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Isnâ€™t it enough to see that a garden is beautiful without having to believe that there are fairies at the bottom of it too?

- Adams, Douglas

Genius is sorrow's child.

- Adams, John

The happiness of society is the end of government.

- Adams, John

You mistake me, my dear. I have a high respect for your nerves. They are my old friends. I have heard you mention them with consideration these twenty years at least.

- Austen, Jane

It is always incomprehensible to a man that a woman should ever refuse an offer of marriage.

- Austen, Jane

A woman, especially, if she have the misfortune of knowing anything, should conceal it as well as she can.

- Austen, Jane

For what do we live, but to make sport for our neighbors, and laugh at them in our turn?

- Austen, Jane

From politics it was an easy step to silence.

- Austen, Jane

There's nothing remarkable about it. All one has to do is hit the right keys at the right time and the instrument plays itself.

- Bach, Johann Sebastian

Turn up the lights. I don't want to go home in the dark.

- Henry, O.

I have a memory like an elephant. In fact, elephants often consult me.

- Coward, Noel

There's always something fishy about the French.

- Coward, Noel

All that we see or seem, is but a dream within a dream.

- Poe, Edgar Allan

The writer who neglects punctuation, or mispunctuates, is liable to be misunderstood for the want of merely a comma, it often occurs that an axiom appears a paradox, or that a sarcasm is converted into a sermonoid.

- Poe, Edgar Allan

I have great faith in fools; My friends call it self-confidence.

- Poe, Edgar Allan

Either write something worth reading or do something worth writing.

- Franklin, Benjamin

To sit in the shade on a fine day, and look upon verdure is the most perfect refreshment.

- Austen, Jane

You had no right to be born; for you make no use of life. Instead of living for, in, and with yourself, as a reasonable being ought, you seek only to fasten your feebleness on some other person's strength.

- Bronte, Charlotte

An archaeologist is the best husband a woman can have; the older she gets the more interested he is in her.

- Christie, Agatha

Every murderer is probably somebody's old friend.

- Christie, Agatha

I have often thought that if photography were difficult in the true sense of the term -- meaning that the creation of a simple photograph would entail as much time and effort as the production of a good watercolor or etching -- there would be a vast improvement in total output. The sheer ease with which we can produce a superficial image often leads to creative disaster.

- Adams, Ansel

They talk of a man betraying his country, his friends, his sweetheart. There must be a moral bond first. All a man can betray is his conscience.

- Conrad, Joseph

If I had to choose between betraying my country and betraying my friend, I hope I should have the guts to betray my country.

- Forster, Edward M.

One friend in a lifetime is much, two are many, three are hardly possible. Friendship needs a certain parallelism of life, a community of thought, a rivalry of aim.

- Adams, Henry Brooks

The worst solitude is to have no real friendships.

- Bacon, Francis

Every writer hopes or boldly assumes that his life is in some sense exemplary, that the particular will turn out to be universal.

- Amis, Martin

It is rarely that you see an American writer who is not hopelessly sane.

- Anderson, Margaret

To write well, express yourself like common people, but think like a wise man. Or, think as wise men do, but speak as the common people do.

- Aristotle

If the doctor told me I had six minutes to live, I'd type a little faster.

- Asimov, Isaac

A professional writer is an amateur who didn't quit.

- Bach, Richard

A word is a bud attempting to become a twig. How can one not dream while writing? It is the pen which dreams. The blank page gives the right to dream.

- Bachelard, Gaston

The responsibility of a writer is to excavate the experience of the people who produced him.

- Baldwin, James

Essential characteristic of the really great novelist: a Christ-like, all-embracing compassion.

- Bennett, Arnold

A book should be luminous not voluminous.

- Bovee, Christian Nevell

For your born writer, nothing is so healing as the realization that he has come upon the right word.

- Bowen, Catherine Drinker

Writers are the main landmarks of the past.

- Bulwer-Lytton, Edward G.

The secret of good writing is to say an old thing in a new way or to say a new thing in an old way.

- Davis, Richard Harding

In the case of good books, the point is not how many of them you can get through, but rather how many can get through to you.

- Adler, Mortimer J.

Reading is a basic tool in the living of a good life.

- Adler, Mortimer J.

That is a good book which is opened with expectation, and closed with delight and profit.

- Alcott, Amos Bronson

I am not a speed reader. I am a speed understander.

- Asimov, Isaac

Some books are undeservedly forgotten; none are undeservedly remembered.

- Auden, W. H.

Some books are to be tasted; others to be swallowed; and some few to be chewed and digested.

- Bacon, Francis

Where is human nature so weak as in the bookstore?

- Beecher, Henry Ward

I read the newspaper avidly. It is my one form of continuous fiction.

- Bevan, Aneurin

There are worse crimes than burning books. One of them is not reading them.

- Brodsky, Joseph

They always win who side with God.

- Faber, Frederick W.

The only thing to do with good advice is to pass it on. It is never of any use to oneself.

- Wilde, Oscar

For he who lives more lives than one: More deaths than one must die.

- Wilde, Oscar

She wore far too much rouge last night and not quite enough clothes. That is always a sign of despair in a woman.

- Wilde, Oscar

Despotism is unjust to everybody, including the despot, who was probably made for better things.

- Wilde, Oscar

Every great man nowadays has his disciples, and it is usually Judas who writes the biography.

- Wilde, Oscar

Discontent is the first step in the progress of a man or a nation.

- Wilde, Oscar

Society often forgives the criminal; it never forgives the dreamer.

- Wilde, Oscar

A dreamer is one who can only find his way by moonlight, and his punishment is that he sees the dawn before the rest of the world.

- Wilde, Oscar

Experience is one thing you can't get for nothing.

- Wilde, Oscar

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