

Jhumpa Lahiri

Quotes

*Writing, People, Thinking, Stories, Namesake, Book, Names, Moving, Mean,
Mother, Missing, Home, Father, Fiction, Way, Heart, World, Hands, Ideas,
Travel*

That's what books are for... to travel without moving an inch.

~Jhumpa Lahiri

Fiction is the only way I know a human being can inhabit the mind of another human being.

~Jhumpa Lahiri

Pack a pillow and blanket and see as much of the world as you can. You will not regret it.

~Jhumpa Lahiri

I am drawn to any story that makes me want to read from one sentence to the next. I have no other criterion.

~Jhumpa Lahiri

A bicultural upbringing is a rich but imperfect thing

~Jhumpa Lahiri

Pet names are a persistent remnant of childhood, a reminder that life is not always so serious, so formal, so complicated. They are a reminder, too, that one is not all things to all people.

~Jhumpa Lahiri

Somehow, bad news, however ridden with static, however filled with echoes, always manages to be conveyed.

~Jhumpa Lahiri

The first sentence of a book is a handshake, perhaps an embrace.

~Jhumpa Lahiri

That the last two letters in her name were the first two in his, a silly thing he never mentioned to her but caused him to believe that they were bound together.

~Jhumpa Lahiri

It didn't matter that I wore clothes from Sears; I was still different. I looked different. My name was different. I wanted to pull away from the things that marked my parents as being different.

~Jhumpa Lahiri

We are all #humans and we all make #mistakes. We #hurt people even if we don't want to.

~Jhumpa Lahiri

Sexy means loving someone you don't know.

~Jhumpa Lahiri

She has given birth to vagabonds. She is the keeper of all these names and numbers now, numbers she once knew by heart, numbers and addresses her children no longer remember.

~Jhumpa Lahiri

Writing is one of the most assertive things a person can do.

~Jhumpa Lahiri

On the screen I saw tanks rolling through dusty streets, and fallen buildings, and forests of unfamiliar trees into which East Pakistani refugees had fled, seeking safety over the Indian border.

~Jhumpa Lahiri

I would not send a first story anywhere. I would give myself time to write a number of stories.

~Jhumpa Lahiri

It's easy to set a story anywhere if you get a good guidebook and get some basic street names, and some descriptions, but, for me, yes, I am indebted to my travels to India for several of the stories.

~Jhumpa Lahiri

I always think first about the nature of the story. When I had the idea for 'The Namesake,' I felt that it had to be a novel - it couldn't work as a story.

~Jhumpa Lahiri

And yet he had loved her. A Bookish girl heedless of her beauty, unconscious of her effect. She'd been prepared to live her life alone but from the moment he'd known her he'd needed her.

~Jhumpa Lahiri

She has the gift of accepting her life.

~Jhumpa Lahiri

She is stunned that in this town there are no sidewalks to speak of, no streetlights, no public transportation, no stores for miles at a time.

~Jhumpa Lahiri

Isolation offered its own form of companionship

~Jhumpa Lahiri

You remind me of everything that followed.

~Jhumpa Lahiri

In fiction, plenty do the job of conveying information, rousing suspense, painting characters, enabling them to speak. But only certain sentences breathe and shift about, like live matter in soil.

~Jhumpa Lahiri

Being a writer means taking the leap from listening to saying 'Listen to me'.

~Jhumpa Lahiri

I approach writing stories as a recorder. I think of my role as some kind of reporting device - recording and projecting.

~Jhumpa Lahiri

Gogol is unaccustomed to this sort of talk at mealtimes, to the indulgent ritual of the lingering meal, and the pleasant aftermath of bottles and crumbs and empty glasses that clutter the table.

~Jhumpa Lahiri

The most compelling narrative, expressed in sentences with which I have no chemical reaction, or an adverse one, leaves me cold.

~Jhumpa Lahiri

When I sit down to write, I don't think about writing about an idea or a given message. I just try to write a story which is hard enough.

~Jhumpa Lahiri

One hand, five homes. A lifetime in a fist.

~Jhumpa Lahiri

A lot of my upbringing was about denying or fretting or evading.

~Jhumpa Lahiri

For that story, I took as my subject a young woman whom I got to know over the course of a couple of visits. I never saw her having any health problems - but I knew she wanted to be married.

~Jhumpa Lahiri

She watched his lips forming the words, at the same time she heard them under her skin, under her winter coat, so near and full of warmth that she felt herself go hot.

~Jhumpa Lahiri

...that in spite of living in a mansion an American is not above wearing a pair of secondhand pants, bought for fifty cents.

~Jhumpa Lahiri

I don't know why, but the older I get the more interested I get in my parents' marriage. And it's interesting to be married yourself, too, because there is an inevitable comparison.

~Jhumpa Lahiri

I wanted to pull away from the things that marked my parents as being different.

~Jhumpa Lahiri

He tries to peel the image from the sticky yellow backing, to show her the next time he sees her, but it clings stubbornly, refusing to detach cleanly from the past.

~Jhumpa Lahiri

A writer has to true to him or herself. Period. That's it!

~Jhumpa Lahiri

She learned that an act intended to express love could have nothing to do with it. That her heart and her body were different things.

~Jhumpa Lahiri

With children the clock is reset. We forget what came before

~Jhumpa Lahiri

If I stop to think about fans, or best-selling, or not best-selling, or good reviews, or not-good reviews, it just becomes too much. It's like staring at the mirror all day.

~Jhumpa Lahiri

Do what I will never do.

~Jhumpa Lahiri

She supposed that all those years of loving a person who was dishonest had taught her a few things.

~Jhumpa Lahiri

It interests me to imagine characters shifting from one situation and one location to another for whatever the circumstances may be.

~Jhumpa Lahiri

Relationships do not preclude issues of morality.

~Jhumpa Lahiri

My grandfather says that's what books are for," Ashoke said, using the opportunity to open the volume in his hands. "To travel without moving an inch.

~Jhumpa Lahiri

War will bring the revolution; revolution will stop the war.

~Jhumpa Lahiri

I dream of writing a book like *LOVERS* some day. It is so spare but so rich. It is history made intimate, and a masterpiece of compression.

~Jhumpa Lahiri

The urge to convert experience into a group of words that are in a grammatical relation to one another is the most basic, ongoing impulse of my life.

~Jhumpa Lahiri

She had listened to him, partly sympathetic, partly horrified. For it was one thing for her to reject her background, to be critical of her family's heritage, another to hear it from him.

~Jhumpa Lahiri

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