

# Carlos Fuentes

## Quotes

*Writing, Latin, Book, Country, Past, America, Needs, Mean, Black, Order,  
Reality, Thinking, Mexican, Literature, Animal, Imagination, Character, Like You,  
Hero, Giving*

Don't classify me, read me. I'm a writer, not a genre.

~Carlos Fuentes

Recognize yourself in he and she who are not like you and me.

~Carlos Fuentes

Writing is a struggle against silence.

~Carlos Fuentes

The United States has written the white history of the United States. It now needs to write the black, Latino, Indian, Asian and Caribbean history of the United States.

~Carlos Fuentes

Art gives life to what history killed. Art gives voice to what history denied, silenced, or persecuted. Art brings truth to the lies of history.

~Carlos Fuentes

I need, therefore I imagine.

~Carlos Fuentes

One wants to tell a story, like Scheherezade, in order not to die. It's one of the oldest urges in mankind. It's a way of stalling death.

~Carlos Fuentes

What's happened at the Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq is one of the grossest violations of human rights under the Geneva Conventions that we have record of. It is simply monstrous.

~Carlos Fuentes

Literature overtakes history, for literature gives you more than one life. It expands experience and opens new opportunities to readers.

~Carlos Fuentes

You start by writing to live. You end by writing so as not to die.

~Carlos Fuentes

Culture consists of connections, not of separations: to specialize is to isolate.

~Carlos Fuentes

No government functions without the grease of corruption.

~Carlos Fuentes

Religion is dogmatic. Politic is ideological. Reason must be logical, but literature has a privilege of being equivocal.

~Carlos Fuentes

There is no creation without tradition; the 'new' is an inflection on a preceding form; novelty is always a variation on the past.

~Carlos Fuentes

Retrospectively, I would agree with Luis Bunuel that sex without sin is like an egg without salt.

~Carlos Fuentes

The language of Mexicans springs from abysmal extremes of power and impotence, domination and resentment.

~Carlos Fuentes

What America does best is to understand itself. What it does worst is to understand others.

~Carlos Fuentes

Love can isolate us from everything around us. But in its absence, we can be filled with the fear that something comparable exists.

~Carlos Fuentes

chaos: it has no plural.

~Carlos Fuentes

The possibility of being as free with the camera as we are with the pen is a fantastic prospect for the creative life of the 21st century.

~Carlos Fuentes

I live through risk. Without risk there is no art. You should always be on the edge of a cliff about to fall down and break your neck.

~Carlos Fuentes

By its very nature, the novel indicates that we are becoming. There is no final solution. There is no last word.

~Carlos Fuentes

The Mexicans descend from the Aztecs; the Peruvians descend from the Incas; the Argentineans descend from the boats.

~Carlos Fuentes

Perfect order is the forerunner of perfect horror.

~Carlos Fuentes

The French equate intelligence with rational discourse, the Russians with intense soul-searching. For the Mexican, intelligence is inseparable from maliciousness.

~Carlos Fuentes

Reading, writing, teaching, learning, are all activities aimed at introducing civilizations to each other.

~Carlos Fuentes

Incredible the animal that first dreamed of another animal.

~Carlos Fuentes

Cuba needs a dose of perestroika.

~Carlos Fuentes

I started my own magazine with drawings, commentary, news, film reviews and drawings.

~Carlos Fuentes

The new world economic order is not an exercise in philanthropy, but in enlightened self-interest for everyone concerned.

~Carlos Fuentes

Contrary to the macho culture of Mexico, both my grandmothers were very brave young widows. I was always very close to these hard-working, intelligent women.

~Carlos Fuentes

In Latin America, even atheists are Catholics.

~Carlos Fuentes

Death is the great Maecenas, Death is the great angel of writing. You must write because you are not going to live any more.

~Carlos Fuentes

I use a lot of film images, analogies, and imagination.

~Carlos Fuentes

I don't think any good book is based on factual experience. Bad books are about things the writer already knew before he wrote them.

~Carlos Fuentes

My system for staying young is to work a lot, to always have a project on the go.

~Carlos Fuentes

There must be something beyond slaughter and barbarism to support the existence of mankind and we must all help search for it.

~Carlos Fuentes

Mexico is a very complex, mysterious country. I will never understand it fully, and that's why I write so much about it, in order to try to understand it.

~Carlos Fuentes

I like fighting. I get into rows all the time.

~Carlos Fuentes

The United States condoned dictatorships in Latin America for much of the 20th century.

~Carlos Fuentes

In the name of certainty, the greatest crimes have been committed against humanity.

~Carlos Fuentes

Here among my books, my wife, my friends and my loves, I have plenty of reasons to keep living.

~Carlos Fuentes

Memory is satisfied desire.

~Carlos Fuentes

The women I have loved I have desired for themselves, but also because I feared myself.

~Carlos Fuentes

I have two children who died before reaching 30, so who am I to complain about being alive?

~Carlos Fuentes

I am not interested in slice of life, what I want is a slice of the imagination.

~Carlos Fuentes

I must write the book out in my head now, before I sit down.

~Carlos Fuentes

I have no literary fears.

~Carlos Fuentes

At 50 I find there is a long line of characters and shapes demanding words just outside my window.

~Carlos Fuentes

I had the good fortune of having a happy, closely knit family.

~Carlos Fuentes

I am a literary animal. For me, everything ends in literature.

~Carlos Fuentes

One puts off the biography like you put off death. To write an autobiography is to etch the words on your own gravestone.

~Carlos Fuentes

The citizen takes his city for granted far too often. He forgets to marvel.

~Carlos Fuentes

In literature, you know only what you imagine

~Carlos Fuentes

I've lost audiences, I've recovered them.

~Carlos Fuentes

There is no creation without tradition. No one creates from nothing.

~Carlos Fuentes

Some writers achieve great popularity and then disappear forever. The bestseller lists of the past fifty years are, with a few lively exceptions, a sombre graveyard of dead books.

~Carlos Fuentes

I always felt a little worm inside me: 'Now you need to write a novel with a woman protagonist.'

~Carlos Fuentes

To read and write is a paradise.

~Carlos Fuentes



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