

Equipment

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Read by George Washington Carver, Selma University, 1942

Figure it out for yourself, my lad
You've all the greatest of men have had.
Two arms, two hands, two legs, two eyes
And a brain to use if you would be wise.
With this equipment they all began
So start for the top and say, "I can".

Look them over, the wise and great
They take their food from a common plate.
And similar knives and forks they use
With similar laces they tie their shoes.
The world considers them brave and smart
But you've all they had when they made their start.

You can triumph and come to skill
You can be great if you only will.
You're well equipped for what fight you choose
You have arms and legs and a brain to use.
And the man who has risen great deeds to do
Began his life with no more than you.

(continued on back)

You are the handicap you must face
You are the one who must choose your place.
You must say where you want to go
How much you will study the truth to know.
God has equipped you for life
but he lets you decide what you want to be.

Courage must come from the soul within
The man must furnish the will to win.
So figure it out for yourself, my lad
You were born with all that the great have had.
With your equipment they all began
Get hold of yourself and say "I can"