

Famous farewells

'Please know I am quite aware of the hazards. I want to do it because I want to do it. Women must try to do things as men have tried. When they fail, their failure must be but a challenge to others.'

American aviatrix Amelia Earhart, in a farewell letter written to her husband in case something should happen to her. She disappeared in an attempt to fly around the world in 1937.

'I have found it impossible to carry the heavy burden of responsibility [...] without the help and support of the woman I love. [...] I now quit altogether public affairs and I lay down my burden. It may be some time before I return to my native land.'

King Edward VIII of the United Kingdom on his abdication of the throne in 1936 in order to marry Wallis Simpson, an American divorced woman.

'And so to bed.'

Samuel Pepys, famous London diarist, as the closing line in many of his famous diary entries from 1660-1669.

'My friends, we have achieved much since 1945, when the United Nations was established. But much remains to be done [...] All civilisation is at stake, and we can save it only if all peoples join together in the task.'

Kofi Annan in his final speech as United Nations Secretary General in 2006.



'We'll always have Paris ... Here's looking at you, kid.'

Rick, saying goodbye to Ilsa, the love of his life, in the film Casablanca.

'Good night, good night! Parting is such sweet sorrow, that I shall say good night till it be morrow.'

Juliet, speaking to her lover Romeo in Romeo and Juliet by William Shakespeare.

'Either that wallpaper goes or I do.'

The writer Oscar Wilde, speaking shortly before his death in 1900.

'I have sacrificed all of my interests to those of the country. I go, but you, my friends, will continue to serve France. Her happiness was my only thought. It will still be the object of my wishes.'

Napoleon Bonaparte, talking to his soldiers in 1814 before he was sent into exile on the island of Elba.

4 Read the text again. Which farewells are ...

- said by real people?
- said by characters from a book or film?
- the person's last words before dying?
- said to a group of people?
- written down?
