

# Jacqueline Woodson Quotes

*Thinking, People, Writing, Book, World, Moving, Looks, Together, Forever,  
Silence, Believe, Character, Home, Stories, Heart, Matter, Feelings, Long, Wall,  
I've Learned*

There is something so deeply visceral about libraries for me-rooms and rooms full of people dreaming and remembering.

~Jacqueline Woodson

Diversity is about all of us, and about us having to figure out how to walk through this world together.

~Jacqueline Woodson

But on paper, things can live forever. On paper, a butterfly never dies.

~Jacqueline Woodson

People are going to judge you all the time no matter what you do...Don't worry about other people. Worry about you.

~Jacqueline Woodson

I do believe that books can change lives and give people this kind of language they wouldn't have had otherwise.

~Jacqueline Woodson

I believe in one day and someday and this perfect moment called Now.

~Jacqueline Woodson

Even the silence has a story to tell you. Just listen. Listen.

~Jacqueline Woodson

The empty swing set reminds us of this-- that bad won't be bad forever, and what is good can sometimes last a long, long time.

~Jacqueline Woodson

I feel like the world stopped. And I got off...and then it started spinning again, but too fast for me to hop back on. I feel like I'm still trying to get a...to get some kind of foothold on living

~Jacqueline Woodson

In all your getting, get understanding.

~Jacqueline Woodson

You can't always be pushing people away. Someday nobody'll come back.

~Jacqueline Woodson

When I was a kid, I got in trouble for lying a lot, and I had a teacher say, instead of lying, write it down, because if you write it down, it's not a lie anymore; it's fiction.

~Jacqueline Woodson

What you say is what matters.

~Jacqueline Woodson

I've learned about marrying poetry and prose and making both accessible.

~Jacqueline Woodson

When I'm writing flawed characters, I just think about my own flaws.

~Jacqueline Woodson

Nothing in the world is like this- a bright white page with pale blue lines. The smell of a newly sharpened pencil the soft hush of it moving finally one day into letters.

~Jacqueline Woodson

Seems like every time life starts straightening itself out, something's gotta go and happen.

~Jacqueline Woodson

Time comes to us softly, slowly. It sits beside us for a while. Then, long before we are ready, it moves on.

~Jacqueline Woodson

Racism doesn't know color, death doesn't know age, and pain doesn't know might.

~Jacqueline Woodson

No matter how big you get, it's still okay to cry because everybody's got a right to their own tears.

~Jacqueline Woodson

I loved and still love watching words flower into sentences and sentences blossom into stories.

~Jacqueline Woodson

I think it's important to remember that writing is a gift and our stories are gifts to ourselves and to the world and sometimes giving isn't always the easiest thing to do but it comes back.

~Jacqueline Woodson

There's me in every character I put on the pages.

~Jacqueline Woodson

You're a part of me...You're in my heart. Forever and always, all right?  
â€”D

~Jacqueline Woodson

Mama was always saying I was a brain snob, that I didn't like people who didn't think. I didn't know if that was snobby. Who wanted to walk around explaining everything to people all the time?

~Jacqueline Woodson

If I loved someone enough, I would go anywhere in the world with them." â€”Staggerlee

~Jacqueline Woodson

I think I'd rather have my heart broke than do the breaking. â€”Lena

~Jacqueline Woodson

Sometimes...you have to try to forget people you love just so you can keep living.

~Jacqueline Woodson

That's what makes best friends. It's not whether or not you live on the same block or go to the same school, but how you feel about each other in your hearts.

~Jacqueline Woodson

You have those walls up all around you...Come a day you gonna want to tear them down brick by brick and gonna find that the cement is all hard. What you gonna do then?

~Jacqueline Woodson

I've learned a lot as a writer about poetry.

~Jacqueline Woodson

I pay a lot of attention to whitespace. I pay a lot of attention to the rhythm of words together.

~Jacqueline Woodson

Where I grew up, it was all people who were black and Latino, people who look like me. Now I live in a neighborhood where very, very few people look like me.

~Jacqueline Woodson

Don't trust women, my mother said to me. Even the ugly ones will take what you thought was yours.

~Jacqueline Woodson

We live inside our parents' backstory.

~Jacqueline Woodson

When you think of how a child experiences a series of events, it feels, for so long, like she's looking at everything from behind this glass and it's obscured.

~Jacqueline Woodson

I'm still afraid. I'm still afraid every day.

~Jacqueline Woodson

To watch your home change in front of you is surprising. But at the same time, going someplace like Mississippi, makes me appreciate even this.

~Jacqueline Woodson

I think people are sometime reluctant to read outside of their own race. This is heartbreaking.

~Jacqueline Woodson

I think boys don't always like to read books with female protagonist - I don't even know what to say about this.

~Jacqueline Woodson

Mainly, I try not to think about my readers as I write - I just think of my characters and myself - If they're interesting to me, my hope is that they'll be interesting to others as well.

~Jacqueline Woodson

Because I write realistic fiction, I generally don't think about fixing anyone - I just think about how I want to feel at the end of the book - And I try to write toward that feeling.

~Jacqueline Woodson

The Bible is big in the religion, treating people as you want to be treated.

~Jacqueline Woodson

Sometimes, I don't know that words for things, how to write down the feeling of knowing that every dying person leaves something behind.

~Jacqueline Woodson

Maybe this was our last summer as best friends. I feel like something's going to change now and I'm not going to be able to change it back.

â€”Margaret

~Jacqueline Woodson

I'm not afraid of silence. You know, I'm not afraid to sit in a room and have the conversation drop into silence. I think that's a very southern thing.

~Jacqueline Woodson

Fifteen. Sixteen was probably something, but fifteen - fifteen was a place between here and nowhere.

~Jacqueline Woodson

Mama says it's okay to be on the quiet sideâ€”if quiet means you're listening, watching, taking it all in.

~Jacqueline Woodson

I love slow readers. And readers who think about what I've written, think about how it's written - and copy me!

~Jacqueline Woodson

I actually don't think of whiteness and heterosexuality as 'the norm'. Maybe there are people who still do but none of them are close friends of mine.

~Jacqueline Woodson

I rewrite my books until they're mostly memorized so that's a lot of rewrites, a lot of time spent with my stories.

~Jacqueline Woodson

I couldn't be a writer without hope. I think I became a writer because I'm pretty optimistic.

~Jacqueline Woodson

Everything I write, I read out loud. It has to sound a certain way. It has to look a certain way on the page.

~Jacqueline Woodson

There is so much work left to be done in the world and for me, I am hoping to make the change I can and do the work I need to do through this gift I've been given.

~Jacqueline Woodson

Keep on doing what you're doing.

~Jacqueline Woodson

I have met women who don't have close women friends, and I've always been like, "How could that possibly be?"

~Jacqueline Woodson

I don't know how women stop being friends with other women.

~Jacqueline Woodson

My favorite reader is one that revisits books and gets something new out of them each time.

~Jacqueline Woodson

Yes, writing is not easy. But can any writer imagine NOT writing?

~Jacqueline Woodson

One place exists as their interpretation of it. For the people living and thriving inside of it, it's another place.

~Jacqueline Woodson



That's what writing is. It's moving past your fear.

~Jacqueline Woodson

I always say I write because I have lots of questions, not because I have any answers.

~Jacqueline Woodson

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