble the most important thing is not trying your best, but getting to safety."
- "Even the best plans can change if there's an accident."
- "Imagining the worst doesn't keep it from happening"
- "In the vast majority of cases, however, getting into trouble has nothing to do with one's self-esteem. It usually has much more to do with whatever is causing the trouble - a monster, a bus driver, a banana peel, killer bees, the school principal - than what you think of yourself."
- "...There's more to life than safety"
- "There is no easy way to train an apprentice. My two tools are example and nagging."
- "Those unable to catalog the past are doomed to repeat it."
- "There is nothing wrong with crying at the end of a long day."