

““Classic”: a book which
people praise and don't read.’

Mark Twain (1835 – 1910)

‘A book is more than the sum of its materials. It is an artefact of the human mind and hand.’

Geraldine Brooks (*b.*1955)

‘A bookstore is one of the only pieces of evidence we have that people are still thinking.’

Jerry Seinfeld (*b.*1954)

‘A good book is an
event in my life.’

Stendhal (1783 – 1842)

The Red and the Black

‘A good book is the
best of friends, the same
today and for ever.’

Martin Tupper (1810 – 1899)

‘A good novel tells us
the truth about its hero;
but a bad novel tells us the
truth about its author.’

G K Chesterton (1874 – 1936)

‘A good poem is a contribution
to reality. The world is never
the same once a good poem
has been added to it.’

Dylan Thomas (1914 – 1953))

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

William Styron (1925 – 2006)

‘A man’s got to take a lot
of punishment to write a
really funny book.’

Ernest Hemingway (1899 – 1961)

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

Marcus Tullius Cicero (106BC – 43BC)

‘A short story is a different thing all together: a short story is like a kiss in the dark from a stranger.’

Stephen King (*b.*1947)

‘A successful book is not
made of what is in it,
but what is left out of it.’

Mark Twain (1835 – 1910)

‘All I have learned,
I learned from books.’

Abraham Lincoln (1809 – 1865)

““Always be careful of books,”
said Tessa, “and what is
inside them, for words have
the power to change us.””

Cassandra Clare (*b.*1973)

Clockwork Angel

‘Always read something that
will make you look good if you
die in the middle of it.’

P J O'Rourke (*b.1947*)

‘Books are a uniquely
portable magic.’

Stephen King (*b.*1947)

‘Books are like imprisoned
souls till someone takes
them down from a shelf
and frees them.’

Samuel Butler (1835 – 1902)

‘Books are mirrors: you only see in them what you already have inside you.’

Carlos Ruiz Zafón (*b.*1964)

‘Books are my friends, my companions. They make me laugh and cry and find meaning in life.’

Christopher Paolini (*b.*1983)

Eragon

‘Books are the treasured
wealth of the world and
the fit inheritance of
generations and nations.’

Henry David Thoreau (1817 – 1862)

‘Books break the shackles
of time, proof that humans
can work magic.’

Carl Sagan (1934 – 1996)

‘Books let us into their
souls and lay open to
us the secrets of our own.’

William Hazlitt (1778 – 1830)

‘Books: the best antidote
against the marsh-gas of
boredom and vacuity’

George Steiner (*b.*1929)

‘Choose an author as you
choose a friend.’

Sir Christopher Wren (1632 – 1723)

‘Everything in the world exists
in order to end up as a book.’

Stéphane Mallarmé (1842 – 1898)

‘Fantasy is hardly an escape
from reality. It’s a way of
understanding it.’

Lloyd Alexander (1924 – 2007)

‘History will be kind to me
for I intend to write it.’

Winston Churchill (1874 – 1965)

‘I cannot live without books.’

Thomas Jefferson (1743 – 1826)

‘I cannot remember the books
I’ve read any more than the
meals I have eaten;
even so, they have made me.’

Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803 – 1882)

‘I find television very educating.
Every time somebody turns
on the set, I go into the other
room and read a book.’

Julius Henry “Groucho” Marx (1890 – 1977)

‘I know exactly what I would do with immortality: I would read every book in the library.’

Mark Jason Dominus (*b.*1969)

‘I know I was writing stories
when I was five. I don’t know
what I did before that.
Just loafed, I suppose.’

P G Wodehouse (1881 – 1975)

‘I love the place; the
magnificent books;
I require books as I require air.’

Sholem Asch (1880 – 1957)

‘I love the smell of
book ink in the morning.’

Umberto Eco (*b.*1932)

‘I read a book one day and my
whole life was changed.’

Orhan Pamuk (*b.*1952)

The New Life

‘I think books are like people,
in the sense that they’ll
turn up in your life when you
most need them.’

Emma Thompson (*b.1959*)

‘I’ve never known any
trouble that an hour’s
reading didn’t assuage.’

Charles de Secondat (1689 – 1755)

‘Ideas are like rabbits.
You get a couple and learn
how to handle them, and
pretty soon you have a dozen.’

John Steinbeck (1902 – 1968)

‘If books are not good
company, where shall I find it?’

Mark Twain (1835 – 1910)

‘If you want to change
the world, pick up your
pen and write.’

Martin Luther (1483 – 1546)

‘In literature, as in love,
we are astonished at what
is chosen by others.’

André Maurois (1885 – 1967)

‘In Western Civilisation,
our elders are books.’

Gary Snyder (*b.*1930)

‘In writing, punctuation plays
the role of body language.
It helps readers hear you the
way you want to be heard’

Russell Baker (*b.*1925)

‘It’s thanks to my evening
reading alone that I am still
more or less sane’

W G Sebald (1944 – 2001)

‘It is a great thing to start life
with a small number of
really good books which
are your very own.’

Arthur Conan Doyle (1859 – 1930)

‘It is my ambition to say
in ten sentences what
others say in a whole book’.

Friedrich Nietzsche (1844 – 1900)

‘Just the knowledge that a good book is awaiting one at the end of a long day makes that day happier.’

Kathleen Norris (*b.*1947)

‘Keep good company, read
good books, love good
things and cultivate soul and
body as faithfully as you can’

Louisa May Alcott (1832 – 1888)

‘Literature is the history
of the soul.’

Barry Hannah (1942 – 2010)

‘Many people, myself among them, feel better at the mere sight of a book.’

Jane Smiley (b.1949)

Thirteen Ways of Looking at the Novel

‘Most new books are forgotten
within a year, especially by
those who borrow them.’

Evan Esar (1899 – 1995)

‘Never trust anyone who
has not brought a book
with them.’

Lemony Snicket (*b.*1970)

Horseradish: Bitter Truths You Can't Avoid

‘O day of days when we
can read! The reader and
the book, either without
the other is naught.’

Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803 – 1882)

‘Oh! I am delighted with the book! I should like to spend my whole life in reading it.’

Jane Austen (1775 – 1817)

Northanger Abbey

‘Once you have read a book
you care about, some part of it
is always with you.’

Louis L’Amour (1908 – 1988)

‘Once you learn to read, you
will be forever free.’

Frederick Douglass (1818 – 1895)

‘One day I will find the
right words, and they
will be simple.’

Jack Kerouac (1922 – 1969)

The Dharma Bums

‘Only two classes of books are
of universal appeal: the very
best and the very worst.’

Ford Madox Ford (1873 – 1939)

‘People say that life is the thing, but I prefer reading.’

Logan Pearsall Smith (1865 – 1946)

‘Picking five favourite books is like picking the five body parts you’d most like not to lose.’

Neil Gaiman (*b.*1960)

‘Poetry is not the things said,
but a way of saying it’

A E Housman (1859 – 1936)

‘Poetry is the rhythmical
creation of beauty in words.’

Edgar Allan Poe (1809 – 1849)

‘Read the best books first,
or you may not have a chance
to read them at all.’

Henry David Thoreau (1817 – 1862)

‘Reading brings us
unknown friends.’

Honoré de Balzac (1799 – 1850)

‘Reading is to the mind
what exercise is to the body.’

Joseph Addison (1672 – 1719)

‘So many books,
so little time.’

Frank Zappa (1940 – 1993)

‘So much of what I see
reminds me of something I
read in a book. Shouldn’t it
be the other way round?’

Nora Ephron (1941 – 2012)

‘That I can read and be happy
while I am reading, is a great
blessing.’

Anthony Trollope (1815 – 1882)

‘The ability to read awoke
inside me some long dormant
craving to be mentally alive.’

Malcolm X (1925 – 1965)

‘The creative writer does the same as the child at play: he creates a world of fantasy which he takes very seriously.’

Sigmund Freud (1856 – 1939)

‘The greatest gift is a
passion for reading.’

Elizabeth Hardwick (1916 – 2007)

‘The love of books is among
the choicest gifts of the gods.’

Arthur Conan Doyle (1859 – 1930)

‘The man who does not read
has no advantage over the man
who cannot read.’

Mark Twain (1835 – 1910)

‘The more you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you’ll go.’

Dr Seuss (Theodor Seuss Geisel) (1904 – 1991)

‘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)

‘There are no faster or firmer
friendships than those
formed between people who
love the same books.’

Irving Stone (1903 – 1989)

‘There are perhaps no days
of our childhood we lived
so fully as those we spent
with a favourite book.’

Marcel Proust (1871 – 1922)

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

Ray Bradbury (1920 – 2012)

‘There is no friend
as loyal as a book.’

Ernest Hemingway (1899 – 1961)

‘There is no mistaking a real
book when one meets it.
It is like falling in love.’

Christopher Morley (1890 – 1957)

‘There is no such thing as a
child who hates to read;
only children who have not
found the right book.’

Frank Serafini (*b.1945*)

‘There is no such thing as a
moral or an immoral book.

Books are well written,
or badly written.’

Oscar Wilde (1854 – 1900)

‘There’s more to life than
books you know,
but not much more.’

Morrissey (*b.1959*)

‘Think before you speak.
Read before you think.’

Fran Lebowitz (*b.*1950)

‘To learn to read is to light
a fire; every syllable that is
spelled out is a spark.’

Victor Hugo (1802 – 1885)

‘To lose a passport was the
least of one’s worries.
To lose a notebook was a
catastrophe.’

Bruce Chatwin (1940 – 1989)

‘We live for books.’

Umberto Eco (*b.*1932)

The Name of the Rose

‘We read to know
we are not alone.’

C S Lewis (1898 – 1963)

‘We write to taste life twice, in the moment and in retrospect.’

Anaïs Nin (1903 – 1977)

‘What kind of life can
you have in a house
without books?’

Sherman Alexie (*b.*1966)

Flight

‘What on earth could be more
luxurious than a sofa, a book,
and a cup of coffee?
Was ever anything so civil?’

Anthony Trollope (1815 – 1882)

‘When I get a little money
I buy books; and if any is
left I buy food and clothes.’

Erasmus (1466 – 1536)

‘When you handle books all day long, every new one is a friend and a temptation.’

Elizabeth Kostova (*b.*1964)

The Historian

‘Why can’t people just sit
and read books and be
nice to each other?’

David Baldacci (*b.*1960)

The Camel Club

‘You can make anything
by writing.’

C S Lewis (1898 – 1963)

‘You can’t get a cup of tea
big enough or a book long
enough to suit me.’

C S Lewis (1898 – 1963)

‘You cannot open a book
without learning something.’

Confucius (551 – 479 BCE)

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

Ray Bradbury (1920 – 2012)

‘You don’t put your life into
your books, you find it there.’

Alan Bennett (*b.*1934)

The Uncommon Reader

‘You don’t write because you
want to say something,
you write because you have
something to say.’

F Scott Fitzgerald (1896 – 1940)