

Alberto Manguel

Quotes

*Book, Reading, Library, Reader, Writing, Space, Night, Pages, World, Order,
Crafts, Dream, Creating, Ambition, Children, Darkness, Giving, Wall,
Occupation, Numbers*

Every reader exists to ensure for a certain book a modest immortality. Reading is, in this sense, a ritual of rebirth.

~Alberto Manguel

Maybe this is why we read, and why in moments of darkness we return to books: to find words for what we already know.

~Alberto Manguel

The love of libraries, like most loves, must be learned.

~Alberto Manguel

Each book was a world unto itself, and in it I took refuge.

~Alberto Manguel

I have no feelings of guilt regarding the books I have not read and perhaps will never read; I know that my books have unlimited patience. They will wait for me till the end of my days.

~Alberto Manguel

I always knew that I wanted to live with books, even as a child, because we traveled a lot. Home was the book to which I came back every evening.

~Alberto Manguel

Every library is a library of preferences, and every chosen category implies an exclusion.

~Alberto Manguel

Entering a library, I am always stuck by the way in which a certain vision of the world is imposed upon the reader through its categories and its order.

~Alberto Manguel

One book calls to another unexpectedly, creating alliances across

different cultures and centuries.

~Alberto Manguel

My books hold between their covers every story I've ever known and still remember, or have now forgotten, or may one day read; they fill the space around me with ancient and new voices.

~Alberto Manguel

Deserted libraries hold the shades of writers who worked within, and are haunted by their absence.

~Alberto Manguel

Unicorns, dragons, witches may be creatures conjured up in dreams, but on the page their needs, joys, anguishes, and redemptions should be just as true as those of Madame Bovary or Martin Chuzzlewit.

~Alberto Manguel

If justice takes place, there may be hope, even in the face of a seemingly capricious divinity.

~Alberto Manguel

Life happened because I turned the pages.

~Alberto Manguel

The association of books with their readers is unlike any other between objects and their users.

~Alberto Manguel

A society can exist - many do exist - without writing, but no society can exist without reading.

~Alberto Manguel

In the light, we read the inventions of others; in the darkness we invent our own stories.

~Alberto Manguel

If every library is in some sense a reflection of its readers, it is also an image of that which we are not, and cannot be.

~Alberto Manguel

I like to imagine that, on the day after my last, my library and I will crumble together, so that even when I am no more I'll still be with my books.

~Alberto Manguel

But at night, when the library lamps are lit, the outside world disappears and nothing but the space of books remains in existence.

~Alberto Manguel

Old books that we have known but not possessed cross our path and invite themselves over. New books try to seduce us daily with tempting titles and tantalizing covers.

~Alberto Manguel

Ultimately, the number of books always exceeds the space they are granted.

~Alberto Manguel

The starting point is a question.

~Alberto Manguel

Unpacking books is a revelatory activity.

~Alberto Manguel

Existing libraries, in their very being, seem to question the authority of those in power.

~Alberto Manguel

I enjoyed learning the poems, but I didn't understand of what use they might possibly be. 'They'll keep you company on the day you have no books to read,' my teacher said.

~Alberto Manguel

In any of my pages in any of my books may lie a perfect account of my secret experience of the world.

~Alberto Manguel

All these are readers, and their gestures, their craft, the pleasure, the responsibility and the power they derive from reading, are common with mine. I am not alone.

~Alberto Manguel

I know that something dies when I give up my books, and that my memory keeps going back to them with mournful nostalgia.

~Alberto Manguel

Deadlines come as a surprise....superb: a new genre, in fact, combining the pleasures of list-making with that of last-minute eaves-dropping.

~Alberto Manguel

A book brings its own history to the reader.

~Alberto Manguel

Readers are bullied in schoolyards and in locker-rooms as much as in government offices and prisons.

~Alberto Manguel

The world encyclopedia, the universal library, exists, and it is the world itself.

~Alberto Manguel

Most readers, then and now, have at some time experienced the humiliation of being told that their occupation is reprehensible.

~Alberto Manguel

Reality deals in specifics under the guise of generalities. Literature does the contrary.

~Alberto Manguel

In every literate society, learning to read is something of an initiation, a ritualized passage out of a state of dependency and rudimentary communication.

~Alberto Manguel

Slothful, feeble, pretentious, pedantic, elitist - these are some of the epithets that eventually become associated with the absent minded scholar, the poor sighted reader, the book worm, the nerd.

~Alberto Manguel

Socrates affirmed that only that which the reader already knows can be sparked by a reading, and that the knowledge cannot be acquired through dead letters.

~Alberto Manguel

Reading is at the beginning of the social contract.

~Alberto Manguel

Books read in a public library never have the same flavour as books read in the attic or the kitchen.

~Alberto Manguel

There is a line of poetry, a sentence in a fable, a word in an essay, by which my existence is justified; find that line, and immortality is assured.

~Alberto Manguel

The telling of stories creates the real world.

~Alberto Manguel

In my fool hardy youth, when my friends were dreaming of heroic deeds in the realms of engineering and law, finance and national politics, I dreamt of becoming a librarian.

~Alberto Manguel

In a library, no empty shelf remains empty for long.

~Alberto Manguel

At night, here in the library, the ghosts have voices.

~Alberto Manguel

One can transform a place by reading in it.

~Alberto Manguel

We read to understand, or to begin to understand. We cannot do but to read. Reading almost as much as breathing, is our essential function.

~Alberto Manguel

Reading is the occupation of the insomniac par excellence.

~Alberto Manguel

Digestion of words as well; I often read aloud to myself in my writing corner in the library, where no one can hear me, for the sake of better savouring the text, so as to make it all the more mine.

~Alberto Manguel

When literature is discovered, a revelation occurs: the joyful, exultant knowledge that anything can happen.

~Alberto Manguel

I wanted to live among books.

~Alberto Manguel

I never talked to anyone about my reading; the need to share came afterwards.

~Alberto Manguel

During the day, the library is a realm of order.

~Alberto Manguel

As we read a text in our own language, the text itself becomes a barrier.

~Alberto Manguel

The world that is a book is devoured by a reader who is a letter in the world's text; thus a circular metaphor is created for the endlessness of reading; We are what we read.

~Alberto Manguel

Readers, censors know, are defined by the books they read.

~Alberto Manguel

If the library in the morning suggests an echo of the severe and reasonable wishful order of the world, the library at night seems to rejoice in the world's essential, joyful muddle.

~Alberto Manguel

In our day, computer technology and the proliferation of books on CD-ROM have not affected - as far as statistics show - the production and sale of books in their old-fashioned codex form.

~Alberto Manguel

We are losing our common vocabulary, built over thousands of years to help and delight and instruct us, for the sake of what we take to be the new technology's virtues.

~Alberto Manguel

Every text assumes a reader.

~Alberto Manguel

Not until I came to Canada did I realize that snow was a four-letter word.

~Alberto Manguel

Every reader has found charms by which to secure possession of a page that, by magic, becomes as if never read before, fresh and immaculate.

~Alberto Manguel

Darkness promotes speech.

~Alberto Manguel

From fire, water, the passage of time, neglectful readers, and the hand of the censor, each of my books has escaped to tell me its story.

~Alberto Manguel

But a reader's ambition knows no bounds.

~Alberto Manguel

The readers who committed suicide after reading 'Werther' were not ideal but merely sentimental readers.

~Alberto Manguel

I quickly learned that reading is cumulative and proceeds by geometrical progression: each new reading builds upon whatever the reader has read before.

~Alberto Manguel

Evil requires no reason.

~Alberto Manguel

We seem to live a culture that doesn't want blemishes. The vision of most beautiful models... airbrushed in order to be seen as perfect, infects our notion of how literature should be written.

~Alberto Manguel

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