

## Do Your Best

Do your best, your very best,  
And do it every day.  
Little boys and little girls;  
That is the wisest way.

Whatever work comes to your hand,  
At home, or at your school,  
Do your best with right good will;  
It is a golden rule.

Still do your best, if, but at last  
You join the merry ring;  
Or if you play at battle door;  
Or if you skip or swing.

Or if you write your copy book,  
Or if you read or spell,  
Or if you seam, or hem, or knit  
Be sure you do it well.

For he who always does his best,  
His best will better grow;  
But he who shirks or slights his task,  
He lets the better go.

What if your lessons should be hard?  
You need not yield to sorrow;  
For he who bravely works today,  
His tasks grow light tomorrow.

Woodson J Savage      Bolivar Tenn

May 17<sup>th</sup> 1883



*This poem was composed by  
Woodson J. Savage, Sr. when he was  
7 1/2 years old.*

*The original handwritten poem is  
displayed on the next page.*

Original Poem by Woodson J. Savage – May 17, 1883

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And do it every day;  
Little boys and little girls:  
That is the wisest way.

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At home, or at your school;  
Do your best with right good will,  
It is a golden rule.

Still do your best, if but at times  
You join the merry ring;  
Or if you play at battledoor;  
Or if you skip or swing.

Or if <sup>you</sup> write your copy book,  
Or if you read or spell,  
Or if you seam, or hem, or knit,  
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Woodson J. Savage  
Bolivar  
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May 17th / 888.