

Risk and Reward

Life is filled with risks; it doesn't take a child long to discover this truth. Lessons may include reaching out to touch a hot stove, or walking barefoot in the grass, only to be stung by a bee or yellow jacket. Ultimately, in the choices we make, risk must be weighed to determine the decision.

But risk brings its reward. A poem I read recently by an unknown author illustrates the point:

To laugh is to risk appearing the fool.
To weep is to risk appearing sentimental.
To reach out for another is to risk involvement.
To expose feelings is to risk exposing your true self.
To place your ideas, your dreams, before a crowd is to risk their loss.
To love is to risk not being loved in return.
To live is to risk dying.
To hope is to risk failure.
But risks must be taken.
Because the greatest hazard in life is to risk nothing.
If you risk nothing and do nothing, you dull your spirit.
You may avoid suffering and sorrow,
But you cannot learn, feel, change, grow, love, and live.
Chained by your attitude, you are a slave.
You have forfeited your freedom.
Only if you risk are you free.

Are you happy, fulfilled, enjoying the company of family and friends, pursuing your dreams? Then, most likely, you are a risk taker.

– Beecher Hunter