

## **Dead Poets Society**

### **H. Kleinbaum**

The Dead Poets Society is a book about a few students at the Welton Academy, whose lives change when they get a new English teacher. But of course this is just a rough description of the novel. Inside you may find more and that's what I'm going to tell you.

One of the main characters is a new boy, Todd Anderson, who's shy and has a very low self-esteem because his parents don't care much about him, but on the other hand worship his brother. He makes friends with other fellows, who already knew each other. Their names are Neil Perry (Todd's roommate), Cameron, Knox Overstreet, Charlie Dalton, Pitts and Meeks. They knew that the new school year meant hard work, but they were all amazed at the first English class that year. The new teacher, John Keating, seemed to come from a new world. At that first lesson they learned a statement which changed their lives: "Carpe Diem - seize the day." Keating told them they had to achieve their dreams because some day it would all be over (they would all die) and what would the point of their own life be? Nothing.

Another important thing is that Neil did a little research about Mr Keating and found out that when he was a student of Welton Academy he was a member of a secret organization called Dead Poets Society. Members of this society read poetry with all their emotions in a cave in a forest. Neil told others about that and soon they founded the Dead Poets Society, similar to Mr Keating's student time.

Neil was the first to try the saying "Seize the day." He wanted to act in a play and so he did, but he knew his father wouldn't let him do that - but Neil didn't care.

Todd was not shy anymore since Mr Keating taught him to set his hidden passion and anger free.

Knox fell in love with his father's best friend's son's girlfriend Chris, but although it seemed impossible to get her, he remembered "Carpe Diem" and told her in front of the whole class that he loved her.

Charlie did a terrible thing and put an article in the school paper about girls needed at the Academy. He signed it as the Dead Poets Society. Later he confessed to be the author to the headmaster and was punished. The headmaster told Charlie that also the rest of the society would be punished - if he found out the names.

When the day of the play approached, Neil did a really good job, but suddenly his father showed up. He took Neil home where he yelled at him about how Neil had the opportunity he himself had never dreamed of. That night Neil shot himself. Another thing happened that day: Knox and Chris fell in love.

When Todd heard the news about Neil's death, he was out of his mind. Everybody thought that it was Mr Keating who killed Neil with forcing him to play, but Todd was sure that Neil's father had killed his son - he may not have shot him but he definitely had killed him. All the members of the Society were forced to sign the paper declaring Mr Keating guilty. But only Todd didn't sign it. Of course Mr Keating was still found "guilty" because there were enough signatures to confirm that and he had to leave the school. But at his good-bye, all the members of Dead Poets Society stood up on their desks (not minding the yelling headmaster), giving Mr Keating a silent salute.

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### Unknown words

1. **subside:** verb / cease from agitation, become tranquil, abate, become less / “When the squeaking of chairs *subsided*, a solemn hush fell over the chapel.”
2. **solemn:** adjective / serious and dignified / “When the squeaking of chairs subsided, a *solemn* hush fell over the chapel.”
3. **hush:** noun / an expectant stillness or silence / “When the squeaking of chairs subsided, a solemn *hush* fell over the chapel.”
4. **burst:** noun / a sudden outbreak / “A *burst* of applause filled the room as the proud parents sitting next to their sons congratulated Nolan’s effort.”
5. **preppy:** adjective / neat and fashionable / “Charlie had a handsome, *preppy* look about him.”
6. **fervent:** adjective / ardent, impassioned, intense / “...is the result of *fervent* dedication to the principles taught here.”
7. **beam:** verb / look or smile radiantly / “His father, sitting beside him, *beamed* with pride.”
8. **stiffly:** adjective / not flexible / “Cameron sat *stiffly* as his father smiled smugly.”
9. **smugly:** adverb / self-satisfied / “Cameron sat stiffly as his father smiled *smugly*.”
10. **pat:** verb / strike gently with the inner surface of the hand, esp. as a sign of affection, sympathy, or congratulation / “His parents, sitting on either side of him, *patted* him with encouragement.”
11. **ovation:** noun / an enthusiastic reception, esp. spontaneous and sustained applause / “The audience rose to a standing *ovation* as the octogenarian haughtily shunned offers of help from those beside him and make his way to the podium with painstaking slowness.”
12. **octogenarian:** noun / a person from 80 to 89 years old / “The audience rose to a standing ovation as the *octogenarian* haughtily shunned offers of help from those beside him and make his way to the podium with painstaking slowness.”
13. **haughtily:** adverb / arrogantly self-admiring and disdainful / “The audience rose to a standing ovation as the octogenarian *haughtily* shunned offers of help from those beside him and make his way to the podium with painstaking slowness.”
14. **shun:** verb / avoid, keep clear of / “The audience rose to a standing ovation as the octogenarian haughtily *shunned* offers of help from those beside him and make his way to the podium with painstaking slowness.”
15. **heed:** noun / careful attention / “His parents chatted nearby with another couple, paying no *heed* to their son.”
16. **quivered:** verb / tremble or vibrate with a slight rapid motion, as the result of emotion / “He noticed that many of the younger boys’ chins *quivered*, and tears slipped out as they said good-bye to their parents, perhaps for the first time.”
17. **dorm:** noun / a university or college hall of residence or hostel / “An upper-classman patted his back and led him away toward the *dorm*.”
18. **brogue:** noun / a marked accent / “,Walk, gentlemen. Slow down,’ a teacher with a Scottish *brogue* called out.”
19. **crinkly:** adjective / wrinkled / “Once inside the oak-paneled Academy Honor Room, the juniors stood around or sat in the *crinkly* old leather chairs, waiting for their turn.”

20. **demerit:** noun / a mark awarded against an offender / “,*Demerits,*’ he called down *dourly.*”
21. **dourly:** adverb / severe, stern, or sullenly obstinate in manner or appearance / “,*Demerits,*’ he called down *dourly.*”
22. **awkwardly:** adverb / clumsy or bungling, embarrassing / “He patted the dog and gave him a snack while the boys stood *awkwardly* waiting.”
23. **shrug:** verb / slightly and momentarily raise the shoulders to express indifference, ignorance, helplessness, contempt, etc. / “Todd *shrugged* and groaned.”
24. **groan:** verb / make a deep sound expressing pain, grief, or disapproval / “Todd shrugged and *groaned.*”
25. **sneer:** verb / speak derisively, esp. covertly or ironically / “,Oh, that’s rich,’ he *sneered.*”
26. **jab:** verb / stab, thrust (a thing) hard or abruptly / “,The bastard!’ he shouted suddenly, *jabbing* his thumb with the metal point of the pin and drawing blood.”
27. **pound:** verb / crush or beat with repeated heavy blows / “His heart was *pounding* with envy.”
28. **stagger:** verb / walk unsteadily, totter / “Two hours later, Knox *staggered* into the lobby of the dorm where Neil, Cameron, Meeks, Charlie and Pitts were studying math.”
29. **pace:** verb / walk (esp. repeatedly or methodically) with a slow or regular pace / “Knox stopped *pac*ing and faced his friends.”
30. **plotted:** verb / marked / “,If the poem’s score for perfection is *plotted* on the horizontal of a graph...””