

Anatole Broyard Quotes

*Book, Writing, People, Reading, Sex, Men, Teeth, Three, Want, Aphorism,
Character, Tragedy, Play, Missing, Country, Home, Tourism, Tone, Cities,
Parent*

Aphorisms are bad for novels. They stick in the reader's teeth.

~Anatole Broyard

The contents of someone's bookcase are part of his history, like an ancestral portrait.

~Anatole Broyard

To be misunderstood can be the writer's punishment for having disturbed the reader's peace. The greater the disturbance, the greater the possibility of misunderstanding.

~Anatole Broyard

If a book is really good, it deserves to be read again, and if it's great, it should be read at least three times.

~Anatole Broyard

In an age like ours, which is not given to letter-writing, we forget what an important part it used to play in people's lives.

~Anatole Broyard

Rome was a poem pressed into service as a city.

~Anatole Broyard

The first divorce in the world may have been a tragedy, but the hundred-millionth is not necessarily one.

~Anatole Broyard

A bookcase is as good as a view, as much of a panorama as the sight of a city or a river. There are dawns and sunsets in books - storms and zephyrs.

~Anatole Broyard

The more I like a book, the more reluctant I am to turn the page. Lovers, even book lovers, tend to cling. No one-night stands or "reads"

for them.

~Anatole Broyard

There are few things more subtly distressing than an inappropriate gift from someone close to you.

~Anatole Broyard

The tension between 'yes' and no', between 'I can' and 'I cannot,' makes us feel that, in so many instances, human life is an interminable debate with one's self.

~Anatole Broyard

It is one of the paradoxes of American literature that our writers are forever looking back with love and nostalgia at lives they couldn't wait to leave.

~Anatole Broyard

We are all tourists in history, and irony is what we win in wars.

~Anatole Broyard

When friends stop being frank and useful to each other, the whole world loses some of its radiance.

~Anatole Broyard

Either a writer doesn't want to talk about his work, or he talks about it more than you want.

~Anatole Broyard

A book is meant not only to be read, but to haunt you, to importune you like a lover or a parent, to be in your teeth like a piece of gristle.

~Anatole Broyard

There was a time when we expected nothing of our children but obedience, as opposed to the present, when we expect everything of

them but obedience.

~Anatole Broyard

I remember a table in Barchester Towers that had more character than the combined heroes of three recent novels I've read.

~Anatole Broyard

Chic is a convent for unloved women.

~Anatole Broyard

An aphorism is a generalization of sorts, and our present-day writers seem more at home with the particular.

~Anatole Broyard

People ... have no idea what a hard job it is for two writers to be friends. Sooner or later you have to talk about each other's work.

~Anatole Broyard

Two people making love, she once said, are like one drowned person resuscitating the other.

~Anatole Broyard

For years they have been using the role of 'sex object' as a cover while they spied out the land.

~Anatole Broyard

We don't simply read books. We become them.

~Anatole Broyard

Ruefulness is one of the classical tones of American fiction. It fosters a native, deglamorized form of anxiety.

~Anatole Broyard

Paranoids are the only ones who notice things anymore.

~Anatole Broyard

There is something about seeing real people on a stage that makes a bad play more intimately, more personally offensive than any other art form.

~Anatole Broyard

The moment a book is lent I begin to miss it.

~Anatole Broyard

A whole generation of writers dined out on the dialectic between original cultures and their culture by "progress.

~Anatole Broyard

The more I like a book, the more slowly I read. this spontaneous talking back to a book is one of the things that makes reading so valuable.

~Anatole Broyard

I feel about lending a book the way most fathers feel about their daughters living with a man out of wedlock.

~Anatole Broyard

Sometimes it seems that we might have been happier if we had once had an aristocracy to blame everything on.

~Anatole Broyard

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