

John Knowles

Quotes

*Separate Peace, People, Peace, Mean, Night, Sarcasm, War, Protest, Summer,
Dream, Tree, Sun, Weak, World, Years, Morning, Violence, Men, Prayer,
Accepting*

I began to know that each morning reasserted the problems of night before, that sleep suspended all but changed nothing, that you couldn't make yourself over between dawn and dusk.

~John Knowles

There was no harm in taking aim, even if the target was a dream.

~John Knowles

I felt that I was not, never had been and never would be a living part of this overpoweringly solid and deeply meaningful world around me.

~John Knowles

It seemed clear that wars were not made by generations and their special stupidities, but that wars were made instead by something ignorant in the human heart

~John Knowles

What I mean is, I love winter, and when you really love something, then it loves you back, in whatever way it has to love.

~John Knowles

As I said, this was my sarcastic summer. It was only long after that I recognized sarcasm as the protest of people who are weak.

~John Knowles

But something held me back. Perhaps I was stopped by that level of feeling, deeper than thought, which contains the truth.

~John Knowles

Sarcasm is the protest of the weak.

~John Knowles

Peace is indivisible, and the surrounding world confusion found no reflection inside me.

~John Knowles

We are all born equally far from the sun.

~John Knowles

The next major advance in the health of the American people will be determined by what the individual is willing to do for himself.

~John Knowles

Stranded in this mill town railroad yard while the whole world was converging elsewhere, we seemed to be nothing but children playing among heroic men.

~John Knowles

Everyone has a moment in history which belongs particularly to him.

~John Knowles

I lost part of myself to him then, and a soaring sense of freedom revealed that this must have been my purpose from the first: to become a part of Phineas.

~John Knowles

Nothing endures. Not a tree. Not love. Not even death by violence.

~John Knowles

Life is fighting. In life, it's the look ahead that counts. We are all born equally far from the sun. There is a land of the living and a land of the dead and the bridge is love.

~John Knowles

Teenagers today are more free to be themselves and to accept themselves.

~John Knowles

But I was used to finding something deadly in things that attracted me; there was always something deadly lurking in anything I wanted, anything I loved.

~John Knowles

So the more things remain the same, the more they change after all.

~John Knowles

Sarcasm... the protest of those who are weak.

~John Knowles

You have to do what you think is the right thing, but just make sure it's the right thing in the long run, and not just for the moment.

~John Knowles

Always say some prayers at night because it might turn out that there is a God.

~John Knowles

The summer of 1943 at Exeter was as happy a time as I ever had in my life.

~John Knowles

Everything has to evolve or else it perishes.

~John Knowles

There are special, strange gifted people in the world and they have to be treated with understanding

~John Knowles

I knew that part of friendship consisted in accepting a friend's shortcomings, which sometimes included his parents.

~John Knowles

There are simply more young people than there ever were. You get this feeling of strength. Also, large numbers can be a drawback, making it difficult to lose one's anonymity.

~John Knowles

So the more things remained the same, the more they changed after all. Nothing endures. Not love, not a tree, not even a death by violence.

~John Knowles

I did not know everything there was to know about myself, and knew that I did not know it.

~John Knowles

It is a sad day when one looks back and sees that his largest regrets have become some of the most integral elements of his dreams.

~John Knowles

Young people in my generation were sort of in lockstep, and it wasn't just the '40s, either. In the '30s and in the '50s it was the same. No one ever dropped out unless he got sick or got kicked out.

~John Knowles

My father was in the coal business in West Virginia. Both dad and mother were, however, originally from Massachusetts; New England, to them, meant the place to go if you really wanted an education.

~John Knowles

Never say you are five feet nine when you are five feet eight and a half" was the first one I encountered. Another was, "Always say some prayers at night because it might turn out that there is a God.

~John Knowles

As I walked briskly out the road the wind knifed at my face, but this sun caressed the back of my neck.

~John Knowles

The best teaching I ever experienced was at Exeter. Yale was a distinct letdown afterward.

~John Knowles

Exeter was, I suspect, more crucial in my life than in the lives of most members of my class, and conceivably, than in the lives of almost anyone else who ever attended the school.

~John Knowles

It was demeaning to scrape affection from virtually everyone you encountered. That was immature.

~John Knowles

the scornful force of his tone turned the word into a curse

~John Knowles

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