

Gunter Grass

Quotes

Men, Writing, Years, Memories, Art, Thinking, Children, Lying, Believe, Want, Age, Trying, Mother, Running, Coins, Ifs, Country, Puritan, Has Beens, Mind

The job of a citizen is to keep his mouth open.

~Gunter Grass

It makes me realise that the fantasy of nature is much larger than my own fantasy. I still have things to learn.

~Gunter Grass

Even if surrounded with explanations, Auschwitz can never be grasped.

~Gunter Grass

There must be reasons why we men are so hipped on breasts as if we'd all been weaned too soon.

~Gunter Grass

Even bad books are books and therefore sacred.

~Gunter Grass

We already have the statistics for the future: the growth percentages of pollution, overpopulation, desertification. The future is already in place.

~Gunter Grass

Translation is that which transforms everything so that nothing changes.

~Gunter Grass

Art is uncompromising, and life is full of compromises.

~Gunter Grass

And when the sun goes down and the mood comes upon me, I'll watch the play of the colors on the water, yield to the fleetly dissolving images, and turn into pure feeling, all soft and nice.

~Gunter Grass

How easily the routine of sin establishes itself.

~Gunter Grass

An empty bus hurtles through the starry night Perhaps the driver is singing and happy because he sings.

~Gunter Grass

Who can deny that the environment has been destroyed?

~Gunter Grass

On sorrow floats laughter.

~Gunter Grass

As a child I was a great liar. Fortunately my mother liked my lies. I promised her marvelous things.

~Gunter Grass

It's dangerous to watch staggering butterflies. They have a plan but it has no meaning.

~Gunter Grass

I expected more from literature than from real, naked life.

~Gunter Grass

I have found that words that are loaded with pathos and create a seductive euphoria are apt to promote nonsense.

~Gunter Grass

What makes books - and with them writers - so dangerous that church and state, politburos and the mass media feel the need to oppose them?

~Gunter Grass

I have often supported Israel, I have often visited the country and want

the country to exist and at last find peace with its neighbours.

~Gunter Grass

Believing: it means believing in our own lies. And I can say that I am grateful that I got this lesson very early.

~Gunter Grass

Melancholy and utopia are heads and tails of the same coin.

~Gunter Grass

Information networks straddle the world. Nothing remains concealed. But the sheer volume of information dissolves the information. We are unable to take it all in.

~Gunter Grass

The patience of poverty. In rice fields, backs bent forever. Amazing, man outoxens the oxen and still smiles. The mystery of India, say Indologists.

~Gunter Grass

Whenever there has been talk of exterminating rats, others, who were not rats, have been exterminated.

~Gunter Grass

Art is so wonderfully irrational, exuberantly pointless, but necessary all the same. Pointless and yet necessary, that's hard for a puritan to understand.

~Gunter Grass

...I remain restless and dissatisfied; what I knot with my right hand, I undo with my left, what my left hand creates, my right fist shatters

~Gunter Grass

In statistics, what disappears behind rows of numbers is death.

~Gunter Grass

One of the mistakes the Germans made ... was that they were not brave enough to be afraid.

~Gunter Grass

Art is hard for a puritan to understand.

~Gunter Grass

I am not faithful but I am attached.

~Gunter Grass

Can it be that action is active resignation? Something is trying to develop; it moves ever so slightly, and there comes your man of action and bashes in the hothouse windows.

~Gunter Grass

I did not volunteer for the Waffen SS, but was, as were thousands of my year group, conscripted. I did not then know as a 17-year-old that it was a criminal unit. I thought it was an elite unit.

~Gunter Grass

You are vain and wicked- as a genius should be.

~Gunter Grass

I belonged to the generation that grew up under National Socialism, and was blinded and led astray - and allowed itself to be led astray.

~Gunter Grass

When Satan's not in the mood, virtue triumphs. Hasn't even Satan a right not to be in the mood once in a while?

~Gunter Grass

Art is accusation, expression, passion. Art is black charcoal crushing

white paper.

~Gunter Grass

Everything bigger than life attracts a crowd.

~Gunter Grass

If I were asked to think up a new name for temptation, I should recommend the word 'doorknob', because what are these protuberances put on doors for if not to tempt us.

~Gunter Grass

Students who don't want to get anywhere are sure to get somewhere.

~Gunter Grass

When the young woman leans over the sky, about to water the flowers as well as the weeds, her white front splits open until her milk runs.

~Gunter Grass

Writers know that sometimes things are there in the drawer for decades before they finally come out and you are capable of writing about them.

~Gunter Grass

[To be an artist,] this desire to conquer all with images.

~Gunter Grass

Often I had to imagine the things I needed. I learned very early to read amidst noise. And so I started writing and drawing at an early age.

~Gunter Grass

[America is] the land where people find whatever they have lost.

~Gunter Grass

Everyone is born into a certain era. I wouldn't want to see anyone faced with the circumstances that prevailed at the time, when there were few

or no alternatives.

~Gunter Grass

Today I know that all things are watching, that nothing goes unseen, that even wallpaper has a better memory than human beings.

~Gunter Grass

If Jesus had been a hunchback, they could hardly have nailed him to the cross.

~Gunter Grass

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