

John Gay

Quotes

*Men, Love, Envy, Women, Giving, Pride, Life, Heart, Animal, Sweet, Fool, Wind,
Mind, Fishing, Dear, Views, Journey, Book, Play, Spurs*

Follow love and it will flee, flee love and it will follow thee.

~John Gay

Fair is the marigold, for pottage meet.

~John Gay

Thus shadow owes its birth to light.

~John Gay

Cowards are cruel, but the brave love mercy and delight to save.

~John Gay

Lions, wolves, and vultures don't live together in herds, droves or flocks. Of all animals of prey, man is the only sociable one. Every one of us preys upon his neighbor, and yet we herd together.

~John Gay

Envy is a kind of praise.

~John Gay

You can only be called a hypocrite if you judge others first.

~John Gay

And when a lady's in the case, You know, all other things give place.

~John Gay

Nor love, not honor, wealth nor power, can give the heart a cheerful hour when health is lost. Be timely wise; With health all taste of pleasure flies.

~John Gay

From kings to cobblers 'tis the same; Bad servants wound their masters' fame.

~John Gay

Youth's the season made for joys, Love is then our duty.

~John Gay

One common fate we both must prove; You die with envy, I with love.

~John Gay

Fair is the kingcup that in meadow blows, Fair is the daisy that beside her grows.

~John Gay

Fair words cost nothing.

~John Gay

A Wolf eats sheep but now and then; Ten thousands are devour'd by men. An open foe may prove a curse, but a pretend friend is worse.

~John Gay

A woman's friendship ever ends in love.

~John Gay

Were I laid on Greenland's Coast, And in my Arms embrac'd my Lass;
Warm amidst eternal Frost, Too soon the Half Year's Night would pass.

~John Gay

In love we are all fools alike.

~John Gay

Fools may our scorn, not envy, raise. For envy is a kind of praise.

~John Gay

How, like a moth, the simple maid Still plays around the flame!

~John Gay

A man is always afraid of a woman that loves him too much

~John Gay

If the heart of a man is depressed with cares, The mist is dispelled when a woman appears.

~John Gay

Sure men were born to lie, and women to believe them!

~John Gay

But his kiss was so sweet, and so closely he pressed, that I languished and pined till I granted the rest.

~John Gay

Gamesters and highwaymen are generally very good to their whores, but they are very devils to their wives.

~John Gay

Can love be controll'd by advice?

~John Gay

Some folks of cider make a rout And cider's well enough no doubt
When better liquors fail; But wine, that's richer, better still, Ev'n wine
itself (deny't who will) Must yield to nappy ale

~John Gay

Why is the hearse with scutcheons blazon'd round, And with the
nodding plume of ostrich crown'd? No; the dead know it not, nor profit
gain; It only serves to prove the living vain.

~John Gay

Exercise thy lasting youth defends.

~John Gay

Lest men suspect your tale untrue, Keep probability in view.

~John Gay

Praising all alike, is praising none.

~John Gay

Of all the fools that pride can boast, A Coxcomb claims distinction most.

~John Gay

Who talks much, must talk in vain.

~John Gay

The fly that sips treacle is lost in the sweets.

~John Gay

Of all mechanics, of all servile handicrafts-men, a gamester is the vilest. But yet, as many of the quality are of the profession, he is admitted amongst the politest company.

~John Gay

O Polly, you might have toyed and kissed, by keeping men off, you keep them on.

~John Gay

Can you support the expense of a husband, hussy, in gaming, drinking and whoring? Have you money enough to carry on the daily quarrels of man and wife about who shall squander most?

~John Gay

How happy could I be with either, Were t'other dear charmer away!

~John Gay

'T is woman that seduces all mankind; By her we first were taught the

wheedling arts.

~John Gay

Music might tame and civilize wild beasts, but 'tis evident it never yet could tame and civilize musicians.

~John Gay

What frenzy dictates, jealousy believes

~John Gay

I never, with important air, In conversation overbear. . . . My tongue within my lips I rein; For who talks much must talk in vain.

~John Gay

Give me, kind heaven, a private station, a mind serene for contemplation.

~John Gay

I must have women - there is nothing unbends the mind like them.

~John Gay

When we risk no contradiction, It prompts the tongue to deal in fiction.

~John Gay

The charge is prepared; the lawyers are met; The judges all ranged (a terrible show!) I go, undismay'd. For death is a debt, A debt on demand. So take what I owe.

~John Gay

Whence is thy learning? Hath thy toil O'er books consumed the midnight oil?

~John Gay

If the heart of a man is depressed with cares, The mist is dispell'd when

a woman appears; Like the notes of a fiddle, she sweetly, sweetly
Raises the spirits, and charms our ears.

~John Gay

What then in love can woman do? If we grow fond they shun us. And
when we fly them, they pursue: But leave us when they've won us.

~John Gay

Woman's mind Oft' shifts her passions, like th'inconstant wind; Sudden
she rages, like the troubled main, Now sinks the storm, and all is calm
again.

~John Gay

Is there no hope? the sick man said, The silent doctor shook his head,
And took his leave with signs of sorrow, Despairing of his fee
to-morrow.

~John Gay

She who has never lov'd, has never liv'd.

~John Gay

Envy's a sharper spur than pay: No author ever spar'd a brother; Wits
are gamecocks to one another.

~John Gay

One wife is too much for most husbands to bear, But two at a time
there's no mortal can bear.

~John Gay

Do you think your mother and I should have lived comfortably so long
together, if ever we had been married? Baggage!

~John Gay

To cheat a man is nothing; but the woman must have fine parts indeed

who cheats a woman!

~John Gay

By outward show let's not be cheated; An ass should like an ass be treated.

~John Gay

To friendship every burden's light.

~John Gay

Envy's a sharper spur than pay.

~John Gay

Beasts kill for hunger, men for pay.

~John Gay

There is no dependence that can be sure but a dependence upon one's self.

~John Gay

Fill it up. I take as large draughts of liquor as I did of love. I hate a flincher in either.

~John Gay

Shall ignorance of good and ill Dare to direct the eternal will? Seek virtue, and of that possest, To Providence resign the rest.

~John Gay

Fill ev'ry glass, for wine inspires us, And fires us With courage, love and joy. Women and wine should life employ. Is there ought else on earth desirous?

~John Gay

A rich rogue nowadays is fit company for any gentleman; and the world,

my dear, hath not such a contempt for roguery as you imagine.

~John Gay

In every age and clime we see Two of a trade can never agree.

~John Gay

[Gulliver was soon being read] "from the cabinet council to the nursery".

~John Gay

My lodging is on the cold ground, And hard, very hard, is my fare, But that which grieves me more Is the coldness of my dear.

~John Gay

No author ever spar'd a brother.

~John Gay

If with me you'd fondly stray Over the hills and far away.

~John Gay

Variety's the source of joy below, From whence still fresh-revolving pleasures flow, In books and love the mind one end pursues, And only change the expiring flames renews.

~John Gay

So comes a reck'ning when the banquet's o'er, The dreadful reckn'ning, and men smile no more.

~John Gay

What will not luxury taste? Earth, sea, and air, Are daily ransack'd for the bill of fare. Blood stuffed in skins is British Christians' food, And France robs marshes of the croaking brood.

~John Gay

To shoot at crows is powder flung away.

~John Gay

Who hath not heard the rich complain Of surfeits, and corporeal pain?
He barr'd from every use of wealth, Envy the ploughman's strength
and health.

~John Gay

Breathe soft, ye winds! ye waves, in silence sleep!

~John Gay

Whoever heard a man of fortune in England talk of the necessaries of
life? . . . Whether we can afford it or no, we must have superfluities.

~John Gay

Here Shock, the pride of all his kind, is laid, Who fawned like man, but
ne'er like man betrayed.

~John Gay

'Twas when the seas were roaring With hollow blasts of wind, A damsel
lay deploring, All on a rock reclined.

~John Gay

The careful insect 'midst his works I view, Now from the flowers
exhaust the fragrant dew, With golden treasures load his little thighs,
And steer his distant journey through the skies.

~John Gay

Who friendship with a knave hath made, Is judged a partner in the
trade.

~John Gay

Learning by study must be won; 'Twas ne'er entail'd from son to son.

~John Gay

What happiness the rural maid attends, In cheerful labour while each day she spends! She gratefully receives what Heav'n has sent, And, rich in poverty, enjoys content.

~John Gay

In beauty faults conspicuous grow; The smallest speck is seen on snow.

~John Gay

The sun was set; the night came on apace, And falling dews bewet around the place; The bat takes airy rounds on leathern wings, And the hoarse owl his woeful dirges sings.

~John Gay

No retreat. No retreat. They must conquer or die who've no retreat.

~John Gay

Look round, the wrecks of play behold; Estates dismember'd, mortgaged, sold! Their owners now to jails confin'd, Show equal poverty of mind.

~John Gay

The luxury of doing good surpasses every other personal enjoyment.

~John Gay

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