

# Clifton Fadiman

## Quotes

*Wine, Book, Men, Reading, Children, Writing, Home, Vineyards, Mind, Cheesy,  
Food, Bottles, Funny, Art, Cooking, Thinking, Imagination, Mileage, Friendship,  
Insomnia*

To take wine into your mouth is to savor a droplet of the river of human history.

~Clifton Fadiman

I think we must quote whenever we feel that the allusion is interesting or helpful or amusing.

~Clifton Fadiman

If food is the body of good living, wine is its soul.

~Clifton Fadiman

Experience teaches you that the man who looks you straight in the eye, particularly if he adds a firm handshake, is hiding something.

~Clifton Fadiman

When you travel, remember that a foreign country is not designed to make you comfortable. It is designed to make its own people comfortable.

~Clifton Fadiman

A bottle of wine begs to be shared; I have never met a miserly wine lover.

~Clifton Fadiman

Wine is poetry in a bottle.

~Clifton Fadiman

One measure of friendship consists not in the number of things friends can discuss, but in the number of things they need no longer mention.

~Clifton Fadiman

The adjective is the banana peel of the parts of speech.

~Clifton Fadiman

Insomnia is a gross feeder. It will nourish itself on any kind of thinking, including thinking about not thinking.

~Clifton Fadiman

Books act like a developing fluid on film. That is, they bring into consciousness what you didn't know you knew.

~Clifton Fadiman

The man who attracts luck carries with him the magnet of preparation.

~Clifton Fadiman

When you reread a classic, you do not see more in the book than you did before; you see more in you than there was before.

~Clifton Fadiman

A cheese may disappoint. It may be dull, it may be naive, it may be oversophisticated. Yet it remains cheese, milk's leap toward immortality.

~Clifton Fadiman

A good memory is one trained to forget the trivial.

~Clifton Fadiman

Cheese is milk's leap towards immortality.

~Clifton Fadiman

For most men, life is a search for the proper Manila envelope in which to get themselves filed.

~Clifton Fadiman

The drinking of wine seems to me to have a moral edge over many pleasures and hobbies in that it promotes love of one's neighbor.

~Clifton Fadiman

We are all citizens of history.

~Clifton Fadiman

The German mind has a talent for making no mistakes but the very greatest.

~Clifton Fadiman

One's first book, kiss, home run is always the best.

~Clifton Fadiman

Wine is a civilizing agent.

~Clifton Fadiman

Mr. Faulkner, of course, is interested in making your mind rather than your flesh creep.

~Clifton Fadiman

Dr. Seuss provided "ingenious and uniquely witty solutions to the standing problem of the juvenile fantasy writer: how to find, not another Alice, but another rabbit hole.

~Clifton Fadiman

A sense of humor is the ability to understand a joke-and that the joke is oneself.

~Clifton Fadiman

We prefer to think that the absence of inverted commas guarantees the originality of a thought, whereas it may be merely that the utterer has forgotten its source.

~Clifton Fadiman

By the end of high school I was not of course an educated man, but I knew how to try to become one

~Clifton Fadiman

As between mileage and experience choose experience.

~Clifton Fadiman

Gertrude Stein was masterly in making nothing happen very slowly

~Clifton Fadiman

My main recollection is of the work I had to do in order to eat

~Clifton Fadiman

I tried to use the questions and answers as an armature on which to build a sculpture of genuine conversation

~Clifton Fadiman

A man who is careful with his palate is not likely to be careless with his paragraphs.

~Clifton Fadiman

Muhammad Ali: Superman Don't need no seat belt. Flight Attendant: Superman Don't need no airplane, either.

~Clifton Fadiman

One newspaper a day ought to be enough for anyone who still prefers to retain a little mental balance.

~Clifton Fadiman

If you want to feel at home, stay home.

~Clifton Fadiman

Liquor is not a necessity. It is a means of momentarily sidestepping necessity.

~Clifton Fadiman

There are two kinds of writers; the great ones who can give you truths, and the lesser ones, who can only give you themselves.

~Clifton Fadiman

Being a child is in itself a profession.

~Clifton Fadiman

Science fiction is a kind of archaeology of the future.

~Clifton Fadiman

I found nothing really wrong with this autobiography except poor choice of subject.

~Clifton Fadiman

The kind of poetry to avoid is the pretty-pretty kind that pleased our grandmothers, the kind that Longfellow and Tennyson, good poets at their best, wrote at their worst.

~Clifton Fadiman

Reading to small children is a specialty.

~Clifton Fadiman

The tantrums of cloth-headed celluloid idols are deemed fit for grown-up conversation, while silence settles over such a truly important matter as food.

~Clifton Fadiman

Socrates called himself a midwife of ideas. A great book is often such a midwife, delivering to full existence what has been coiled like an embryo in the dark, silent depths of the brain.

~Clifton Fadiman

Reading is not an operation performed on something inert but a relationship entered into with another vital being.

~Clifton Fadiman

The only reason for being young is to outgrow it.

~Clifton Fadiman

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