

# Henry David Thoreau Quotes

*Men, Nature, Life, Thinking, Book, Inspirational, Truth, Friendship, Art, Travel,  
World, Law, Spring, May, Country, Eye, Literature, Morning, Summer,  
Knowledge*

It's the beauty within us that makes it possible for us to recognize the beauty around us. The question is not what you look at but what you see.

~Henry David Thoreau

If one advances confidently in the direction of his dreams, and endeavors to live the life which he has imagined...

~Henry David Thoreau

I went to the woods because I wished to live deliberately.

~Henry David Thoreau

be yourself- not your idea of what you think somebody else's idea of yourself should be.

~Henry David Thoreau

What lies behind us and what lies ahead of us are tiny matters compared to what lives within us.

~Henry David Thoreau

The price of anything is the amount of life you exchange for it.

~Henry David Thoreau

The greatest tragedy in life is to spend your whole life fishing only to discover it was never fish that you were after.

~Henry David Thoreau

The only people who ever get anyplace interesting are the people who get lost.

~Henry David Thoreau

It's not what you look at that matters, it's what you see.

~Henry David Thoreau

There is no remedy for love but to love more.

~Henry David Thoreau

If a man does not keep pace with his companions, perhaps it is because he hears a different drummer. Let him step to the music which he hears, however measured or far away.

~Henry David Thoreau

An early-morning walk is a blessing for the whole day.

~Henry David Thoreau

Most men lead lives of quiet desperation and go to the grave with the song still in them.

~Henry David Thoreau

Never look back unless you are planning to go that way.

~Henry David Thoreau

Perfect sincerity and transparency make a great part of beauty, as in dewdrops, lakes, and diamonds.

~Henry David Thoreau

If one advances confidently in the direction of his dreams, and endeavors to live the life which he has imagined, he will meet with a success unexpected in common hours.

~Henry David Thoreau

Do not lose hold of your dreams or aspirations. For if you do, you may still exist but you have ceased to live.

~Henry David Thoreau

When it's time to die, let us not discover that we have never lived.

~Henry David Thoreau

If the machine of government is of such a nature that it requires you to be the agent of injustice to another, then, I say, break the law.

~Henry David Thoreau

Our life is frittered away by detail... simplify, simplify.

~Henry David Thoreau

If you have built castles in the air, your work need not be lost; that is where they should be. Now put the foundations under them.

~Henry David Thoreau

Everyone must believe in something. I believe I'll go canoeing.

~Henry David Thoreau

There are a thousand hacking at the branches of evil to one who is striking at the root.

~Henry David Thoreau

City life is millions of people being lonesome together.

~Henry David Thoreau

Not until we are lost do we begin to understand ourselves.

~Henry David Thoreau

It is better to have your head in the clouds, and know where you are... than to breathe the clearer atmosphere below them, and think that you are in paradise.

~Henry David Thoreau

Do not be too moral. You may cheat yourself out of much life so. Aim above morality. Be not simply good; be good for something.

~Henry David Thoreau

Every creature is better alive than dead, men and moose and pine

trees, and he who understands it aright will rather preserve its life than destroy it.

~Henry David Thoreau

Many men go fishing all of their lives without knowing that it is not fish they are after.

~Henry David Thoreau

When we bring what is within out into the world, miracles happen.

~Henry David Thoreau

Books are the carriers of civilization. Without books, history is silent.

~Henry David Thoreau

Pursue some path, however narrow and crooked, in which you can walk with love and reverence.

~Henry David Thoreau

The devil finds work for idle hands.

~Henry David Thoreau

Behave so the aroma of your actions may enhance the general sweetness of the atmosphere.

~Henry David Thoreau

All voting is a sort of gaming, like checkers or backgammon, with a slight moral tinge to it, a playing with right and wrong.

~Henry David Thoreau

Government never furthered any enterprise but by the alacrity with which it got out of its way.

~Henry David Thoreau

Be true to your work, your word, and your friend.

~Henry David Thoreau

The fire is the main comfort of the camp, whether in summer or winter, and is about as ample at one season as at another. It is as well for cheerfulness as for warmth and dryness.

~Henry David Thoreau

I did not wish to take a cabin passage, but rather to go before the mast and on the deck of the world, for there I could best see the moonlight amid the mountains. I do not wish to go below now.

~Henry David Thoreau

Some circumstantial evidence is very strong, as when you find a trout in the milk.

~Henry David Thoreau

The bluebird carries the sky on his back.

~Henry David Thoreau

It takes two to speak the truth: one to speak, and another to hear.

~Henry David Thoreau

Nature is full of genius, full of the divinity; so that not a snowflake escapes its fashioning hand.

~Henry David Thoreau

You must live in the present, launch yourself on every wave, find your eternity in each moment.

~Henry David Thoreau

The secret of achievement is to hold a picture of a successful outcome in mind.

~Henry David Thoreau

The words which express our faith and piety are not definite; yet they are significant and fragrant like frankincense to superior natures.

~Henry David Thoreau

It is not worth while to go round the world to count the cats in Zanzibar.

~Henry David Thoreau

I took a walk in the woods and came out taller than the trees.

~Henry David Thoreau

As a single footstep will not make a path on the earth, so a single thought will not make a pathway in the mind.

~Henry David Thoreau

The most I can do for my friend is simply be his friend.

~Henry David Thoreau

Most of the luxuries and many of the so-called comforts of life are not only not indispensable, but positive hindrances to the elevation of mankind.

~Henry David Thoreau

Time is like a handful of sand - the tighter you grasp it, the faster it runs through your fingers.

~Henry David Thoreau

I would rather sit on a pumpkin and have it all to myself, than be crowded on a velvet cushion.

~Henry David Thoreau

As if you could kill time without injuring eternity.

~Henry David Thoreau

Think for yourself, or others will think for you without thinking of you.

~Henry David Thoreau

But men labor under a mistake. The better part of the man is soon plowed into the soil for compost.

~Henry David Thoreau

If we will be quiet and ready enough, we shall find compensation in every disappointment.

~Henry David Thoreau

What is the use of a house if you haven't got a tolerable planet to put it on?

~Henry David Thoreau

I know of no more encouraging fact than the unquestionable ability of man to elevate his life by conscious endeavor.

~Henry David Thoreau

The soul grows by subtraction, not addition.

~Henry David Thoreau

The language of friendship is not words but meanings.

~Henry David Thoreau

Take long walks in stormy weather or through deep snows in the fields and woods, if you would keep your spirits up. Deal with brute nature. Be cold and hungry and weary.

~Henry David Thoreau

Nothing makes the earth seem so spacious as to have friends at a distance; they make the latitudes and longitudes.

~Henry David Thoreau

Why should I feel lonely? is not our planet in the Milky Way?



~Henry David Thoreau

The finest qualities of our nature, like the bloom on fruits, can be preserved only by the most delicate handling. Yet we do not treat ourselves nor one another thus tenderly.

~Henry David Thoreau

Waves of a serene life pass over us from time to time, like flakes of sunlight over the fields in cloudy weather.

~Henry David Thoreau

It is not enough to be busy. So are the ants. The question is: What are we busy about?

~Henry David Thoreau

Write while the heat is in you. The writer who postpones the recording of his thoughts uses an iron which has cooled to burn a hole with. He cannot inflame the minds of his audience.

~Henry David Thoreau

The purity men love is like the mists which envelope the earth, and not like the azure ether beyond.

~Henry David Thoreau

Morning is when I am awake and there is a dawn in me.

~Henry David Thoreau

Disobedience is the true foundation of liberty. The obedient must be slaves.

~Henry David Thoreau

The Friend asks no return but that his Friend will religiously accept and wear and not disgrace his apotheosis of him. They cherish each other's hopes. They are kind to each other's dreams.

~Henry David Thoreau

Every generation laughs at the old fashions, but follows religiously the new.

~Henry David Thoreau

There is one consolation in being sick; and that is the possibility that you may recover to a better state than you were ever in before.

~Henry David Thoreau

Nay, be a Columbus to whole new continents and worlds within you, opening new channels, not of trade, but of thought.

~Henry David Thoreau

How earthy old people become --moldy as the grave! Their wisdom smacks of the earth. There is no foretaste of immortality in it. They remind me of earthworms and mole crickets.

~Henry David Thoreau

We are all of us more or less active physiognomists.

~Henry David Thoreau

You must not blame me if I do talk to the clouds.

~Henry David Thoreau

I have no doubt that it is part of the destiny of the human race in its gradual improvement, to leave off eating animals.

~Henry David Thoreau

Having each some shingles of thought well dried, we sat and whittled them.

~Henry David Thoreau

Let nothing come between you and the light.

~Henry David Thoreau

Our truest life is when we are in dreams awake.

~Henry David Thoreau

The true harvest of my life is intangible - a little star dust caught, a portion of the rainbow I have clutched.

~Henry David Thoreau

Could a greater miracle take place than for us to look through each other's eyes for an instant?

~Henry David Thoreau

A truly good book teaches me better than to read it. I must soon lay it down, and commence living on its hint. What I began by reading, I must finish by acting.

~Henry David Thoreau

This world is but a canvas to our imagination.

~Henry David Thoreau

A lake is a landscape's most beautiful and expressive feature. It is Earth's eye; looking into which the beholder measures the depth of his own nature.

~Henry David Thoreau

In the morning I bathe my intellect in the stupendous and cosmogonical philosophy of the Bhagavad-Gita, in comparison with which our modern world and its literature seems puny and trivial.

~Henry David Thoreau

When a soldier is hit by a cannonball, rags are as becoming as purple.

~Henry David Thoreau

Where shall we look for standard English, but to the words of a standard man?

~Henry David Thoreau

I lingered most about the fireplace, as the most vital part of the house.

~Henry David Thoreau

All men recognize the right of revolution; that is, the right to refuse allegiance to, and to resist, the government, when its tyranny or its inefficiency are great and unendurable.

~Henry David Thoreau

One must maintain a little bittle of summer, even in the middle of winter.

~Henry David Thoreau

Of all ebriosity, who does not prefer to be intoxicated by the air he breathes?

~Henry David Thoreau

I am still a learner, not a teacher, feeding somewhat omnivorously, browsing both stalk & leaves

~Henry David Thoreau

Nature is slow, but sure; she works no faster than need be; she is the tortoise that wins the race by her perseverance.

~Henry David Thoreau

Wherever there is a channel for water, there is a road for the canoe.

~Henry David Thoreau

Only that day dawns to which we are awake.

~Henry David Thoreau

True friendship can afford true knowledge. It does not depend on darkness and ignorance.

~Henry David Thoreau

Every morning was a cheerful invitation to make my life of equal simplicity, and I may say innocence, with Nature herself.

~Henry David Thoreau

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