



This image depicts a rose memorial for the Sandy Hook Elementary School victims. They were killed when a shooter opened fire in the school on the 14th of December, 2012. Photo by Alexisrael, online via Wikimedia Commons. License: [CC BY-SA 3.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/)

*Sorrow makes us all children again,  
destroys all differences of intellect.  
The wisest knows nothing.*

Ralph Waldo Emerson

Journal Entry From [Emerson in His Journals](#), page 277 January 30, 1842

It is too soon for our story about the tragedy at Sandy Hook Elementary. It will come later, after a time of reflection.

Meanwhile, we are providing links to materials which may be helpful (such as a student-written tribute to the now-stilled voices at Virginia Tech, a dramatized chapter from *Little Women* [when Beth died], grief-counseling resources and poetry).

[A Guide for Parents, Caregivers and Teachers - US Health & Human Services](#)

[Talking to Children - American Academy of Pediatrics](#)

[Voices from Virginia Tech](#)

[Little Women, by Louisa May Alcott, dramatized Chapter 40 \("Valley of the Shadow"\)](#)

["Look for the Helpers" - Mr. Rogers](#)

[How to Talk about Violence against Kids - U of Minnesota](#)

[Catastrophic Mass Violence - National Child Traumatic Stress Network](#)

[Talking to Children about Death - National Institutes of Health](#)

[Limit Access to TV News - National Education Association](#)

[After a Loved One Dies - How Children Grieve](#)

[Security Steps at Schools - Education Week](#)

["How healthily their feet upon the floor" - Edna St Vincent Millay](#)

["Do Not Stand at my Grave and Weep" - Mary Elizabeth Frye \(previously anonymous\)](#)

## *Their Journey's Just Begun*

(Author Unknown)

*Don't think of them as gone away,  
their journey's just begun.  
Life holds so many facets,  
this Earth is only one.*

*Just think of them as resting  
from the sorrows and the tears,  
in a place of warmth and comfort,  
where there are no days and years.*

*Think how they must be wishing  
that we could know, today,  
how nothing but our sadness  
can really pass away.*

*And think of them as living  
in the hearts of those they touched  
for nothing loved is ever lost  
and they were loved so much.*

Credits:

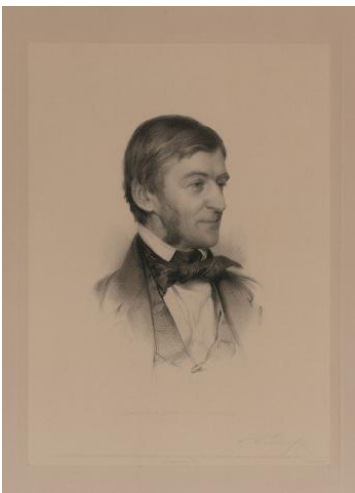
See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/Sandy-Hook-Elementary>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/Sandy-Hook-Elementary>

## Media Stream



### Ralph Waldo Emerson - Grieving Father

Ralph Waldo Emerson, long-respected as one of America's great thinkers, lost many loved ones throughout his life.

- His father died - of stomach cancer - two weeks after Emerson's eighth birthday.
- His first wife (Ellen Tucker Emerson) died of [tuberculosis](#) (TB) - at age twenty - less than eighteen months after their marriage.
- At 31, Emerson lost his brother - Edward - also to TB.
- When his oldest child - a son, called "Waldo" - became ill with [scarlet fever](#), he died, suddenly, at the age of five.
- Shortly before his 59th birthday, Emerson lost his close friend [Henry David Thoreau](#) (who died at 44).

The day after "[my little Waldo](#)" died of scarlet fever, Emerson [wrote these words](#) in his journal:

*Sorrow makes us all children again,  
destroys all differences of intellect.*

*The wisest knows nothing.*

*Shortly before his 79th birthday, Ralph Waldo Emerson caught a severe cold. It led to his death on April 27, 1882. He is [buried at the Sleepy Hollow Cemetery](#) in Concord, Massachusetts.*

We can review most of his writings online, thanks to [RWE.org](#) (Ralph Waldo Emerson.org).  
Portrait of Ralph Waldo Emerson - image number LC-DIG-pga-04133 - online courtesy U.S. Library of Congress.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Ralph-Waldo-Emerson-Grieving-Father>