

Collected Quotes

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Unthinking respect for authority is the greatest enemy of truth.

Albert Einstein

The law, in its majestic equality, forbids rich and poor alike to sleep under bridges, beg in the streets or steal bread.

Anatole France

I wish you all the joy that you can wish.

William Shakespeare

God is a comedian playing to an audience too afraid to laugh.

Voltaire

Dear Sir: I thank you for sending me a copy of your book, which I shall waste no time in reading.

Benjamin Disraeli

The best way to become acquainted with a subject is to write a book about it.

Benjamin Disraeli

Thank God, Beethoven can compose--but, I admit, that is all he is able to do in this world.

Beethoven

Never assume the obvious is true.

William Safire

What we once enjoyed and deeply loved we can never lose, for all that we love deeply becomes part of us.

Helen Keller

The Romans would never have found time to conquer the world if they had been obliged first to learn Latin.

Heinrich Heine

Nothing is wrong with Southern California that a rise in the ocean level wouldn't cure.

Ross Macdonald

Be regular and orderly in your life so that you may be violent and original in your work.

Gustave Flaubert

To be stupid, selfish, and have good health are three requirements for happiness, though if stupidity is lacking, all is lost.

Gustave Flaubert

I do not like the kind of society in which I find myself. I like it less and less. I love the theatre more and more because I know that it is what I always dreamed it might be: a weapon.

John Osborne

He who would write heroic poems should make his whole life a heroic poem.

Thomas Carlyle

Even the worst artist that ever was, even a one-eyed mental deficient with the shakes in both hands who sets out to paint the chicken-house, can enjoy the first stroke. Can think, By God, look what I've done. A miracle. . . . Must be one of the keenest pleasures open to mankind. It's certainly the greatest an artist can have. It's also the only one. And it doesn't last long, usually about five minutes.

Joyce Cary

It is better to keep your mouth shut and appear stupid than to open it and remove all doubt.

Mark Twain

Good friends, good books and a sleepy conscience: this is the ideal life.

Mark Twain

The revelation of twentieth century drama is "that you can apply the Aristotelian unities to a microcosm, to a very, very small human interchange. . . . It [doesn't] have to be about conquering France. It can be about who did or did not turn on the gas on the stove."

David Mamet

One can pay back the loan of gold, but one dies forever in debt to those who are kind.

Malayan Proverb

Wanting to meet an author because you like his work is like wanting to meet a duck because you like paté.

Margaret Atwood

Of his first play, *Four Meals in May* (1967), "[I thought it was] the answer to the war in Vietnam. I thought they would rename the country after me when people saw that play! . . . [But they acted] as if they'd been given a handful of blank pieces of paper."

Wallace Shawn

My play was a complete success. The audience was a failure.

Ashleigh Brilliant

The aim of an argument or discussion should not be victory, but progress.

Joseph Joubert

Majority rule only works if you're also considering individual rights. Because you can't have five wolves and one sheep voting on what to have for supper.

Larry Flynt

The best inheritance a parent can give to his children is a few minutes of their time each day.

M. Grundler

Having your book turned into a movie is like seeing your oxen turned into bullion cubes.

John Le Carre

What's terrible is to pretend that second-rate is first-rate, that you don't need love when you do or that you like your work when you know quite well you're capable of better.

Doris Lessing

Assumptions are the termites of relationships.

Henry Winkler

Now I see the secret of the making of the best persons. It is to grow in the open air and to eat and sleep with the earth.

Walt Whitman

Be still when you have nothing to say; when genuine passion moves you, say what you've got to say, and say it hot.

D.H. Lawrence

For all sad words of tongue and pen, the saddest are these, "It might have been."

John Greenleaf Whittier

All human beings should try to learn before they die what they are running from, and to, and why.

James Thurber

Happiness lies only in that which excites, and the only thing that excites is crime.

Marquis de Sade

When choosing between two evils, I always like to pick the one I never tried before.

Mae West

The oldest and strongest emotion of mankind is fear, and the oldest and strongest kind of fear is fear of the unknown.

H. P. Lovecraft

I believe entertainment can aspire to be art, and can become art, but if you set out to make art, you're an idiot.

Steve Martin

Those who failed to oppose me, who readily agreed with me, accepted all my views, and yielded easily to my opinions, were those who did me the most injury, and were my worst enemies, because, by surrendering to me so easily, they encouraged me to go too far... I was then too powerful for any man, except myself, to injure me.

Napoleon Bonaparte

All courage is a form of constancy. It is always himself that a coward abandons first. After this all other betrayals come.

Cormac McCarthy

Don't worry about people stealing your ideas. If your ideas are any good, you'll have to ram them down people's throats.

Howard Aiken

It is impossible to please all the world and one's father.

Jean La Fontaine

Never attribute to malice that which can be adequately explained by stupidity.

Hanlon's Razor

Knowledge is to know that a tomato is a fruit. Wisdom is not to put it in the fruit salad.

Melvyn Bragg

When a thing ceases to be a subject of controversy, it ceases to be a subject of interest.

William Hazlitt

Honest criticism is hard to take, particularly from a relative, a friend, an acquaintance, or a stranger.

Franklin P. Jones

Courtship to marriage, as a very witty prologue to a very dull play.

William Congreve

It is necessary to write, if the days are not to slip emptily by. How else, indeed, to clap the net over the butterfly of the moment?

Vita Sackville-West

Those who make a distinction between education and entertainment don't know the first thing about either.

Marshall McLuhan

Self-esteem is the reputation we acquire with ourselves.

Nathaniel Branden

France has neither winter nor summer nor morals. Apart from these drawbacks it is a fine country. France has usually been governed by prostitutes.

Mark Twain

Sometimes even to live is an act of courage.

Lucius Annaeus Seneca

I have always found that mercy bears richer fruits than strict justice.

Abraham Lincoln

Seize the moment. Remember all those women on the 'Titanic' who waved off the dessert cart.

Erma Bombeck

Success is outliving your failures.

Erma Bombeck

A bit of fragrance always clings to the hand that gives the rose.

Chinese proverb

It is something -- it can be everything -- to have found a fellow bird with whom you can sit among the rafters while the drinking and boasting and reciting and fighting go on below.

Wallace Stegner

It's a poor sort of memory that only works backward.

Lewis Carroll

Dreams pass into the reality of action. From the actions stems the dream again; and this interdependence produces the highest form of living.

Anais Nin

Belief like any other moving body follows the path of least resistance.

Samuel Butler

I will not play at tug o' war. / I'd rather play at hug o' war, / Where everyone hugs instead of tugs.

Shel Silverstein

Ships that pass in the night and speak each other in passing;

Only a signal shown and a distant voice in the darkness;

So on the ocean of life we pass and speak one another,

Only a look and a voice; then darkness again and a silence.

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

No one should drive a hard bargain with an artist.

Ludwig Van Beethoven

An ounce of mother is worth a pound of clergy.

Spanish proverb

One may have a blazing hearth in one's soul, and yet no one ever comes to sit by it.
Vincent van Gogh

What is the purpose of the giant sequoia tree? The purpose of the giant sequoia tree is to provide shade for the tiny titmouse.
Edward Abbey

Works of imagination should be written in very plain language; the more purely imaginative they are the more necessary it is to be plain.
Samuel Taylor Coleridge

on the French withholding aid before the American invasion of Iraq

I would rather have a German division in front of me than a French one behind me."
--- General George S. Patton

"Going to war without France is like going deer hunting without your accordion."
--Norman Schwartzkopf

"We can stand here like the French, or we can do something about it."
---- Marge Simpson

"As far as I'm concerned, war always means failure"
---Jacques Chirac, President of France

"As far as France is concerned, you're right."
---Rush Limbaugh,

"The only time France wants us to go to war is when the German Army is sitting in Paris sipping coffee."
--- Regis Philbin

"The French are a smallish, monkey-looking bunch and not dressed any better, on average, than the citizens of Baltimore. True, you can sit outside in Paris and drink little cups of coffee, but why this is more stylish than sitting inside and drinking large glasses of whiskey I don't know."
--- P.J O'Rourke (1989)

"You know, the French remind me a little bit of an aging actress of the 1940s who was still trying to dine out on her looks but doesn't have the face for it."

---John McCain, U.S. Senator from Arizona

"You know why the French don't want to bomb Saddam Hussein? Because he hates

America, he loves mistresses and wears a beret. He is French, people."

--Conan O'Brien

"I don't know why people are surprised that France won't help us get Saddam out of Iraq. After all, France wouldn't help us get the Germans out of France!"

---Jay Leno

"The last time the French asked for 'more proof' it came marching into Paris

under a German flag."

--David Letterman

How many Frenchmen does it take to change a light bulb?
One. He holds the bulb and all of Europe revolves around him.

Next time there's a war in Europe, the loser has to keep France.