

# Ama Ata Aidoo

## Quotes

*People, Writing, Sometimes, Memories, Men, Unlikely, Making Memories,  
Sweet, Needs, Remains, Loneliness, Bored, Lunch, Progress, Wonder, Way,  
Careers, Time, Conclusion, No Matter What*

For us Africans, literature must serve a purpose: to expose, embarrass, and fight corruption and authoritarianism. It is understandable why the African artist is utilitarian.

~Ama Ata Aidoo

Humans, not places, make memories.

~Ama Ata Aidoo

There are powerful forces undermining progress in Africa. But one must never underestimate the power of the people to bring about change.

~Ama Ata Aidoo

Time by itself means nothing, no matter how fast it moves, unless we give it something to carry for us; something we value. Because it is such a precious vehicle, is time.

~Ama Ata Aidoo

People are worms, and even the God who created them is immensely bored with their antics.

~Ama Ata Aidoo

No matter what anybody says, we can't have it all. Not if you are a woman. Not yet.

~Ama Ata Aidoo

the best way to sharpen a knife is not to whet one side of it only. And neither can you solve a riddle by considering only one end of it.

~Ama Ata Aidoo

They had always told me that I wrote like a man.

~Ama Ata Aidoo

Ghana is like a lion without a head

~Ama Ata Aidoo

Politicians are easy to attack, but frankly, we are all guilty of not meeting the needs of Africa's young people properly.

~Ama Ata Aidoo

Once in a while I catch myself wondering whether I would have found the courage to write if I had not started to write when I was too young to know what was good for me.

~Ama Ata Aidoo

At the age of 15, a teacher had asked me what I wanted to do for a career, and without knowing why or even how I replied that I wanted to be a poet.

~Ama Ata Aidoo

Its a sad moment, really, when parents first become a bit frightened of their children.

~Ama Ata Aidoo

Things are working out... towards their dazzling conclusions.

~Ama Ata Aidoo

Once an interesting idea or theme occurs to me then I would want to write a poem about it. The rest, frankly, is not difficult.

~Ama Ata Aidoo

The very old certainly do not go back on lunch remains but they do bite back at old conversational topics.

~Ama Ata Aidoo

I've written poems about gifts. Life is inspirational; sometimes it comes from the most unlikely places.

~Ama Ata Aidoo

Sometimes a word or an argument will trigger a poem.

~Ama Ata Aidoo

I always wanted to write poetry, even when I was very young.

~Ama Ata Aidoo

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