

Chinua Achebe

Quotes

Men, People, Thinking, Writing, Thought Provoking, Stories, Children, World, Book, Art, Country, Doe, Want, Mother, Reality, Important, Humanity, Giving, Different, Okonkwo

In dealing with a man who thinks you are a fool, it is good sometimes to remind him that you know what he knows but have chosen to appear foolish for the sake of peace.

~Chinua Achebe

There is that great proverb "that until the lions have their own historians, the history of the hunt will always glorify the hunter.

~Chinua Achebe

Nobody can teach me who I am. You can describe parts of me, but who I am - and what I need - is something I have to find out myself.

~Chinua Achebe

People say that if you find water rising up to your ankle, that's the time to do something about it, not when it's around your neck.

~Chinua Achebe

Become familiar with your home, but know also about your neighbors. The young man who never went anywhere thinks his mother is the greatest cook.

~Chinua Achebe

The damage done in one year can sometimes take ten or twenty years to repair.

~Chinua Achebe

When brothers fight to death a stranger inherit their father's estate

~Chinua Achebe

If you only hear one side of the story, you have no understanding at all.

~Chinua Achebe

As long as one people sit on another and are deaf to their cry, so long will understanding and peace elude all of us.

~Chinua Achebe

One of the truest tests of integrity is its blunt refusal to be compromised.

~Chinua Achebe

The world is like a Mask dancing. If you want to see it well, you do not stand in one place.

~Chinua Achebe

A man who pays respect to the great paves the way for his own greatness

~Chinua Achebe

Every generation must recognize and embrace the task it is peculiarly designed by history and by providence to perform.

~Chinua Achebe

A goat does not eat into a hen's stomach no matter how friendly the two may be.

~Chinua Achebe

The impatient idealist says: 'Give me a place to stand and I shall move the earth.' But such a place does not exist. We all have to stand on the earth itself and go with her at her pace.

~Chinua Achebe

There is a moral obligation, I think, not to ally oneself with power against the powerless.

~Chinua Achebe

A functioning, robust democracy requires a healthy educated, participatory followership, and an educated, morally grounded leadership.

~Chinua Achebe

The sun will shine on those who stand before it shines on those who kneel under them.

~Chinua Achebe

There is no story that is not true.

~Chinua Achebe

We cannot trample upon the humanity of others without devaluing our own.

~Chinua Achebe

A man of worth never gets up to unsay what he said yesterday.

~Chinua Achebe

When suffering knocks at your door and you say there is no seat for him, he tells you not to worry because he has brought his own stool.

~Chinua Achebe

You might as well say that the woman lies on top of the man when they are making the babies.

~Chinua Achebe

Privilege, you see, is one of the great adversaries of the imagination; it spreads a thick layer of adipose tissue over our sensitivity.

~Chinua Achebe

...when we are comfortable and inattentive, we run the risk of committing grave injustices absentmindedly.

~Chinua Achebe

While we do our good works let us not forget that the real solution lies in a world in which charity will have become unnecessary.

~Chinua Achebe

If you have leaders who are prepared to incite group against group it is very easy to manufacture reasons and excuses.

~Chinua Achebe

When a mad man walks naked, it is his kinsmen who feel shame, not himself.

~Chinua Achebe

Nobody can teach me who I am.

~Chinua Achebe

As a rule I don't like suffering to no purpose. Suffering should be creative, should give birth to something good and lovely.

~Chinua Achebe

When a coward sees a man he can beat he becomes hungry for a fight.

~Chinua Achebe

Charity . . . is the opium of the privileged.

~Chinua Achebe

The price a world language must be prepared to pay is submission to many different kinds of use.

~Chinua Achebe

Whatever music you beat on your drum there is somebody who can dance to it.

~Chinua Achebe

What a country needs to do is be fair to all its citizens - whether people are of a different ethnicity or gender.

~Chinua Achebe

Art is man's constant effort to create for himself a different order of reality from that which is given to him.

~Chinua Achebe

Among the Igbo the art of conversation is regarded very highly, and proverbs are the palm-oil with which words are eaten.

~Chinua Achebe

People create stories create people; or rather stories create people create stories.

~Chinua Achebe

Literature, whether handed down by word or mouth or in print, gives us a second handle on reality.

~Chinua Achebe

The only thing we have learnt from experience is that we learn nothing from experience.

~Chinua Achebe

An angry man is always a stupid man.

~Chinua Achebe

The whole idea of a stereotype is to simplify. Instead of going through the problem of all this great diversity - that it's this or maybe that - you have just one large statement; it is this.

~Chinua Achebe

You do not know me,' said Tortoise. 'I am a changed man. I have learned that a man who makes trouble for others makes trouble for himself.

~Chinua Achebe

Dancing is very important nowadays. No girl will look at you if you can't dance.

~Chinua Achebe

The lizard that jumped from a high Iroko tree to the ground said he would praise himself if no-one else did.

~Chinua Achebe

If you don't like someone's story, write your own.

~Chinua Achebe

People go to Africa and confirm what they already have in their heads and so they fail to see what is there in front of them.

~Chinua Achebe

An artist in my view is always afraid of extremists; he is always afraid of those who claim to have found the ultimate solution to any question.

~Chinua Achebe

Living fire begets cold, impotent ash.

~Chinua Achebe

No man however great is greater than his people

~Chinua Achebe

There is no story that is not true, [...] The world has no end, and what is good among one people is an abomination with others.

~Chinua Achebe

And theories are no more than fictions which help us to make sense of experience and which are subject to disconfirmation when their explanations are no longer adequate.

~Chinua Achebe

No matter how prosperous a man was, if he was unable to rule his women and his children (and especially his women) he was not really a man.

~Chinua Achebe

Nigeria is what it is because its leaders are not what they should be.

~Chinua Achebe

Do you blame a vulture for perching over a carcass?

~Chinua Achebe

Africa is to Europe as the picture is to Dorian Gray-a carrier onto whom the master unloads his physical & moral deformities

~Chinua Achebe

When a tradition gathers enough strength to go on for centuries, you don't just turn it off one day.

~Chinua Achebe

Do not be in a hurry to rush into the pleasures of the world like the young antelope who danced herself lame when the main dance was yet to come.

~Chinua Achebe

A man who makes trouble for others is also making trouble for himself.

~Chinua Achebe

When old people speak it is not because of the sweetness of words in our mouths; it is because we see something which you do not see.

~Chinua Achebe

Procrastination is a lazy man's apology.

~Chinua Achebe

An old woman is always uneasy when dry bones are mentioned in a proverb

~Chinua Achebe

When an old man dies, a library burns to the ground.

~Chinua Achebe

I am against people reaping where they have not sown. But we have a saying that if you want to eat a toad you should look for a fat and juicy one.

~Chinua Achebe

An artist, in my understanding of the word, should side with the people against the Emperor that oppresses his or her people.

~Chinua Achebe

My son even if you want to fall, at least fall where your bones can be gathered

~Chinua Achebe

A debt may get mouldy, but it never decays.

~Chinua Achebe

Every lizard lies on its belly, so we cannot tell which has a belly-ache

~Chinua Achebe

I think back to the old people I knew when I was growing up, and they always seemed larger than life.

~Chinua Achebe

It has always been quite apparent to me that no important story can fail to tell us something of value to us.

~Chinua Achebe

If you don't like someone's story, write your own. If you don't like what somebody says, say what it is you don't like.

~Chinua Achebe

Nigeria has had a complicated colonial history. My work has examined that part of our story extensively.

~Chinua Achebe

It is praiseworthy to be brave and fearless, but sometimes it is better to be a coward. We often stand in the compound of a coward to point at the ruins where a brave man used to live.

~Chinua Achebe

...Nothing puzzles God

~Chinua Achebe

The most awful thing about power is not that it corrupts absolutely but that it makes people so utterly boring, so predictable.

~Chinua Achebe

You must develop the habit of skepticism, not swallow every piece of superstition you are told by witch-doctors and professors.

~Chinua Achebe

When the moon is shining the cripple becomes hungry for a walk

~Chinua Achebe

When I think of the standing, the importance and the erudition of all these people who see nothing about racism in Heart of Darkness, I'm convinced that we must really be living in different worlds.

~Chinua Achebe

The problem with leaderless uprisings taking over is that you don't always know what you get at the other end. If you are not careful you

could replace a bad government with one much worse!

~Chinua Achebe

Once you allow yourself to identify with the people in a story, then you might begin to see yourself in that story even if on the surface it's far removed from your situation.

~Chinua Achebe

As our fathers said, you can tell a ripe corn by its look.

~Chinua Achebe

It is the storyteller who makes us what we are, who creates history. The storyteller creates the memory that the survivors must have - otherwise their surviving would have no meaning.

~Chinua Achebe

Just think of the work you've set yourself to do, and do it as well as you can.

~Chinua Achebe

If I hold her hand she says, "Don't touch!" If I hold her foot she says "Don't touch!" But when I hold her waist-beads she pretends not to know.

~Chinua Achebe

Democracy is not something you put away for ten years, and then in the 11th year you wake up and start practicing again. We have to begin to learn to rule ourselves again.

~Chinua Achebe

Writers don't give prescriptions. They give headaches!

~Chinua Achebe

What a man does not know is greater than he.

~Chinua Achebe

The singer should sing well even if it is merely to himself, rather than dance badly for the whole world.

~Chinua Achebe

My weapon is literature

~Chinua Achebe

Stories serve the purpose of consolidating whatever gains people or their leaders have made or imagine they have made in their existing journey thorough the world.

~Chinua Achebe

A disease that has never been seen before cannot be cured with every-day herbs.

~Chinua Achebe

We do not seek to hurt any man, but if any man seeks to hurt us may he break his neck.

~Chinua Achebe

In such a regime, I say, you died a good death if your life had inspired someone to come forward and shoot your murderer in the chest-without asking to be paid.

~Chinua Achebe

A man's life from birth to death was a series of transition rites which brought him nearer and nearer to his ancestors.

~Chinua Achebe

They have not always elected the best leaders, particularly after a long period in which they have not used this facility of free election. You tend to lose the habit.

~Chinua Achebe

When Rimbaud became a slave trader, he stopped writing poetry.

~Chinua Achebe

If you're rooted to a spot, you miss a lot of the grace. So you keep moving, and this is the way I think the world's stories should be told - from many different perspectives.

~Chinua Achebe

The women are, of course, the biggest single group of oppressed people in the world and, if we are to believe the Book of Genesis, the very oldest.

~Chinua Achebe

I grew up recognizing that there was nobody to give me any advice and that you do your best and if it's not good enough, someday you will come to terms with that.

~Chinua Achebe

A toad does not run in the daytime for nothing

~Chinua Achebe

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