

Gustave Flaubert Quotes

*Art, Writing, Literature, Book, Men, Heart, Beautiful, Dream, Soul, Thinking,
Long, Inspirational, Passion, Life, Stupid, Believe, Love, Memories, Artist, Ideas*

Travel makes one modest. You see what a tiny place you occupy in the world.

~Gustave Flaubert

Do not read, as children do, to amuse yourself, or like the ambitious, for the purpose of instruction. No, read in order to live.

~Gustave Flaubert

I believe that if one always looked at the skies, one would end up with wings.

~Gustave Flaubert

It seems to me that I have always existed and that I possess memories that date back to the Pharaohs.

~Gustave Flaubert

Stupidity is something unshakable; nothing attacks it without breaking itself against it; it is of the nature of granite, hard and resistant.

~Gustave Flaubert

Human speech is like a cracked kettle on which we tap crude rhythms for bears to dance to, while we long to make music that will melt the stars.

~Gustave Flaubert

A man is a critic when he cannot be an artist, in the same way that a man becomes an informer when he cannot be a soldier.

~Gustave Flaubert

I tried to discover, in the rumor of forests and waves, words that other men could not hear, and I pricked up my ears to listen to the revelation of their harmony.

~Gustave Flaubert

There is not a particle of life which does not bear poetry within it

~Gustave Flaubert

To be stupid, selfish, and have good health are three requirements for happiness, though if stupidity is lacking, all is lost.

~Gustave Flaubert

Here is true immorality: ignorance and stupidity; the devil is nothing but this. His name is Legion.

~Gustave Flaubert

The whole dream of democracy is to raise the proletarian to the level of stupidity attained by the bourgeois.

~Gustave Flaubert

Be regular and orderly in your life, so that you may be violent and original in your work.

~Gustave Flaubert

I spent the morning putting in a comma and the afternoon removing it.

~Gustave Flaubert

Read in order to live.

~Gustave Flaubert

It's hard to communicate anything exactly and that's why perfect relationships between people are difficult to find.

~Gustave Flaubert

It is always sad to leave a place to which one knows one will never return.

~Gustave Flaubert

What an awful thing life is, isn't it? It's like soup with lots of hairs floating

on the surface. You have to eat it nevertheless.

~Gustave Flaubert

One's duty is to feel what is great, cherish the beautiful, and to not accept the conventions of society with the ignominy that it imposes upon us.

~Gustave Flaubert

The deplorable mania of doubt exhausts me. I doubt about everything, even my doubts.

~Gustave Flaubert

A thing derided is a thing dead; a laughing man is stronger than a suffering man.

~Gustave Flaubert

For him the universe did not extend beyond the circumference of her petticoat.

~Gustave Flaubert

All you have to do to make something interesting is to look at it long enough.

~Gustave Flaubert

The one way of tolerating existence is to lose oneself in literature as in a perpetual orgy.

~Gustave Flaubert

There is no truth. There is only perception.

~Gustave Flaubert

Life must be a constant education; one must learn everything, from speaking to dying.

~Gustave Flaubert

One mustn't ask apple trees for oranges, France for sun, women for love, life for happiness.

~Gustave Flaubert

Life is so horrible that one can only bear it by avoiding it. And that can be done by living in the world of art.

~Gustave Flaubert

Only three things are infinite. The sky in its stars, the sea in its drops of water, and the heart in its tears.

~Gustave Flaubert

The art of writing is the art of discovering what you believe.

~Gustave Flaubert

One mustn't look at the abyss, because there is at the bottom an inexpressible charm which attracts us.

~Gustave Flaubert

Stupidity consists in wanting to reach conclusions. We are a thread, and we want to know the whole cloth.

~Gustave Flaubert

Earth has its boundaries, but human stupidity is limitless.

~Gustave Flaubert

Our ignorance of history causes us to slander our own times. The ordinary person today lives better than a king did a century ago but is ungrateful!

~Gustave Flaubert

A superhuman will is needed in order to write, and I am only a man.

~Gustave Flaubert

A memory is a beautiful thing, it's almost a desire that you miss.

~Gustave Flaubert

The more humanity advances, the more it is degraded.

~Gustave Flaubert

It's a delicious thing to write. To be no longer yourself but to move in an entire universe of your own creating.

~Gustave Flaubert

Success is a consequence and must not be a goal.

~Gustave Flaubert

How you measure the performance of your managers directly affects the way they act.

~Gustave Flaubert

Oh, if I had been loved at the age of seventeen, what an idiot I would be today. Happiness is like smallpox: if you catch it too soon, it can completely ruin your constitution.

~Gustave Flaubert

God is only a word dreamed up to explain the world

~Gustave Flaubert

Love is a springtime plant that perfumes everything with its hope, even the ruins to which it clings.

~Gustave Flaubert

Exuberance is better than taste.

~Gustave Flaubert

Writing history is like drinking an ocean and pissing a cupful.

~Gustave Flaubert

I go from exasperation to a state of collapse, then I recover and go from prostration to Fury, so that my average state is one of being annoyed.

~Gustave Flaubert

Everything one invents is true, you may be perfectly sure of that. Poetry is as precise as geometry.

~Gustave Flaubert

We must laugh and cry, enjoy and suffer, in a word, vibrate to our full capacity â€” I think that's what being really human means.

~Gustave Flaubert

Doubt â€” is an illness that comes from knowledge and leads to madness.

~Gustave Flaubert

I am irritated by my own writing. I am like a violinist whose ear is true, but whose fingers refuse to reproduce precisely the sound he hears within.

~Gustave Flaubert

The only way to avoid being unhappy is to close yourself up in Art and to count for nothing all the rest.

~Gustave Flaubert

But an infinity of passions can be contained in a minute, like a crowd in a tiny space.

~Gustave Flaubert

After a person dies, there is always something like a feeling of stupefaction, so difficult is it to comprehend this unexpected advent of nothingness and to resign oneself to believing it.

~Gustave Flaubert

A friend who dies, it's something of you who dies.

~Gustave Flaubert

What an elder sees sitting; the young can't see standing.

~Gustave Flaubert

Coffee: Induces wit. Good only if it comes through Havre. After a big dinner party it is taken standing up. Take it without sugar - very swank: gives the impression you have lived in the East.

~Gustave Flaubert

Prose is like hair; it shines with combing.

~Gustave Flaubert

Through small apertures we glimpse abysses whose sombre depths turn us faint. And yet over the whole there hovers an extraordinary tenderness.

~Gustave Flaubert

She wanted to die, but she also wanted to live in Paris.

~Gustave Flaubert

One's existence should be in two parts: one should live like a bourgeois and think like a demigod.

~Gustave Flaubert

One must always hope when one is desperate, and doubt when one hopes.

~Gustave Flaubert

You don't know what it is to stay a whole day with your head in your hands trying to squeeze your unfortunate brain so as to find a word.

~Gustave Flaubert

You need a high degree of corruption or a very big heart to love absolutely everything

~Gustave Flaubert

I live absolutely like an oyster.

~Gustave Flaubert

I have the handicap of being born with a special language to which I alone have the key.

~Gustave Flaubert

Casting aspersions on those we love always does something to loosen our ties. We shouldn't maltreat our idols: the guilt comes off on our hands.

~Gustave Flaubert

Pleasure is found first in anticipation, later in memory.

~Gustave Flaubert

Our ignorance of history causes us to slander our own times.

~Gustave Flaubert

It is necessary to sleep upon the pillow of doubt.

~Gustave Flaubert

Nothing is more humiliating than to see idiots succeed in enterprises we have failed in.

~Gustave Flaubert

You must write for yourself, above all. That is your only hope of creating something beautiful.

~Gustave Flaubert

I don't believe that happiness is possible, but I think tranquility is.

~Gustave Flaubert

One can be the master of what one does, but never of what one feels.

~Gustave Flaubert

How we keep these dead souls in our hearts. Each one of us carries within himself his necropolis.

~Gustave Flaubert

My foregrounds are imaginary, my backgrounds real.

~Gustave Flaubert

Noble characters and pure affections and happy scenes are very comforting things. They're a refuge from life's disillusionments.

~Gustave Flaubert

Once one has kissed a cadaver's forehead, there always remains something of it on the lips, an infinite bitterness, an aftertaste of nothingness that nothing can erase.

~Gustave Flaubert

After the pain of this disappointment her heart once more stood empty, and the succession of identical days began again.

~Gustave Flaubert

Of all lies, art is the least untrue.

~Gustave Flaubert

You can't find the soul with a scalpel.

~Gustave Flaubert

The better a work is, the more it attracts criticism; it is like the fleas who rush to jump on white linens.

~Gustave Flaubert

There are three things in the world I love most: the sea, Hamlet, and Don Giovanni.

~Gustave Flaubert

By trying to understand everything, everything makes me dream

~Gustave Flaubert

The future is the worst thing about the present.

~Gustave Flaubert

The principal thing in this world is to keep one's soul aloft.

~Gustave Flaubert

By dint of railing at idiots, one runs the risk of becoming an idiot oneself.

~Gustave Flaubert

Talent is nothing but long patience.

~Gustave Flaubert

One never tires of what is well written, style is life! It is the very blood of thought!

~Gustave Flaubert

The artist must be in his work as God is in creation, invisible and all-powerful; one must sense him everywhere but never see him.

~Gustave Flaubert

Talent is long patience.

~Gustave Flaubert

Talent is a long patience, and originality an effort of will and intense observation.

~Gustave Flaubert

Style is as much under the words as in the words. It is as much the soul as it is the flesh of a work.

~Gustave Flaubert

For a long time now my heart has had its shutters closed, its steps deserted, formerly a tumultuous hotel, but now empty and echoing like a great empty tomb.

~Gustave Flaubert

But, in her life, nothing was going to happen. Such was the will of God! The future was a dark corridor, and at the far end the door was bolted.

~Gustave Flaubert

On certain occasions art can shake very ordinary spirits, and whole worlds can be revealed by its clumsiest interpreters.

~Gustave Flaubert

It is splendid to be a great writer, to put men into the frying pan of your words and make them pop like chestnuts.

~Gustave Flaubert

The author, in his work, must be like God in the Universe, present everywhere and visible nowhere.

~Gustave Flaubert

Stupidity lies in wanting to draw conclusions.

~Gustave Flaubert

What seems to me the highest and the most difficult achievement of Art is not to make us laugh or cry, or to rouse our lust or our anger, but to do as nature does-that is, fill us with wonderment.

~Gustave Flaubert

The faster the word sticks to the thought, the more beautiful is the

effect.

~Gustave Flaubert

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