

# J. D. Salinger

## Quotes

*People, Mean, Thinking, Girl, Men, Want, Writing, Hate, Nice, Running, Book, Crazy, Literature, Memorable, Littles, Stupid, Beautiful, World, Knows, Lying*

Its really hard to be roommates with people if your suitcases are much better than theirs.

~J. D. Salinger

One day a long time from now you'll cease to care anymore whom you please or what anybody has to say about you. That's when you'll finally produce the work you're capable of.

~J. D. Salinger

She wasn't doing a thing that I could see, except standing there leaning on the balcony railing, holding the universe together.

~J. D. Salinger

Make sure you marry someone who laughs at the same things you do.

~J. D. Salinger

Sex is something I really don't understand too hot.

~J. D. Salinger

I am a kind of paranoid in reverse. I suspect people of plotting to make me happy.

~J. D. Salinger

I don't even like old cars. I'd rather have a goddam horse. A horse is at least human, for God's sake.

~J. D. Salinger

It's funny. All you have to do is say something nobody understands and they'll do practically anything you want them to.

~J. D. Salinger

And I can't be running back and fourth forever between grief and high delight.

~J. D. Salinger

The worst thing that being an artist could do to you would be that it would make you slightly unhappy constantly.

~J. D. Salinger

I am always saying "Glad to've met you" to somebody I'm not at all glad I met. If you want to stay alive, you have to say that stuff, though.

~J. D. Salinger

He seemed unaware of the messiness of the arrangement.

~J. D. Salinger

He had a theory, Walt did, that the religious life, and all the agony that goes with it, is just something God sics on people who have the gall to accuse Him of having created an ugly world.

~J. D. Salinger

And I have one of those very loud, stupid laughs. I mean if I ever sat behind myself in a movie or something, I'd probably lean over and tell myself to please shut up.

~J. D. Salinger

All morons hate it when you call them a moron.

~J. D. Salinger

The thing with kids is, if they want to grab for the gold ring, you have to let them do it, and not say anything. If they fall off, they fall off, but it's bad if you say anything.

~J. D. Salinger

Don't ever tell anybody anything. If you do, you start missing everybody.

~J. D. Salinger

I'll read my books and I'll drink coffee and I'll listen to music, and I'll bolt

the door.

~J. D. Salinger

I can't explain what I mean. And even if I could, I'm not sure I'd feel like it.

~J. D. Salinger

The world is full of actors pretending to be human

~J. D. Salinger

The mark of the immature man is that he wants to die nobly for a cause, while the mark of the mature man is that he wants to live humbly for one.

~J. D. Salinger

You can't stop a teacher when they want to do something. They just do it.

~J. D. Salinger

If you have something to offer, someone will learn something from you. It's a beautiful reciprocal arrangement. And it isn't education. It's history. It's poetry.

~J. D. Salinger

I'm just sick of ego, ego, ego. My own and everybody else's. I'm sick of everybody that wants to get somewhere, do something distinguished and all, be somebody interesting. It's disgusting.

~J. D. Salinger

The fact is always obvious much too late, but the most singular difference between happiness and joy is that happiness is a solid and joy a liquid.

~J. D. Salinger

The room was not impressively large, even by Manhattan apartment-house standards, but its accumulated furnishings might have lent a snug appearance to a banquet hall in Valhalla.

~J. D. Salinger

Hell is the suffering of being unable to love.

~J. D. Salinger

People are always ruining things for you.

~J. D. Salinger

That's something that annoys the hell out of me-I mean if somebody says the coffee's all ready and it isn't.

~J. D. Salinger

I'm sick of just liking people. I wish to God I could meet somebody I could respect.

~J. D. Salinger

It was that kind of a crazy afternoon, terrifically cold, and no sun out or anything, and you felt like you were disappearing every time you crossed a road.

~J. D. Salinger

The more expensive a school is, the more crooks it has â€” I'm not kidding.

~J. D. Salinger

I have scars on my hands from touching certain people.

~J. D. Salinger

Who in the Bible besides Jesus knew--knew--that we're carrying the Kingdom of Heaven around with us, inside, where we're all too goddam stupid and sentimental and unimaginative to look?

~J. D. Salinger

I kept picturing all these little kids in this big field of rye... If they're running and they don't look where they're going, I have to come out from somewhere and catch them.

~J. D. Salinger

I don't know what good it is to know so much and be smart as whips and all if it doesn't make you happy.

~J. D. Salinger

We are, all four of us, blood relatives, and we speak a kind of esoteric, family language, a sort of semantic geometry in which the shortest distance between any two points is a fullish circle.

~J. D. Salinger

I mean how do you know what you're going to do till you do it? The answer is, you don't. I think I am, but how do I know? I swear it's a stupid question.

~J. D. Salinger

An artist's only concern is to shoot for some kind of perfection, and on his own terms, not anyone else's.

~J. D. Salinger

Know your true measurements and dress your mind accordingly

~J. D. Salinger

I could happily lie down and die sometimes.

~J. D. Salinger

If a girl looks swell when she meets you, who gives a damn if she's late? Nobody.

~J. D. Salinger

You don't have to think too hard when you talk to teachers.

~J. D. Salinger

The true poet has no choice of material. The material plainly chooses him, not he it.

~J. D. Salinger

Always, always, always referring every goddam thing that happens right back to our lousy little egos.

~J. D. Salinger

Most stuff that is genuine is better left unsaid.

~J. D. Salinger

Grand. There's a word I really hate. It's a phony. I could puke every time I hear it.

~J. D. Salinger

Real ugly girls have it tough. I feel so sorry for them sometimes.

~J. D. Salinger

I thought what I'd do was I'd pretend I was one of those deaf-mutes.

~J. D. Salinger

Did you ever get fed up?' I said. 'I mean did you ever get scared that everything was going to go lousy unless you did something?

~J. D. Salinger

I'm up to my ears in unwritten words.

~J. D. Salinger

She was not one for emptying her face of expression.

~J. D. Salinger

Mothers are all slightly insane.

~J. D. Salinger

How long should a man's legs be? Long enough to touch the ground.

~J. D. Salinger

She wrote to him fairly regularly, from a paradise of triple exclamation points and inaccurate observations.

~J. D. Salinger

You never even worried, with Jane, whether your hand was sweaty or not. All you knew was, you were happy. You really were.

~J. D. Salinger

"Why's it so sunny?" she repeated. Zooey observed her rather narrowly. "I bring the sun wherever I go, buddy," he said.

~J. D. Salinger

It always smelled like it was raining outside, even if it wasn't, and you were in the only nice, dry, cosy place in the world.

~J. D. Salinger

Money always ends up making you blue.

~J. D. Salinger

Sleep tight, ya morons!

~J. D. Salinger

I'm sick of not having the courage to be an absolute nobody.

~J. D. Salinger

I hate actors. They never act like people. They just think they do

~J. D. Salinger



It isn't very serious, I have this tiny little tumor on the brain.

~J. D. Salinger

I don't suppose a writing man ever really gets rid of his old crocus-yellow neckties. Sooner or later, I think, they show up in his prose, and there isn't a hell of a lot he can do about it.

~J. D. Salinger

I love you to pieces, distraction, etc.

~J. D. Salinger

He said you were the only one who was bitter about S.'s suicide and the only one who really forgave him for it. The rest of us, he said, were outwardly unbitter and inwardly unforgiving.

~J. D. Salinger

There are nice things in the world - and I mean nice things. We're all such morons to get so sidetracked.

~J. D. Salinger

You don't know how to talk to people you don't like. Don't love, really. You can't live in the world with such strong likes and dislikes.

~J. D. Salinger

I just hope that one day - preferably when we're both blind drunk - we can talk about it.

~J. D. Salinger

Poets are always taking the weather so personally. They're always sticking their emotions in things that have no emotions.

~J. D. Salinger

Sometimes you get tired of riding in taxicabs the same way you get tired riding in elevators. All of a sudden, you have to walk, no matter

how far or how high up.

~J. D. Salinger

Listen, if you're not going to be a nun or something, you might as well laugh.

~J. D. Salinger

I'd just be the catcher in the rye and all. I know it's crazy, but that's the only thing I'd really like to be. I know it's crazy.

~J. D. Salinger

John Keats / John Keats / John / Please put your scarf on.

~J. D. Salinger

Don't hate me because I can't remember some person immediately. Especially when they look like everybody else, and talk and dress and act like everybody else.

~J. D. Salinger

In the first place, you're way off when you start railing at things and people instead of at yourself.

~J. D. Salinger

It's really too bad that so much crummy stuff is a lot of fun sometimes.

~J. D. Salinger

Life is a game, boy. Life is a game that one plays according to the rules.

~J. D. Salinger

You asked me how to get out of the finite dimensions when I feel like it. I certainly don't use logic when I do it. Logic's the first thing you have to get rid of.

~J. D. Salinger

I have so much I want to tell you, and nowhere to begin.

~J. D. Salinger

I don't even know what I was running forâ€”I guess I just felt like it.

~J. D. Salinger

I knew it wasn't too important, but it made me sad anyway.

~J. D. Salinger

It's not too bad when the sun's out, but the sun only comes out when it feels like coming out.

~J. D. Salinger

I don't exactly know what I mean by that, but I mean it.

~J. D. Salinger

I'm quite illiterate, but I read a lot.

~J. D. Salinger

I have scars on my hands from touching certain peopleâ€”Certain heads, certain colours and textures of human hair leave permanent marks on me.

~J. D. Salinger

Oh, it's lovely to see you!' Franny said as the cab moved off. 'I've missed you.' The words were no sooner out than she realized that she didn't mean them at all.

~J. D. Salinger

If a body catch a body coming through the rye.

~J. D. Salinger

Girls. You never know what they're going to think.

~J. D. Salinger

I'm the most terrific liar you ever saw in your life.

~J. D. Salinger

People are mostly hot to have a discussion when you're not.

~J. D. Salinger

Certain things, they should stay the way they are. You ought to be able to stick them in one of those big glass cases and just leave them alone.

~J. D. Salinger

I'm not going to bed after all. Somebody around here hath murdered sleep. Good for him.

~J. D. Salinger

I like it when somebody gets excited about something. It's nice.

~J. D. Salinger

Don't tell people what you are thinking, or you will miss them terribly when you are away.

~J. D. Salinger

There isn't a nightclub in the world that you can sit in for a long time unless you can at least buy some liquor and get drunk. Or unless you're with some girl that really knocks you out.

~J. D. Salinger

Anyway, I'm sort of glad they've got the atomic bomb invented. If there's ever another war, I'm going to sit right the hell on top of it. I'll volunteer for it, I swear to God I will.

~J. D. Salinger

Sensitive. That killed me. That guy Morrow was about as sensitive as a toilet seat.

~J. D. Salinger

Pencey was full of crooks. Quite a few guys came from these wealthy families, but it was full of crooks anyway. The more expensive a school is, the more crooks it has - I'm not kidding.

~J. D. Salinger

I felt so lonesome, all of a sudden. I almost wished I was dead.

~J. D. Salinger

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