

# Beverly Cleary Quotes

*Book, Children, Reading, Writing, Mother, Teacher, Want, School, Boys, Real,  
Father, People, Giving, Years, Mean, Librarian, Library, Girl, Know How,  
Growing Up*

I hope children will be happy with the books I've written, and go on to be readers all of their lives.

~Beverly Cleary

One rainy Sunday when I was in the third grade, I picked up a book to look at the pictures and discovered that even though I did not want to, I was reading. I have been a reader ever since.

~Beverly Cleary

With twins, reading aloud to them was the only chance I could get to sit down. I read them picture books until they were reading on their own.

~Beverly Cleary

If you don't see the book you want on the shelves, write it.

~Beverly Cleary

Quite often somebody will say, What year do your books take place? and the only answer I can give is, In childhood.

~Beverly Cleary

Children should learn that reading is pleasure, not just something that teachers make you do in school.

~Beverly Cleary

She was not a slowpoke grownup. She was a girl who could not wait. Life was so interesting she had to find out what happened next.

~Beverly Cleary

I didn't start out writing to give children hope, but I'm glad some of them found it.

~Beverly Cleary

Nothing in the whole world felt as good as being able to make something from a sudden idea.

~Beverly Cleary

I wanted to be a ballerina. I changed my mind.

~Beverly Cleary

Neither the mouse nor the boy was the least bit surprised that each could understand the other. Two creatures who shared a love for motorcycles naturally spoke the same language.

~Beverly Cleary

As a child, I disliked books in which children learned to be 'better' children.

~Beverly Cleary

I don't necessarily start with the beginning of the book. I just start with the part of the story that's most vivid in my imagination and work forward and backward from there.

~Beverly Cleary

The key to writing successful YA is to keep the adults out of the story as much as possible.

~Beverly Cleary

I grew up before there were strict leash laws.

~Beverly Cleary

Didn't the people who made those license plates care about little girls named Ramona?

~Beverly Cleary

In seventh grade...I found a place on the [library]shelf where my book would be if I ever wrote a book, which I doubted.

~Beverly Cleary

She means well, but she always manages to do the wrong thing. She has a real talent for it.

~Beverly Cleary

I feel sometimes that in children's books there are more and more grim problems, but I don't know that I want to burden third- and fourth-graders with them.

~Beverly Cleary

I don't think children's inner feelings have changed. They still want a mother and father in the very same house; they want places to play.

~Beverly Cleary

We didn't have television in those days, and many people didn't even have radios. My mother would read aloud to my father and me in the evening.

~Beverly Cleary

I had a very wise mother. She always kept books that were my grade level in our house.

~Beverly Cleary

I enjoy writing for third and fourth graders most of all.

~Beverly Cleary

Don't stop now. Go ahead! Be readers all of your lives. And don't forget, librarians and teachers can help you find the right books to read.

~Beverly Cleary

I was a great reader of fairy tales. I tried to read the entire fairy tale section of the library.

~Beverly Cleary

I write in longhand on yellow legal pads.

~Beverly Cleary

Children want to do what grownups do.

~Beverly Cleary

What interests me is what children go through while growing up.

~Beverly Cleary

Today I discovered two kinds of people who go to high school: those who wear new clothes to show off on the first day, and those who wear their oldest clothes to show they think school is unimportant.

~Beverly Cleary

Otis was inspired by a boy who sat across the aisle from me in sixth grade. He was a lively person. My best friend appears in assorted books in various disguises.

~Beverly Cleary

I am not a pest," Ramona Quimby told her big sister Beezus.

~Beverly Cleary

My mother would read aloud to my father and me in the evening. She read mainly travel books.

~Beverly Cleary

I was a very observant child. The boys in my books are based on boys in my neighborhood growing up.

~Beverly Cleary

Problem solving, and I don't mean algebra, seems to be my life's work. Maybe it's everyone's life's work.

~Beverly Cleary

Writers are good at plucking out what they need here and there.

~Beverly Cleary

I just wrote about childhood as I had known it.

~Beverly Cleary

People are usually surprised to hear this, but I don't really read children's books.

~Beverly Cleary

I have lovely memories of Los Angeles in the 1930s. I came down to live with my mother's cousin and they invited me to come and go to junior college for a year.

~Beverly Cleary

If she can't spell, why is she a librarian? Librarians should know how to spell.

~Beverly Cleary

I think the best teachers had a real interest in the subject they were teaching and a love for children.

~Beverly Cleary

I read my books aloud before they were published.

~Beverly Cleary

I was an only child; I didn't have a sister, or sisters.

~Beverly Cleary

He was dressed as if everything he wore had come from different stores or from a rummage sale, except that the crease in his trousers was sharp and his shoes were shined.

~Beverly Cleary

I don't ever go on the Internet. I don't even know how it works.

~Beverly Cleary

The humiliation that Jane had felt turned to something else--grief perhaps, or regret. Regret that she had not known how to act with a boy, regret that she had not been wiser.

~Beverly Cleary

All knowledge is valuable to a librarian.

~Beverly Cleary

### **Related Links:**

- [Book Quotes](#)
- [Children Quotes](#)
- [Reading Quotes](#)
- [Writing Quotes](#)
- [Mother Quotes](#)
- [Teacher Quotes](#)
- [Want Quotes](#)
- [School Quotes](#)
- [Boys Quotes](#)
- [Real Quotes](#)
- [Father Quotes](#)
- [People Quotes](#)
- [Giving Quotes](#)
- [Years Quotes](#)
- [Mean Quotes](#)
- [Librarian Quotes](#)
- [Library Quotes](#)
- [Girl Quotes](#)
- [Know How Quotes](#)
- [Growing Up Quotes](#)