

Henry James Quotes

Art, Thinking, Literature, People, Judging, Writing, Inspirational, Men, Mind, Criticism, Country, Character, Artist, Ideas, Life, Beautiful, Ifs, Light, Strong, Book

Under certain circumstances there are few hours in life more agreeable than the hour dedicated to the ceremony known as afternoon tea.

~Henry James

It's time to start living the life you've imagined.

~Henry James

Three things in human life are important. The first is to be kind. The second is to be kind. And the third is to be kind.

~Henry James

We work in the dark - we do what we can - we give what we have. Our doubt is our passion, and our passion is our task. The rest is the madness of art.

~Henry James

Do not mind anything that anyone tells you about anyone else. Judge everyone and everything for yourself.

~Henry James

Everything about Florence seems to be colored with a mild violet, like diluted wine.

~Henry James

Excellence does not require perfection.

~Henry James

I'm yours for ever--for ever and ever. Here I stand; I'm as firm as a rock. If you'll only trust me, how little you'll be disappointed. Be mine as I am yours.

~Henry James

It's a complex fate, being an American, and one of the responsibilities it entails is fighting against a superstitious valuation of Europe.

~Henry James

Americans will eat garbage provided you sprinkle it liberally with ketchup.

~Henry James

It is art that makes life, makes interest, makes importance, for our consideration and application of these things, and I know of no substitute whatever for the force and beauty of its process.

~Henry James

I adore adverbs; they are the only qualifications I really much respect.

~Henry James

Until you try, you don't know what you can't do.

~Henry James

You must save what you can of your life; you musn't lose it all simply because you've lost a part.

~Henry James

There were several ways of understanding her: there was what she said, and there was what she meant, and there was something between the two, that was neither.

~Henry James

Adjectives are the sugar of literature and adverbs the salt.

~Henry James

Summer afternoon, summer afternoon; to me those have always been the two most beautiful words in the English language.

~Henry James

She is like a revolving lighthouse; pitch darkness alternating with a

dazzling brilliancy!

~Henry James

She had an immense curiosity about life, and was constantly staring and wondering.

~Henry James

Deep experience is never peaceful.

~Henry James

And remember this, that if you've been hated, you've also been loved.

~Henry James

Try to be one of the people on whom nothing is lost!

~Henry James

Never say you know the last word about any human heart.

~Henry James

She feels in italics and thinks in CAPITALS.

~Henry James

Sorrow comes in great waves...but rolls over us, and though it may almost smother us, it leaves us. And we know that if it is strong, we are stronger, inasmuch as it passes and we remain.

~Henry James

To criticize is to appreciate, to appropriate, to take intellectual possession, to establish in fine a relation with the criticized thing and to make it one's own.

~Henry James

I think patriotism is like charity -- it begins at home.

~Henry James

I would give all I possess to get out of myself; but somehow, at the end, I find myself so vastly more interesting than nine tenths of the people I meet.

~Henry James

if you are going to be pushed you had better jump

~Henry James

Though there are some disagreeable things in Venice there is nothing so disagreeable as the visitors.

~Henry James

I hate American simplicity. I glory in the piling up of complications of every sort. If I could pronounce the name James in any different or more elaborate way I should be in favor of doing it.

~Henry James

Live all you can; it's a mistake not to.

~Henry James

Her imagination was by habit ridiculously active; when the door was not open it jumped out the window.

~Henry James

It takes a great deal of history to produce a little literature.

~Henry James

True happiness, we are told, consists in getting out of one's self; but the point is not only to get out - you must stay out; and to stay out you must have some absorbing errand.

~Henry James

To take what there is in life and use it, without waiting forever in vain for the preconceived, to dig deep into the actual and get something out of

that; this, doubtless, is the right way to live.

~Henry James

There are two kinds of taste, the taste for emotions of surprise and the taste for emotions of recognition.

~Henry James

The visible world is but man turned inside out that he may be revealed to himself.

~Henry James

A swift carriage, of a dark night, rattling with four horses over roads that one can't see--that's my idea of happiness.

~Henry James

His kiss was like white lightning, a flash that spread, and spread again, and stayed.

~Henry James

Be generous, be delicate, and always pursue the prize.

~Henry James

Experience is never limited, and it is never complete

~Henry James

In museums and palaces we are alternate radicals and conservatives.

~Henry James

Cats and monkeys; monkeys and cats; all human life is there.

~Henry James

I think I don't regret a single 'excess' of my responsive youth - I only regret, in my chilled age, certain occasions and possibilities I didn't embrace.

~Henry James

Writing is not primarily escape, but use.

~Henry James

It is no wonder he wins every game. He has never done a thing in his life except play games

~Henry James

A man who pretends to understand women is bad manners. For him to really to understand them is bad morals.

~Henry James

Don't pass it by - the immediate, the real, the ours, the yours, the novelist's that it waits for.

~Henry James

Things are always different from what they might be.

~Henry James

A tradition is kept alive only by something being added to it.

~Henry James

The only reason for the existence of a novel is that it does attempt to represent life.

~Henry James

Criticism talks a good deal of nonsense, but even its nonsense is a useful force. It keeps the question of art before the world, insists upon its importance.

~Henry James

He is outside of everything, and alien everywhere. He is an aesthetic solitary. His beautiful, light imagination is the wing that on the autumn

evening just brushes the dusky window.

~Henry James

Money's a horrid thing to follow, but a charming thing to meet.

~Henry James

One doesn't defend one's god: one's god is in himself a defense.

~Henry James

Ideas are, in truth, forces. Infinite, too, is the power of personality. A union of the two always makes history.

~Henry James

I recall my fleeting instants in Savannah as the taste of a cup charged to the brim.

~Henry James

The only obligation to which in advance we may hold a novel, without incurring the accusation of being arbitrary, is that it be interesting.

~Henry James

Ideas are, in truth, force.

~Henry James

Art is nothing more than the shadow of humanity.

~Henry James

Life is a predicament which precedes death.

~Henry James

It is difficult to speak adequately or justly of London. It is not a pleasant place; it is not agreeable, or cheerful, or easy, or exempt from reproach. It is only magnificent.

~Henry James

I don't want everyone to like me; I should think less of myself if some people did.

~Henry James

I always want to know the things one shouldn't do." "So as to do them?" asked her aunt. "So as to choose." said Isabel

~Henry James

The time-honored bread-sauce of the happy ending.

~Henry James

It doesn't so much matter what you do in particular, so long as you have your life.

~Henry James

Of course you're always at liberty to judge the critic. Judge people as critics, however, and you'll condemn them all!

~Henry James

Oxford lends sweetness to labour and dignity to leisure.

~Henry James

To read between the lines was easier than to follow the text.

~Henry James

New York is appalling, fantastically charmless and elaborately dire.

~Henry James

He was there or was not there: not there if I didn't see him.

~Henry James

An Englishman's never so natural as when he's holding his tongue.

~Henry James

It takes an endless amount of history to make even a little tradition.

~Henry James

In art economy is always beauty.

~Henry James

He is the same old sausage, fizzing and sputtering in his own grease.

~Henry James

Love has nothing to do with good reasons.

~Henry James

Don't underestimate the value of irony—it is extremely valuable.

~Henry James

We work in the dark -- we do what we can -- we give what we have.

~Henry James

I know of no substitute whatever for the force and beauty of an artistic process.

~Henry James

I am incapable of telling you not to feel. Feel, feel, I say - feel for all you're worth, and even if it half kills you, for that is the only way to live.

~Henry James

It is art that makes life, makes interest, makes importance.

~Henry James

The fatal futility of Fact.

~Henry James

One might enumerate the items of high civilization, as it exists in other countries, which are absent from the texture of American life, until it

should become a wonder to know what was left.

~Henry James

I have in my own fashion learned the lesson that life is effort, unremittingly repeated.

~Henry James

The women one meets - what are they but books one has already read? You're a library of the unknown, the uncut. Upon my word I've a subscription.

~Henry James

If I were to live my life over again, I would be an American. I would steep myself in America, I would know no other land.

~Henry James

London is on the whole the most possible form of life.

~Henry James

She was a woman who, between courses, could be graceful with her elbows on the table.

~Henry James

The story had held us, round the fire, sufficiently breathless, but except the obvious remark that it was gruesome, as, on Christmas Eve in an old house, a strange tale should essentially be . . .

~Henry James

I intend to judge things for myself; to judge wrongly, I think, is more honorable than not to judge at all.

~Henry James

To kill a human being is, after all, the least injury you can do him.

~Henry James

However British you may be, I am more British still.

~Henry James

When you forget to eat, you know you're alive.

~Henry James

Innocent and infinite are the pleasures of observation.

~Henry James

...he had long decided that abundant laughter should be the embellishment of the remainder of his days.

~Henry James

I don't care anything about reasons, but I know what I like.

~Henry James

The artist is present in every page of every book from which he sought so assiduously to eliminate himself.

~Henry James

The right time is any time that one is still so lucky as to have.

~Henry James

The superiority of one man's opinion over another's is never so great as when the opinion is about a woman.

~Henry James

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