

A warm, inviting scene of a reading nook. On the left, a window looks out onto a house with glowing windows, surrounded by trees with vibrant autumn foliage. To the right, a wooden bookshelf is filled with books, with a string of warm white lights draped over it. In the foreground, a green cup of tea sits on a saucer next to a lit lantern. An open book with a magnifying glass lies on a wooden table in front of the window. The overall atmosphere is cozy and peaceful.

Best Quotes

on

Books

Edited by Carl William Brown

BEST QUOTES ON BOOKS

Show me the books he loves and I shall know the man far better than through mortal friends.

Dawn Adams (American online adoption support expert)

Books are the legacies that a great genius leaves to mankind, which are delivered down from generation to generation as presents to the posterity of those who are yet unborn.

Joseph Addison (1672-1719, British essayist, poet, statesman)

Of all the diversions of life, there is none so proper to fill up its empty spaces as the reading of useful and entertaining authors.

Joseph Addison (1672-1719, British essayist, poet, statesman)

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

Mortimer J. Adler (1902-2001,
American educator, philosopher)

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

Amos Bronson Alcott (1799-1888,
American educator, social reformer)

At least half the mystery novels
published violate the law that the
solution, once revealed, must seem to
be inevitable.

Raymond Chandler (1888-1959,
American author)

Beware of the person of one book.
St. Thomas Aquinas

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

Isaac Asimov (1920-1992, Russian-
born American author)

A real book is not one that we read, but
one that reads us.

W. H. Auden (1907-1973, Anglo-American poet)

Some books are undeservedly forgotten; none are undeservedly remembered.

W. H. Auden (1907-1973, Anglo-American poet)

Everything in this book may be wrong.
Richard Bach (1936-, American author)

Honesty is the first chapter in the book of wisdom.
Thomas Jefferson

A book should serve as the axe for the frozen sea within us.
Franz Kafka

The World is a book, and those who do not travel read only a page.
Saint Augustine

There is no end to education. It is not that you read a book, pass an examination, and finish with education.

The whole of life, from the moment you are born to the moment you die, is a process of learning.

Jiddu Krishnamurti

You cannot open a book without learning something.

Confucius

A truly good book teaches me better than to read it. I must soon lay it down, and commence living on its hint. What I began by reading, I must finish by acting.

Henry David Thoreau

The book salesman should be honored because he brings to our attention, as a rule, the very books we need most and neglect most.

Confucius

Every book is a quotation; and every house is a quotation out of all forests, and mines, and stone quarries; and every man is a quotation from all his ancestors.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

The aphorism in which I am the first master among Germans, are the forms of 'eternity'; my ambition is to say in ten sentences what everyone else says in a book - what everyone else does not say in a book.

Friedrich Nietzsche

Every book is a children's book if the kid can read!

Mitch Hedberg

Every book you pick up has its own lesson or lessons, and quite often the bad books have more to teach than the good ones.

Stephen King

The books that help you most are those which make you think that most. The hardest way of learning is that of easy reading; but a great book that comes from a great thinker is a ship of thought, deep freighted with truth and beauty.

Pablo Neruda

A bad book is as much of a labor to write as a good one, it comes as sincerely from the author's soul.

Aldous Huxley

Great nations write their autobiographies in three manuscripts - the book of their deeds, the book of their words and the book of their art.

John Ruskin

'What is the use of a book', thought Alice, 'without pictures or conversations?'

Lewis Carroll

A book is a garden, an orchard, a storehouse, a party, a company by the way, a counselor, a multitude of counselors.

Charles Baudelaire

A book is a gift you can open again and again.

Garrison Keillor

To me a book is a message from the gods to mankind; or, if not, should never be published at all.

Aleister Crowley

The thought of' the inferiority of the Negro is drilled into him in almost every class he enters and in almost every book he studies.

Carter G. Woodson

When I read a book I seem to read it with my eyes only, but now and then I come across a passage, perhaps only a phrase, which has a meaning for me, and it becomes part of me.

W. Somerset Maugham

Real education should consist of drawing the goodness and the best out of our own students. What better books can there be than the book of humanity?

Cesar Chavez

A good book is the precious lifeblood of a master spirit.

John Milton

Style and Structure are the essence of a book; great ideas are hogwash.

Vladimir Nabokov

Except a living man, there is nothing more wonderful than a book.

Charles Kingsley

The best book on programming for the layman is 'Alice in Wonderland'; but that's because it's the best book on anything for the layman.

Alan Perlis

A book is a fragile creature, it suffers the wear of time, it fears rodents, the elements and clumsy hands. so the librarian protects the books not only against mankind but also against nature and devotes his life to this war with the forces of oblivion.

Umberto Eco

I write for no other purpose than to add to the beauty that now belongs to me. I write a book for no other reason than to add three or four hundred acres to my magnificent estate.

Jack London

Properly, we should read for power. Man reading should be man intensely alive. The book should be a ball of light in one's hand.

Ezra Pound

Mallarme said that everything in the world exists in order to end in a book. Today everything exists to end in a photograph.

Susan Sontag

To feel most beautifully alive means to be reading something beautiful, ready always to apprehend in the flow of language the sudden flash of poetry.

Gaston Bachelard (1884-1962, French scientist, philosopher, literary theorist)

Read not to contradict and confute; nor to believe and take for granted; nor to find talk and discourse; but to weigh and consider.

Francis Bacon (1561-1626, British philosopher, essayist, statesman)

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

Francis Bacon (1561-1626, British philosopher, essayist, statesman)

When I am dead, I hope it may be said: "His sins were scarlet, but his books were read."

Hilaire Belloc (1870-1953, British author)

A conventional good read is usually a bad read, a relaxing bath in what we know already. A true good read is surely an act of innovative creation in which we, the readers, become conspirators.

Malcolm Bradbury (1932-, British author)

You don't have to burn books to destroy a culture. Just get people to stop reading them.

Ray Bradbury (1920-, American science fiction writer)

Footnotes are the finer-suckered surfaces that allow testicular paragraphs to hold fast to the wider reality of the library.

Nicholson Baker (1957-, American author)

When the book comes out it may hurt you - but in order for me to do it, it had to hurt me first. I can only tell you about yourself as much as I can face about myself.

James Baldwin (1924-1987, American author)

He has only half learned the art of reading who has not added to it the more refined art of skipping and skimming.

Arthur James Balfour (1848-1930,
British Prime Minister)

Books are men of higher stature; the
only men that speak aloud for future
times to hear.

E.S. Barrett

The printing press is either the greatest
blessing or the greatest curse of
modern times, sometimes one forgets
which it is.

James M. Barrie (1860-1937, British
playwright)

The world may be full of fourth-rate
writers but it's also full of fourth-rate
readers.

Stan Barstow (1928-, British novelist,
playwright)

Hypocrite reader - my fellow - my
brother!

Charles Baudelaire (1821-1867, French
poet)

A book is a garden, an orchard, a storehouse, a party, a company by the way, a counselor, a multitude of counselors.

Henry Ward Beecher (1813-1887,
American preacher, orator, writer)

Books are not made for furniture, but there is nothing else that so beautifully furnishes a house.

Henry Ward Beecher (1813-1887,
American preacher, orator, writer)

Where is human nature so weak as in the bookstore?

Henry Ward Beecher (1813-1887,
American preacher, orator, writer)

Books are not men and yet they stay alive.

Stephen Vincent Benet (1899-1943,
American novelist, poet)

Of all the ways of acquiring books, writing them oneself is regarded as the most praiseworthy method. Writers are really people who write books not

because they are poor, but because they are dissatisfied with the books which they could buy but do not like.
Walter Benjamin (1892-1940, German critic, philosopher)

The power of a text is different when it is read from when it is copied out. Only the copied text thus commands the soul of him who is occupied with it, whereas the mere reader never discovers the new aspects of his inner self that are opened by the text, that road cut through the interior jungle forever closing behind it: because the reader follows the movement of his mind in the free flight of day-dreaming, whereas the copier submits it to command.

Walter Benjamin (1892-1940, German critic, philosopher)

Does there, I wonder, exist a being who has read all, or approximately all, that the person of average culture is supposed to have read, and that not to have read is a social sin? If such a

being does exist, surely he is an old, a very old man.

Arnold Bennett (1867-1931, British novelist)

All the best stories in the world are but one story in reality -- the story of escape. It is the only thing which interests us all and at all times, how to escape.

Arthur Christopher Benson (1862-1925, British author, poet)

When we read a story, we inhabit it. The covers of the book are like a roof and four walls. What is to happen next will take place within the four walls of the story. And this is possible because the story's voice makes everything its own.

John Berger (1926-, British actor, critic)

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

Aneurin Bevan (1897-1960, British politician)

Reading is not a duty, and has consequently no business to be made disagreeable.

Augustine Birrell (1850-1933, British essayist, liberal politician)

Read nothing that you do not care to remember, and remember nothing you do not mean to use.

Professor Blackie

The failure to read good books both enfeebles the vision and strengthens our most fatal tendency -- the belief that the here and now is all there is.

Allan Bloom (1930-1992, American educator, author)

Some books makes me want to go adventuring, others feel that they have saved me the trouble™.

Ashleigh Brilliant (1933-, British-American humorist)

A book may be compared to your neighbor: if it be good, it cannot last

too long; if bad, you cannot get rid of it too early.

Rupert Brooke (1887-1915, British poet)

The lessons taught in great books are misleading. The commerce in life is rarely so simple and never so just.

Anita Brookner (1938-, British novelist, art historian)

It is well to read everything of something, and something of everything.

Lord Henry P. Brougham (1778-1868, Scottish Whig politician)

Begin to read a book that will help you move toward your dream.

Les Brown (1945-, American speaker, author, trainer, motivator,)

Books succeed, and lives fail.

Elizabeth Barrett Browning (1806-1861, British poet)

Books, books, books had found the secret of a garret-room piled high with cases in my father's name; Piled high, packed large, -- where, creeping in and out among the giant fossils of my past, like some small nimble mouse between the ribs of a mastodon, I nibbled here and there at this or that box, pulling through the gap, in heats of terror, haste, victorious joy, the first book first. And how I felt it beat under my pillow, in the morning's dark. An hour before the sun would let me read! My books!

Elizabeth Barrett Browning (1806-1861, British poet)

The worth of a book is to be measured by what you can carry away from it.
James Bryce

Read Homer once, and you can read no more. For all books else appear so mean, and so poor. Verse will seem prose; but still persist to read, and Homer will be all the books you need.

Duke of Buckingham (1628-1687,
British poet, satirist, dramatist)

In science, read by preference the
newest works. In literature, read the
oldest. The classics are always modern.

Edward G. Bulwer-Lytton (1803-1873,
British novelist, poet)

Reading without purpose is sauntering
not exercise.

Edward G. Bulwer-Lytton (1803-1873,
British novelist, poet)

Americans will listen, but they do not
care to read. War and Peace must wait
for the leisure of retirement, which
never really comes: meanwhile it helps
to furnish the living room. Blockbusting
fiction is bought as furniture. Unread, it
maintains its value. Read, it looks like
money wasted. Cunningly, Americans
know that books contain a person, and
they want the person, not the book.

Anthony Burgess (1917-1993, British
writer, critic)

Books are masters who instruct us without rods or ferules, without words or anger, without bread or money. If you approach them, they are not asleep; if you seek them, they do not hide; if you blunder, they do not scold; if you are ignorant, they do not laugh at you.

Richard De Bury (1287-1345, British chancellor)

The oldest books are still only just out to those who have not read them.

Samuel Butler (1612-1680, British poet, satirist)

The reading or non-reading a book will never keep down a single petticoat.

Lord Byron (1788-1824, British poet)

A good title is the title of a successful book.

Raymond Chandler (1888-1959, American author)

Books are but waste paper unless we spend in action the wisdom we get

from thought -- asleep. When we are weary of the living, we may repair to the dead, who have nothing of peevishness, pride, or design in their conversation.

Jeremy Collier (1650-1726, British clergyman, conjuror)

Never judge a book by its movie.
J. W. Eagan

Readers are less and less seen as mere non-writers, the subhuman "other" or flawed derivative of the author; the lack of a pen is no longer a shameful mark of secondary status but a positively enabling space, just as within every writer can be seen to lurk, as a repressed but contaminating antithesis, a reader.

Terry Eagleton (1943-, British critic)

Surviving and thriving as a professional today demands two new approaches to the written word. First, it requires a new approach to orchestrating information, by skillfully choosing what

to read and what to ignore. Second, it requires a new approach to integrating information, by reading faster and with greater comprehension.

Jimmy Calano

A novel is never anything, but a philosophy put into images.

Albert Camus (1913-1960, French existential writer)

A good novel tells us the truth about it's hero; but a bad novel tells us the truth about its author.

Gilbert K. Chesterton (1874-1936, British author)

A novel points out that the world consists entirely of exceptions.

Joyce Carey

After all manner of professors have done their best for us, the place we are to get knowledge is in books. The true university of these days is a collection of books.

Thomas Carlyle (1795-1881, Scottish philosopher, author)

If a book comes from the heart it will contrive to reach other hearts. All art and author craft are of small account to that.

Thomas Carlyle (1795-1881, Scottish philosopher, author)

The best effect of any book, is that it excites the reader to self-activity.

Thomas Carlyle (1795-1881, Scottish philosopher, author)

What we become depend on what we read after all the professors have finished with us. The greatest university of all is the collection of books.

Thomas Carlyle (1795-1881, Scottish philosopher, author)

Reading a book is like re-writing it for yourself. You bring to a novel, anything you read, all your experience of the

world. You bring your history and you read it in your own terms.

Angela Carter (1940-1992, British author)

The novel can't compete with cars, the movies, television, and liquor. A guy who's had a good feed and tanked up on good wine gives his old lady a kiss after supper and his day is over.

Finished.

Louis-Ferdinand Celine (1894-1961, French author)

A good book, in the language of the book-sellers, is a salable one; in that of the curious, a scarce one; in that of men of sense, a useful and instructive one.

Oswald Chambers (1874-1917, Scottish preacher, author)

Books are standing counselors and preachers, always at hand, and always disinterested; having this advantage over oral instructors, that they are

ready to repeat their lesson as often as we please.

Oswald Chambers (1874-1917, Scottish preacher, author)

Books are the blessed chloroform of the mind.

Robert Chambers (1802-1871, Scottish publisher, writer)

Most books today seemed to have been written overnight from books read the day before.

Sebastien-Roch Nicolas De Chamfort (1741-1794, French writer, journalist, playwright)

Every man is a volume if you know how to read him.

William Ellery Channing (1780-1842, American Unitarian minister, author)

God be thanked for books; they are the voices of the distant and the dead, and make us heirs of the spiritual life of past ages.

William Ellery Channing (1780-1842,
American Unitarian minister, author)

It is chiefly through books that we
enjoy intercourse with superior minds,
and these invaluable means of
communication are in the reach of all.
In the best books, great men talk to us,
give us their most precious thoughts,
and pour their souls into ours.

William Ellery Channing (1780-1842,
American Unitarian minister, author)

Books are the true levelers. They give
to all, who faithfully use them, the
society, the spiritual presence, and the
best and greatest of our race.

William Ellery Channing

Buy good books, and read them; the
best books are the commonest, and the
last editions are always the best, if the
editors are not blockheads.

Philip Dormer Stanhope Chesterfield
(1694-1773, British statesman, author)

Let blockheads read what blockheads wrote.

Philip Dormer Stanhope Chesterfield
(1694-1773, British statesman, author)

The mere brute pleasure of reading -
the sort of pleasure a cow must have in
grazing.

Gilbert K. Chesterton (1874-1936,
British author)

A book is the only immortality.

Rufus Choate (1799-1859, American
lawyer, statesman)

Happy is he who has laid up in his
youth, and held fast in all fortune, a
genuine and passionate love for
reading.

Rufus Choate (1799-1859, American
lawyer, statesman)

A room without books is like a body
without a soul.

Marcus T. Cicero (c. 106-43 BC, Roman
orator, politician)

Many books require no thought from those who read them, and for a very simple reason: they made no such demand upon those who wrote them. Those works, therefore, are the most valuable, that set our thinking faculties in the fullest operation. understand them.

Lord Clarendon

Perhaps there are none more lazy, or more truly ignorant, than your everlasting readers.

William Cobbett (1762-1835, British journalist, reformer)

Books, like friends, should be few and well chosen. Like friends, too, we should return to them again and again for, like true friends, they will never fail us -- never cease to instruct -- never cloy.

Charles Caleb Colton (1780-1832, British sportsman writer)

Next to acquiring good friends, the best acquisition is that of good books.

Charles Caleb Colton (1780-1832,
British sportsman writer)

A person of mature years and ripe development, who is expecting nothing from literature but the corroboration and renewal of past ideas, may find satisfaction in a lucidity so complete as to occasion no imaginative excitement, but young and ambitious students are not content with it. They seek the excitement because they are capable of the growth that it accompanies.

Charles Horton Cooley (1864-1929,
American sociologist)

I used to walk to school with my nose buried in a book.

Coolio (1963-, American musician,
rapper, actor, singer, songwriter)

The book salesman should be honored because he brings to our attention, as a rule, the very books we need most and neglect most.

Frank Crane (American actor)

You are wise, witty and wonderful, but you spend too much time reading this sort of stuff.

Jim Critchfield

The successful Accelerated Reader is able to read larger than normal "blocks" or "bites" of the printed page with each eye stop. He has accepted, without reservation, the philosophy that the most important benefit of reading is the gaining of information, ideas, mental "picture" and entertainment-not the fretting over words. He has come to the realization that words in and of themselves are for the most part insignificant.

Wade E. Cutler

A good book is the very essence of a good man. His virtues survive in it, while the foibles and faults of his actual life are forgotten. All the goodly company of the excellent and great sit around my table, or look down on me from yonder shelves, waiting patiently to answer my questions and enrich me

with their wisdom. A precious book is a foretaste of immortality.

Theodore L. Cuyler (1822-1909,
American pastor, author)

The great American novel has not only already been written, it has already been rejected.

Frank Dane

Next, in importance to books are their titles.

Paul Davies (1946-, British physicist,
popularizer of science)

If I had my way books would not be written in English, but in an exceedingly difficult secret language that only skilled professional readers and story-tellers could interpret. Then people like you would have to go to public halls and pay good prices to hear the professionals decode and read the books aloud for you. This plan would have the advantage of scaring off all amateur authors, retired politicians, country doctors and I-Married-a-Midget

writers who would not have the
patience to learn the secret language.
Robertson Davies (1913-1995,
Canadian novelist, journalist)

I heard his library burned down and
both books were destroyed -- and one
of them hadn't even been colored in
yet.

John Dawkins

The man who is fond of books is usually
a man of lofty thought, and of elevated
opinions.

Christopher Dawson (1898-1970,
Welsh cultural historian, educational
theorist)

The world of books is the most
remarkable creation of man. Nothing
else that he builds ever lasts
monuments fall; nations perish;
civilization grow old and die out; new
races build others. But in the world of
books are volumes that have seen this
happen again and again and yet live
on. Still young, still as fresh as the day

they were written, still telling men's hearts, of the hearts of men centuries dead.

Clarence Day (1874-1935, American essayist)

Books should to one of these four ends conduce, for wisdom, piety, delight, or use.

Sir John Denham (1615-1668, British poet, dramatist)

The reading of all good books is like a conversation with all the finest men of past centuries.

Rene Descartes (1596-1650, French philosopher, scientist)

This is not a book. This is libel, slander, defamation of character. This is not a book, in the ordinary sense of the word. No, this is a prolonged insult, a gob of spit in the face of Art, a kick in the pants to God, Man, Destiny, Time, Love, Beauty... what you will. I am going to sing for you, a little off key perhaps, but I will sing.

Henry Miller (1891-1980, American author)

There are books of which the backs and covers are by far the best parts.
Charles Dickens (1812-1870, British novelist)

He ate and drank the precious Words,
his Spirit grew robust; He knew no more that he was poor, nor that his frame was Dust.

Emily Dickinson (1830-1886, American poet)

There is no frigate like a book to take us lands away nor any coursers like a page of prancing poetry.

Emily Dickinson (1830-1886, American poet)

There is more treasure in books than in all the pirates' loot on Treasure Island and best of all, you can enjoy these riches every day of your life.

Walt Disney (1901-1966, American artist, film producer)

Nine-tenths of the existing books are nonsense and the clever books are the refutation of that nonsense.

Benjamin Disraeli (1804-1881, British statesman, Prime Minister)

There is an art of reading, as well as an art of thinking, and an art of writing.

Isaac Disraeli (1766-1848, British critic, historian)

You will, I am sure, agree with me that... if page 534 only finds us in the second chapter, the length of the first one must have been really intolerable.

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (1859-1930, British author, "Sherlock Holmes")

We should be as careful of the books we read, as of the company we keep. The dead very often have more power than the living.

Tryon Edwards (1809-1894, American theologian)

No story is the same to us after a lapse of time; or rather we who read it are no longer the same interpreters.

George Eliot (1819-1880, British novelist)

Books are the best of things if well used; if abused, among the worst. They are good for nothing but to inspire. I had better never see a book than be warped by its attraction clean out of my own orbit, and made a satellite instead of a system.

Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-1882, American poet, essayist)

If we encounter a man of rare intellect, we should ask him what books he reads.

Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-1882, American poet, essayist)

Never read any book that is not a year old.

Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-1882, American poet, essayist)

Our high respect for a well read person
is praise enough for literature.

Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-1882,
American poet, essayist)

Some books leave us free and some
books make us free.

Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-1882,
American poet, essayist)

There is creative reading as well as
creative writing.

Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-1882,
American poet, essayist)

'Tis the good reader that makes the
good book; in every book he finds
passages which seem to be confidences
or sides hidden from all else and
unmistakably meant for his ear; the
profit of books is according to the
sensibility of the reader; the profound
thought or passion sleeps as in a mine,
until it is discovered by an equal mind
and heart.

Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-1882,
American poet, essayist)

We are too civil to books. For a few golden sentences we will turn over and actually read a volume of four or five hundred pages.

Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-1882,
American poet, essayist)

When I get a little money, I buy books;
and if any is left I buy food and clothes.
Desiderius Erasmus (c.1466-1536,
Dutch humanist)

When you reread a classic, you do not
see more in the book than you did
before; you see more in you than there
was before.

Cliff Fadiman (American writer)

Read, read, read. Read everything --
trash, classics, good and bad, and see
how they do it. Just like a carpenter
who works as an apprentice and
studies the master. Read! You'll absorb
it. Then write. If it is good, you'll find
out. If it's not, throw it out the window.

William Faulkner (1897-1962, American novelist)

The tools I need for my work are paper, tobacco, food, and a little whiskey.
William Faulkner (1897-1962, American novelist)

If the riches of the Indies, or the crowns of all the kingdom of Europe, were laid at my feet in exchange for my love of reading, I would spurn them all.
Francois de Salignac Fenelon (1651-1715, French writer)

There is a set of religious, or rather moral, writings which teach that virtue is the certain road to happiness, and vice to misery in this world. A very wholesome and comfortable doctrine, and to which we have but one objection, namely, that it is not true.
Henry Fielding (1707-1754, British novelist, dramatist)

We are as liable to be corrupted by books, as by companions.

Henry Fielding (1707-1754, British novelist, dramatist)

I wish I could write a beautiful book to break those hearts that are soon to cease to exist: a book of faith and small neat worlds and of people who live by the philosophies of popular songs.

Zelda Fitzgerald (1900-1948, American writer)

Read in order to live.

Gustave Flaubert (1821-1880, French novelist)

One always tends to over-praise a long book, because one has got through it.
Edward M. Forster (1879-1970, British novelist, essayist)

The only books that influence us are those for which we are ready, and which have gone a little farther down our particular path than we have yet got ourselves.

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Edward M. Forster (1879-1970, British novelist, essayist)

The books that everybody admires are those that nobody reads.

Anatole France (1844-1924, French writer)

Read much, but not many books.

Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790, American scientist, publisher, diplomat)

Reading makes a full man, meditation a profound man, discourse a clear man.

Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790, American scientist, publisher, diplomat)

No tears in the writer, no tears in the reader.

Robert Frost (1875-1963, American poet)

A house is not a home unless it contains food and fire for the mind as well as the body.

Margaret Witter Fuller (1810-1850, American writer, lecturer)

It does not follow because many books are written by persons born in America that there exists an American literature. Books which imitate or represent the thoughts and life of Europe do not constitute an American literature. Before such can exist, an original idea must animate this nation and fresh currents of life must call into life fresh thoughts along the shore.

Margaret Witter Fuller (1810-1850, American writer, lecturer)

A book that is shut is but a block.

Thomas Fuller (1608-1661, British clergyman, author)

Today a reader, tomorrow a leader.

W. Fusselman

When you have mastered numbers, you will in fact no longer be reading numbers, any more than you read words when reading books You will be reading meanings.

Harold S. Geneen (1910-1977,
American accountant, industrialist)

Books are those faithful mirrors that reflect to our mind the minds of sages and heroes.

Edward Gibbon (1737-1794, British
historian)

My early and invincible love of reading I would not exchange for all the riches of India.

Edward Gibbon (1737-1794, British
historian)

I know every book of mine by its smell, and I have but to put my nose between the pages to be reminded of all sorts of things.

George Robert Gissing (1857-1903,
British novelist, critic, essayist)

Some books seem to have been
written, not to teach us anything, but
to let us know that the author has
known something.

Johann Wolfgang Von Goethe (1749-
1832, German poet, dramatist,
novelist)

As writers become more numerous, it is
natural for readers to become more
indolent; whence must necessarily
arise a desire of attaining knowledge
with the greatest possible ease.

Oliver Goldsmith (1728-1774, Anglo-
Irish author, poet, playwright)

I read part of it all the way through.
Samuel Goldwyn (1882-1974,
American film producer, founder of
MGM)

Learning to read has been reduced to a
process of mastering a series of
narrow, specific, hierarchical skills.

Where armed-forces recruits learn the components of a rifle or the intricacies of close order drill "by the numbers," recruits to reading learn its mechanics sound by sound and word by word.
Jacquelyn Gross

The unread story is not a story; it is little black marks on wood pulp. The reader, reading it, makes it live: a live thing, a story.
Ursula K. Le Guin (1929-, American author)

Thank you for sending me a copy of your book -- I'll waste no time reading it.
Moses Hadas (1900-1966, American classicist and translator)

Books give not wisdom where none was before. But where some is, there reading makes it more.
John Harington

If I have not read a book before, it is, for all intents and purposes, new to me

whether it was printed yesterday or three hundred years ago.

William Hazlitt (1778-1830, British essayist)

He that loves a book will never want a faithful friend, a wholesome counselor, a cheerful companion, an effectual comforter. By study, by reading, by thinking, one may innocently divert and pleasantly entertain himself, as in all weathers, as in all fortunes.

Sir Arthur Helps (1813-1875, British historian, novelist, essayist)

All good books are alike in that they are truer than if they had really happened and after you are finished reading one you will feel that all that happened to you and afterwards it all belongs to you; the good and the bad, the ecstasy, the remorse, and sorrow, the people and the places and how the weather was.

Ernest Hemingway (1898-1961, American writer)

Old books, you know well, are books of the world's youth, and new books are the fruits of its age.

Oliver Wendell Holmes (1809-1894,
American author, wit, poet)

The best of a book is not the thought which it contains, but the thought which it suggests; just as the charm of music dwells not in the tones but in the echoes of our hearts.

Oliver Wendell Holmes (1809-1894,
American author, wit, poet)

The most foolish kind of a book is a kind of leaky boat on the sea of wisdom; some of the wisdom will get in anyhow.

Oliver Wendell Holmes (1809-1894,
American author, wit, poet)

Be as careful of the books you read, as of the company you keep; for your habits and character will be as much influenced by the former as by the latter.

Paxton Hood

The books we read should be chosen with great care, that they may be, as an Egyptian king wrote over his library, "The medicines of the soul."

Paxton Hood

My books kept me from the ring, the dog-pit, the tavern, and the saloon.
Thomas Hood (1799-1845, British poet and humorist)

A book might be written on the injustice of the just.

Anthony Hope (1863-1933, British writer)

Books in a large university library system: 2, 000
Books in an average large city library: 1, 000
Average number of books in a chain bookstore: 30, 000.
Books in an average neighborhood branch library: 20, 000.
Lois Horowitz

The mortality of all inanimate things is terrible to me, but that of books most of all.

William Dean Howells (1837-1920, American novelist, critic)

This will never be a civilized country until we expend more money for books than we do for chewing gum.

Elbert Hubbard (1859-1915, American author, publisher)

It is from books that wise people derive consolation in the troubles of life.

Victor Hugo (1802-1885, French poet, dramatist, novelist)

The worst thing about new books is that they keep us from reading the old ones.

Joseph Joubert (1754-1824, French moralist)

There was a time when the world acted on books; now books act on the world.

Joseph Joubert (1754-1824, French moralist)

To learn to read is to light a fire; every syllable that is spelled out is a spark.
Victor Hugo (1802-1885, French poet, dramatist, novelist)

It is books that teach us to refine our pleasures when young, and to recall them with satisfaction when we are old.
Leigh Hunt (1784-1859, British poet, essayist)

A bad book is as much of a labor to write as a good one; it comes as sincerely from the author's soul.
Aldous Huxley (1894-1963, British author)

Books are the money of Literature, but only the counters of Science.
Thomas H. Huxley (1825-1895, British biologist, educator)

The newest books are those that never grow old.
George Holbrook Jackson (1874-1948, British essayist, literary historian,)

Read as you taste fruit or savor wine,
or enjoy friendship, love or life.
Holbrook Jackson

The only obligation to which in advance
we may hold a novel, without incurring
the accusation of being arbitrary, is
that it be interesting.
Henry James (1843-1916, American
author)

Books constitute capital. A library book
lasts as long as a house, for hundreds
of years. It is not, then, an article of
mere consumption but fairly of capital,
and often in the case of professional
men, setting out in life, it is their only
capital.
Thomas Jefferson (1743-1826,
American President (3rd))

I cannot live without books.
Thomas Jefferson (1743-1826,
American President (3rd))

A man ought to read just as his inclination leads him; for what he reads as a task will do him little good.

Samuel Johnson (1709-1784, British author)

Books that you carry to the fire, and hold readily in your hand, are most useful after all.

Samuel Johnson (1709-1784, British author)

What is written without effort is in general read without pleasure.

Samuel Johnson (1709-1784, British author)

You will be the same person in five years as you are today except for the people you meet and the books you read.

Charles "Tremendous" Jones (American motivational speaker, author)

There be some men are born only to suck out the poison of books.

Ben Jonson (1573-1637, British
dramatist, poet)

One man is as good as another until he
has written a book.

Benjamin Jowett (1817-1893, British
scholar)

The Bible remained for me a book of
books, still divine - but divine in the
sense that all great books are divine
which teach men how to live
righteously.

Sir Arthur Keith

Everywhere I have sought rest and not
found it, except sitting in a corner by
myself with a little book.

Thomas a Kempis (1379-1471, German
monk, mystic, religious writer)

To sit alone in the lamplight with a
book spread out before you hold
intimate converse with men of unseen
generations -- such is pleasure beyond
compare.

Yoshida Kenko

I am a part of everything that I have read.

John Kieran

Except a living man, there is nothing more wonderful than a book! A message to us from the dead -- from human souls we never saw, who lived, perhaps, thousands of miles away. And yet these, in those little sheets of paper, speak to us, arouse us, terrify us, teach us, comfort us, open their hearts to us as brothers.

Charles Kingsley (1819-1875, British author, clergyman)

We ought to reverence books; to look on them as useful and mighty things. If they are good and true, whether they are about religion, politics, farming, trade, law, or medicine, they are the message of Christ, the maker of all things -- the teacher of all truth.

Charles Kingsley (1819-1875, British author, clergyman)

You can either read something many times in order to be assured that you got it all, or else you can define your purpose and use techniques which will assure that you have met it and gotten what you need.

Peter Kump

When a book raises your spirit, and inspires you with noble and manly thoughts, seek for no other test of its excellence. It is good, and made by a good workman.

Jean De La Bruyere (1645-1696,
French classical writer)

Books are the bees which carry the quickening pollen from one to another mind.

James Russell Lowell (1819-1891,
American poet, critic, editor)

Borrowers of books - those mutilators of collections, spoilers of the symmetry of shelves, and creators of odd volumes.

Charles Lamb (1775-1834, British
essayist, critic)

He has left off reading altogether, to
the great improvement of his
originality.

Charles Lamb (1775-1834, British
essayist, critic)

I love to lose myself in other men's
minds. When I am not walking, I am
reading. I cannot sit and think; books
think for me.

Charles Lamb (1775-1834, British
essayist, critic)

What is reading, but silent
conversation.

Walter Savage Landor (1775-1864,
British poet, essayist)

After all, the world is not a stage -- not
to me: nor a theatre: nor a show-house
of any sort. And art, especially novels,
are not little theatres where the reader
sits aloft and watches... and sighs,
commiserates, condones and smiles.

That's what you want a book to be: because it leaves you so safe and superior, with your two-dollar ticket to the show. And that's what my books are not and never will be. Whoever reads me will be in the thick of the scrimmage, and if he doesn't like it -- if he wants a safe seat in the audience -- let him read someone else.

D. H. Lawrence (1885-1930, British author)

I can't bear art that you can walk round and admire. A book should be either a bandit or a rebel or a man in the crowd.

D. H. Lawrence (1885-1930, British author)

One sheds one's sicknesses in books -- repeats and presents again one's emotions, to be master of them.

D. H. Lawrence (1885-1930, British author)

The classics are only primitive literature. They belong to the same

class as primitive machinery and primitive music and primitive medicine.
Stephen B. Leacock (1869-1944,
Canadian humorist, economist)

Until I feared I would lose it, I never loved to read. One does not love breathing.
Harper Lee (1926-, American author)

You've really got to start hitting the books because it's no joke out here.
Spike Lee (1956-, American film director)

This is not a book. This is libel, slander, defamation of character. This is not a book, in the ordinary sense of the word. No, this is a prolonged insult, a gob of spit in the face of Art, a kick in the pants to God, Man, Destiny, Time, Love, Beauty... what you will. I am going to sing for you, a little off key perhaps, but I will sing.
Henry Miller (1891-1980, American author)

For a good book has this quality, that it is not merely a petrification of its author, but that once it has been tossed behind, like Deucalion's little stone, it acquires a separate and vivid life of its own.

Caroline Lejeune (1897-1973, British film critic)

For a good book has this quality, that it is not merely a petrification of its author, but that once it has been tossed behind, like Deucalion's little stone, it acquires a separate and vivid life of its own.

Caroline Lejeune (1897-1973, British film critic)

I feel like I'm drowning. Every night, I'm carrying home loads of things to read, but I'm too exhausted. I keep clipping things and Xeroxing them and planning to read them eventually, but I just end up throwing it all away and feeling guilty.

Ghita Levine

A vacuum of ideas affects people differently than a vacuum of air, otherwise readers of books would be constantly collapsing.

Georg C. Lichtenberg (1742-1799,
German physicist, satirist)

Do we write books so that they shall merely be read? Don't we also write them for employment in the household? For one that is read from start to finish, thousands are leafed through, other thousands lie motionless, others are jammed against mouse holes, thrown at rats, others are stood on, sat on, drummed on, have gingerbread baked on them or are used to light pipes.

Georg C. Lichtenberg (1742-1799,
German physicist, satirist)

There are very many people who read simply to prevent themselves from thinking.

Georg C. Lichtenberg (1742-1799,
German physicist, satirist)

The things I want to know are in books;
my best friend is the man who'll get me
a book I ain't read.

Abraham Lincoln (1809-1865, American
President (16th))

Reading furnishes the mind only with
material for knowledge; it is thinking
that makes what we read ours.

John Locke (1632-1704, British
philosopher)

I feel a kind of reverence for the first
books of young authors. There is so
much aspiration in them, so much
audacious hope and trembling fear, so
much of the heart's history, that all
errors and shortcomings are for a while
lost sight of in the amiable self
assertion of youth.

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1819-
1892, American poet)

Many readers judge of the power of a
book by the shock it gives their feelings
-- as some savage tribes determine the
power of muskets by their recoil; that

being considered best which fairly
prostrates the purchaser.

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1819-
1892, American poet)

All books are either dreams or swords.
Amy Lowell (1874-1925, American
poet, critic)

For books are more than books, they
are the life, the very heart and core of
ages past, the reason why men lived
and worked and died, the essence and
quintessence of their lives.

Amy Lowell (1874-1925, American
poet, critic)

What a sense of security in an old book
which time has criticized for us.

James Russell Lowell (1819-1891,
American poet, critic, editor)

The multitude of books is a great evil.
There is no limit to this fever for
writing.

Martin Luther (1483-1546, German
leader of the protestant reformation)

A novel must be exceptionally good to live as long as the average cat.

Hugh MacLennan (1907-1990,
Canadian novelist, essayist)

Everything in the world exists to end up in a book.

Stephane Mallarme (1842-1898, French symbolist poet)

A house without books is like a room without windows. No man has a right to bring up his children without surrounding them with books, if he has the means to buy them. It is a wrong to his family. Children learn to read by being in the presence of books. The love of knowledge comes with reading and grows upon it. And the love of knowledge, in a young mind, is almost always a warrant against the inferior excitement of passions and vices.

Horace Mann (1796-1859, American educator)

The pleasure of reading is doubled
when one lives with another who
shares the same books.

Katherine Mansfield (1888-1923, New
Zealand-born British author)

To read too many books is harmful.
Zedong Mao (1893-1976, Founder of
the People's Republic of China)

Once we have learned to read, meaning
of words can somehow register without
consciousness.

Anthony Marcel

Readers are plentiful: thinkers are rare.
Harriet Martineau (1802-1876, British
writer, social critic)

From the moment I picked your book
up until I laid it down I was convulsed
with laughter. Some day I intend
reading it.

Groucho Marx (1895-1977, American
comic actor)

Outside of a dog, a book is man's best friend. Inside of a dog, it's too dark to read.

Groucho Marx (1895-1977, American comic actor)

I would sooner read a timetable or a catalog than nothing at all.

W. Somerset Maugham (1874-1965, British novelist, playwright)

What is important is not to be able to read rapidly, but to be able to decide what not to read.

James T. Mccay

Any book that helps a child to form a habit of reading, to make reading one of his deep and continuing needs, is good for him.

Richard McKenna

A successful book cannot afford to be more than ten percent new.

Marshall McLuhan (1911-1980, Canadian communications theorist)

The chief knowledge that a man gets from reading books, is the knowledge that very few of them are worth reading.

H. L. Mencken (1880-1956, American editor, author, critic, humorist)

There are people who read too much: bibliobibuli. I know some who are constantly drunk on books, as other men are drunk on whiskey or religion. They wander through this most diverting and stimulating of worlds in a haze, seeing nothing and hearing nothing.

H. L. Mencken (1880-1956, American editor, author, critic, humorist)

There are two kinds of books. Those that no one reads and those that no one ought to read.

H. L. Mencken (1880-1956, American editor, author, critic, humorist)

A person who publishes a book appears willfully in public with his pants down.

Edna St. Vincent Millay (1892-1950,
American poet)

A book is a part of life, a manifestation
of life, just as much as a tree or a
horse or a star. It obeys its own
rhythms, its own laws, whether it be a
novel, a play, or a diary. The deep,
hidden rhythm of life is always there --
that of the pulse, the heart beat.

Henry Miller (1891-1980, American
author)

All my good reading, you might say,
was done in the toilet. There are
passages in Ulysses which can be read
only in the toilet -- if one wants to
extract the full flavor of their content.

Henry Miller (1891-1980, American
author)

Until it is kindled by a spirit as
flamingly alive as the one which gave it
birth, a book is dead to us. Words
divested of their magic are but dead
hieroglyphs.

Henry Miller (1891-1980, American author)

A good book is the precious life-blood of the master spirit, embalmed and treasured up on purpose for a life beyond.

John Milton (1608-1674, British poet)

Books are not absolutely dead things, but do contain a certain potency of life in them, to be as active as the soul whose progeny they are; they preserve, as in a vial, the purest efficacy and extraction of the living intellect that bred them.

John Milton (1608-1674, British poet)

Deep versed in books and shallow in himself.

John Milton (1608-1674, British poet)

Books and marriage go ill together.

Jean Baptiste Moliere (1622-1673, French playwright)

No entertainment is so cheap as reading, nor is any pleasure so lasting.
Lady Mary Wortley Montagu (1689-1762, British society figure, letter writer)

Every abridgement of a good book is a fool abridged.

Michel Eyquem De Montaigne (1533-1592, French philosopher, essayist)

The constant habit of perusing devout books is so indispensable, that it has been termed the oil of the lamp of prayer. Too much reading, however, and too little meditation, may produce the effect of a lamp inverted; which is extinguished by the very excess of that ailment, whose property is to feed it.
Hannah More (1745-1833, British writer, reformer, philanthropist)

Some of the most famous books are the least worth reading. Their fame was due to their having done something that needed to be doing in their day.

The work is done and the virtue of the book has expired.

John Morely

You will find most books worth reading are worth reading twice.

John Morely

A dose of poison can do its work but once. A bad book can go on poisoning minds for generations.

William Murray (1705-1793, American judge)

A bibliophile of little means is likely to suffer often. Books don't slip from his hands but fly past him through the air, high as birds, high as prices.

Pablo Neruda (1904-1973, Chilean poet)

A book calls for pen, ink, and a writing desk; today the rule is that pen, ink, and a writing desk call for a book.

Friedrich Nietzsche (1844-1900, German philosopher)

Early in the morning, at break of day,
in all the freshness and dawn of one's
strength, to read a book -- I call that
vicious!

Friedrich Nietzsche (1844-1900,
German philosopher)

The worst readers are those who
behave like plundering troops: they
take away a few things they can use,
dirty and confound the remainder, and
revile the whole.

Friedrich Nietzsche (1844-1900,
German philosopher)

The last thing one discovers in
composing a work is what to put first.
Blaise Pascal (1623-1662, French
scientist, religious philosopher)

Read good, big important things.
Peggy Noonan (1950-, American
author, presidential speechwriter)

The books one reads in childhood, and
perhaps most of all the bad and good
bad books, create in one's mind a sort

of false map of the world, a series of fabulous countries into which one can retreat at odd moments throughout the rest of life, and which in some cases can survive a visit to the real countries which they are supposed to represent. George Orwell (1903-1950, British author, "Animal Farm")

This book is not to be tossed lightly aside, but to be hurled with great force. Dorothy Parker (1893-1967, American humorous writer)

The books that help you most are those which make you think the most. The hardest way of learning is that of easy reading; but a great book that comes from a great thinker is a ship of thought, deep freighted with truth and beauty.

Theodore Parker (1810-1860, American minister)

Much reading is an oppression of the mind, and extinguishes the natural

candle, which is the reason of so many senseless scholars in the world.

William Penn (1644-1718, British religious leader, founder of Pennsylvania)

Five daily newspapers arrive in my California driveway. The New York Times and the Wall Street Journal are supplemented by three local papers. As for magazines, I read, or at least skim, Business Week, Forbes, The Economist, INC; Industry Week, Fortune. Other subscriptions include Sales and Marketing Management, Modern Health Care, Progressive Grocer, High Tech Business, and Sloan Management Review from MIT. I religiously read Business Tokyo, Asia Week, and Far Eastern Economic Review. I glance at Newsweek and Time ... but I devour the New Republic, Policy Review, Foreign Affairs, The Washington Monthly, and Public Interest. How about books? A dozen or more each month.

Thomas J. Peters (1942-, American management consultant, author, lecturer)

I divide all readers into two classes: those who read to remember and those who read to forget.

William Lyon Phelps

What gunpowder did for war the printing press has done for the mind.
Wendell Phillips (1811-1884, American reformer, orator)

No one can read with profit that which he cannot learn to read with pleasure.
Noah Porter

No man understands a deep book until he has seen and lived at least part of its contents.

Ezra Pound (1885-1972, American poet, critic)

Properly, we should read for power.
Man reading should be man intensely

alive. The book should be a ball of light
in one's hand.

Ezra Pound (1885-1972, American
poet, critic)

With one day's reading a man may
have the key in his hands.

Ezra Pound (1885-1972, American
poet, critic)

The more sins you confess, the more
books you will sell.

American Proverb (Sayings of American
origin)

Buy in the cheapest market and sell in
the dearest.

English Proverb (Sayings of British
origin)

There is no robber worse than a bad
book.

Italian Proverb (Sayings of Italian
origin)

Books are preserved parts of minds.

Japanese Proverb (Sayings of Japanese origin)

There is no book that contains absolutely nothing bad, and there is no book that contains absolutely nothing good.

Jewish Proverb (Sayings of Jewish origin)

She could give herself up to the written word as naturally as a good dancer to music or a fine swimmer to water. The only difficulty was that after finishing the last sentence she was left with a feeling at once hollow and uncomfortably full.

Jean Rhys (1894-1979, British author)

Reading makes immigrants of us all. It takes us away from home, but more important, it finds homes for us everywhere.

Hazel Rochman

Upon books the collective education of the race depends; they are the sole

instruments of registering,
perpetuating and transmitting thought.
Henry C. Rogers

Don't just read the easy stuff. You may
be entertained by it, but you will never
grow from it.

Jim Rohn (American businessman,
author, speaker, philosopher)

Everything you need for better future
and success has already been written.
And guess what? All you have to do is
go to the library.

Jim Rohn (American businessman,
author, speaker, philosopher)

Miss a meal if you have to, but don't
miss a book.

Jim Rohn (American businessman,
author, speaker, philosopher)

The book you don't read won't help.

Jim Rohn (American businessman,
author, speaker, philosopher)

The reason that fiction is more interesting than any other form of literature, to those who really like to study people, is that in fiction the author can really tell the truth without humiliating himself.

Eleanor Roosevelt (1884-1962, American First Lady, columnist, lecturer, humanitarian)

Prerequisite for rereadability in books: that they be forgettable.

Jean Rostand (1894-1977, French biologist, writer)

The books one has written in the past have two surprises in store: one couldn't write them again, and wouldn't want to.

Jean Rostand (1894-1977, French biologist, writer)

In the dark colony of night, when I consider man's magnificent capacity for malice, madness, folly, envy, rage, and destructiveness, and I wonder whether we shall not end up as breakfast for

newts and polyps, I seem to hear the muffled cries of all the words in all the books with covers closed.

Leo C. Rosten (1908-1997, Polish-born American political scientist)

One half who graduate from college never read another book.

Herbert True

People are much more willing to lend you books than bookcases.

Mark Twain (1835-1910, American humorist, writer)

A book is a version of the world. If you do not like it, ignore it; or offer your own version in return.

Salman Rushdie (1948-, Indian-born British author)

The real risks for any artist are taken in pushing the work to the limits of what is possible, in the attempt to increase the sum of what it is possible to think. Books become good when they go to this edge and risk falling over it --

when they endanger the artist by reason of what he has, or has not, artistically dared.

Salman Rushdie (1948-, Indian-born British author)

A book worth reading is worth buying.
John Ruskin (1819-1900, British critic, social theorist)

Be sure that you go to the author to get at his meaning, not to find yours.
John Ruskin (1819-1900, British critic, social theorist)

Books are divided into two classes, the books of the hour and the books of all time.

John Ruskin (1819-1900, British critic, social theorist)

How long would most people look at the best book before they would give the price of a large turbot for it?

John Ruskin (1819-1900, British critic, social theorist)

To use books rightly is to go to them for help; to appeal to them when our own knowledge and power fail; to be led by them into wider sight and purer conception than our own, and to receive from them the united sentence of the judges and councils of all time, against our solitary and unstable opinions.

John Ruskin (1819-1900, British critic, social theorist)

You should read books like you take medicine, by advice, and not by advertisement.

John Ruskin (1819-1900, British critic, social theorist)

What I like best is a book that's at least funny once in a while. What really knocks me out is a book that, when you're all done reading it, you wish the author that wrote it was a terrific friend of yours and you could call him up on the phone whenever you felt like it.

That doesn't happen much, though.
J. D. Salinger (1919-, American author)

A library is thought in cold storage.
Herbert Samuel (1870-1963, British
statesman, philosophical writer)

I am what libraries and librarians have
made me, with little assistance from a
professor of Greek and poets.
B. K. Sandwell

Books are like a mirror. If an ass looks
in, you can't expect an angel to look
out.
Arthur Schopenhauer (1788-1860,
German philosopher)

Buying books would be a good thing if
one could also buy the time to read
them...
Arthur Schopenhauer (1788-1860,
German philosopher)

People say that life is the thing, but I
prefer reading.
Logan Pearsall Smith (1865-1946,
Anglo-American essayist, aphorist)

Weak men are the worse for the good sense they read in books because it furnisheth them only with more matter to mistake.

George Savile

Reading is equivalent to thinking with someone else's head instead of with one's own.

Arthur Schopenhauer (1788-1860, German philosopher)

Without books the development of civilization would have been impossible. They are the engines of change, windows on the world, "Lighthouses" as the poet said "erected in the sea of time." They are companions, teachers, magicians, bankers of the treasures of the mind, Books are humanity in print.

Arthur Schopenhauer (1788-1860, German philosopher)

I've never known any trouble than an hour's reading didn't assuage.

Charles de Secondat

Don't ask me who's influenced me. A lion is made up of the lambs he's digested, and I've been reading all my life.

Giorgos Seferis

O, let my books be then the eloquence and dumb presages of my speaking breast.

William Shakespeare (1564-1616,
British poet, playwright, actor)

How can you dare teach a man to read until you've taught him everything else first?

George Bernard Shaw (1856-1950,
Irish-born British dramatist)

Here, my dear Lucy, hide these books. Quick, quick! Fling "Peregrine Pickle" under the toilette -- throw "Roderick Random" into the closet - put "The Innocent Adultery" into "The Whole Duty of Man"; thrust "Lord Aimworth" under the sofa! cram "Ovid" behind the bolster; there - put "The Man of

Feeling" into your pocket. Now for them.

Richard Brinsley Sheridan (1751-1816, Anglo-Irish dramatist)

What is the most precious, the most exciting smell awaiting you in the house when you return to it after a dozen years or so? The smell of roses, you think? No, moldering books.

Andre Sinyavsky

Then I thought of reading -- the nice and subtle happiness of reading ... this joy not dulled by age, this polite and unpunishable vice, this selfish, serene, lifelong intoxication.

Logan Pearsall Smith (1865-1946, Anglo-American essayist, aphorist)

Live always in the best company when you read.

Sydney Smith (1771-1845, British writer, clergyman)

No furniture is so charming as books.

Sydney Smith (1771-1845, British writer, clergyman)

A multitude of books distracts the mind.

Socrates (BC 469-399, Greek philosopher of Athens)

Only a generation of readers will span a generation of writers.

Steven Spielberg (1947-, American director, screenwriter)

Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body. It is wholesome and bracing for the mind to have its faculties kept on the stretch.

Sir Richard Steele (1672-1729, British dramatist, essayist, editor)

A book is like a man - clever and dull, brave and cowardly, beautiful and ugly. For every flowering thought there will be a page like a wet and mangy mongrel, and for every looping flight a tap on the wing and a reminder that

wax cannot hold the feathers firm too near the sun.

John Steinbeck (1902-1968, American author)

The age of the book is almost gone.

George Steiner (1929-, French-born American critic, novelist)

A novel is a mirror carried along a main road.

Henri B. Stendhal (1783-1842, French writer)

Most books, like their authors, are born to die; of only a few books can it be said that death has no dominion over them; they live, and their influence lives forever.

J. Swartz

Digressions, incontestably, are the sunshine; they are the life, the soul of reading! Take them out of this book, for instance, you might as well take the book along with them; - one cold external winter would reign in every

page of it; restore them to the writer; - he steps forth like a bridegroom, - bids All-hail; brings in variety, and forbids the appetite to fail.

Laurence Sterne (1713-1768, British author)

One may as well be asleep as to read for anything but to improve his mind and morals, and regulate his conduct. Laurence Sterne (1713-1768, British author)

Books are good enough in their own way, but they are a mighty bloodless substitute for life.

Robert Louis Stevenson (1850-1895, Scottish essayist, poet, novelist)

A great book should leave you with many experiences and slightly exhausted at the end. You should live several lives while reading it.

William Styron (1925-, American novelist)

Books, like proverbs, receive their chief value from the stamp and esteem of the ages through which they have passed

Sir William Temple (1628-1699, British diplomat, essayist)

Who ever converses among old books will be hard to please among the new.
Sir William Temple (1628-1699, British diplomat, essayist)

What is a diary as a rule? A document useful to the person who keeps it. Dull to the contemporary who reads it and invaluable to the student, centuries afterwards, who treasures it.

Helen Terry

If a secret history of books could be written, and the author's private thoughts and meanings noted down alongside of his story, how many insipid volumes would become interesting, and dull tales excite the reader!

William M. Thackeray (1811-1863,
Indian-born British novelist)

Books must be read as deliberately and reservedly as they were written.

Henry David Thoreau (1817-1862,
American essayist, poet, naturalist)

Books, not which afford us a cowering enjoyment, but in which each thought is of unusual daring; such as an idle man cannot read, and a timid one would not be entertained by, which even make us dangerous to existing institution -- such call I good books.

Henry David Thoreau (1817-1862,
American essayist, poet, naturalist)

How many a man has dated a new era in his life from the reading of a book! The book exists for us, perchance, that will explain our miracles and reveal new ones. At present unutterable things we may find somewhere uttered.

Henry David Thoreau (1817-1862,
American essayist, poet, naturalist)

Read the best books first, or you may not have a chance to read them at all.
Henry David Thoreau (1817-1862,
American essayist, poet, naturalist)

To read well, that is, to read true books in a true spirit, is a noble exercise, and one that will task the reader more than any other exercise which the customs of the day esteem. It requires a training such as the athletes underwent, the steady intention almost of the whole life to this object.

Henry David Thoreau (1817-1862,
American essayist, poet, naturalist)

I always begin at the left with the opening word of the sentence and read toward the right and I recommend this method.

James Thurber (1894-1961, American humorist, illustrator)

The Brahmins say that in their books there are many predictions of times in which it will rain. But press those books as strongly as you can, you can not get

out of them a drop of water. So you can not get out of all the books that contain the best precepts the smallest good deed.

Count Leo Tolstoy (1828-1910, Russian novelist, philosopher)

No matter how busy you may think you are, you must find time for reading, or surrender yourself to self-chosen ignorance.

Atwood H. Townsend

An empty book is like an infant's soul, in which anything may be written. It is capable of all things, but containeth nothing. I have a mind to fill this with profitable wonders.

Thomas Traherne (1636-1674, British clergyman, poet, mystic)

Education... has produced a vast population able to read but unable to distinguish what is worth reading, an easy prey to sensations and cheap appeals.

G. M. Trevelyan (1876-1962, British historian)

Book love... is your pass to the greatest, the purest, and the most perfect pleasure that God has prepared for His creatures.

Anthony Trollope (1815-1882, British novelist)

Book love... is your pass to the greatest, the purest, and the most perfect pleasure that God has prepared for His creatures.

Anthony Trollope (1815-1882, British novelist)

There are books so alive that you're always afraid that while you weren't reading, the book has gone and changed, has shifted like a river; while you went on living, it went on living too, and like a river moved on and moved away. No one has stepped twice into the same river. But did anyone ever step twice into the same book?

Marina Tsvetaeva (1892-1941, Russian poet)

A big leather-bound volume makes an ideal razor strap. A thin book is useful to stick under a table with a broken caster to steady it. A large, flat atlas can be used to cover a window with a broken pane. And a thick, old-fashioned heavy book with a clasp is the finest thing in the world to throw at a noisy cat.

Mark Twain (1835-1910, American humorist, writer)

A classic is something that everybody wants to have read and nobody wants to read.

Mark Twain (1835-1910, American humorist, writer)

My books are water; those of the great geniuses are wine - everybody drinks water.

Mark Twain (1835-1910, American humorist, writer)

The man who does not read books has no advantage over the man that can not read them.

Mark Twain (1835-1910, American humorist, writer)

A wicked book cannot repent.

Author Unknown

Books to judicious compilers, are useful; to particular arts and professions, they are absolutely necessary; to men of real science, they are tools: but more are tools to them.

Author Unknown

In any situation, ask yourself: What strengths do I possess that can contribute towards accomplishing something in this situation? Then follow through.

Author Unknown

Reading the Scriptures is an uplifting experience.

Author Unknown

The book to read is not the one which thinks for you, but the one which makes you think. No book in the world equals the Bible for that.

Author Unknown

Old books that have ceased to be of service should no more be abandoned than should old friends who have ceased to give pleasure.

Sir Peregrine Worsthorne (1923-, British journalist)

Choose an author as you choose a friend.

Sir Christopher Wren

Those who do not read are no better off than those who cannot read.

Author Unknown

Tradition is but a meteor, which, if it once falls, cannot be rekindled.

Memory, once interrupted, is not to be recalled. But written learning is a fixed luminary, which, after the cloud that had hidden it has passed away, is again

bright in its proper station. So books are faithful repositories, which may be awhile neglected or forgotten, but when opened again, will again impart instruction.

Author Unknown

Ideally a book would have no order to it, and the reader would have to discover his own.

Raoul Vaneigem (1934-, Belgian situationist philosopher)

All the known world, excepting only savage nations, is governed by books.

Francois-Marie Arouet de Voltaire (1694-1778, French historian, writer)

It is much better to be silent than to merely increase the number of bad books.

Francois-Marie Arouet de Voltaire (1694-1778, French historian, writer)

The multitude of books is making us ignorant.

Francois-Marie Arouet de Voltaire
(1694-1778, French historian, writer)

Thy books should, like thy friends, not
many be, yet such wherein men may
thy judgment see.

William Wycherley (1640-1716, British
dramatist)

The books we think we ought to read
are poky, dull, and dry; The books that
we would like to read we are ashamed
to buy; The books that people talk
about we never can recall; And the
books that people give us, oh, they're
the worst of all.

Carolyn Wells (1870-1942, American
author)

Beware you be not swallowed up in
books! An ounce of love is worth a
pound of knowledge.

John Wesley (1703-1791, British
preacher, founder of Methodism)

Fiction reveals truth that reality
obscures.

Jessamyn West (1903-1984, American author)

Books are lighthouses erected in the great sea of time.

Edwin P. Whipple (1819-1886, American essayist)

The words of my book are nothing, the drift of it everything.

Walt Whitman (1819-1892, American poet)

The books that the world calls immoral are the books that show the world its own shame.

Oscar Wilde (1856-1900, British author, wit)

The reason why so few good books are written is that so few people who can write know anything. I've put my genius into my life; I've only put my talent into my works.

Oscar Wilde (1856-1900, British author, wit)

There is no such thing as a moral book or an immoral book. Books are well written or badly written. That is all.
Oscar Wilde (1856-1900, British author, wit)

Books had instant replay long before televised sports.
Bert Williams

Books bear him up a while, and make him try to swim with bladders of philosophy.
John Wilmot (1647-1680, British courtier, poet)

The reason a writer writes a book is to forget a book and the reason a reader reads one is to remember it.
Thomas Wolfe (1931-, American author, journalist)

Somewhere, everywhere, now hidden, now apparent in what ever is written down, is the form of a human being. If we seek to know him, are we idly occupied?

Virginia Woolf (1882-1941, British
novelist, essayist)

Man ceased to be an ape, vanquished
the ape, on the day the first book was
written.

Yevgeny Zamyatin (1884-1937,
Russian writer)