

# Jorge Luis Borges

## Quotes

*Writing, Men, Thinking, Book, Art, Memories, Believe, Dream, Reality, May,  
Inspirational, World, Past, Reading, Labyrinth, People, Mirrors, Literature,  
Library, Two*

So plant your own gardens and decorate your own soul, instead of waiting for someone to bring you flowers.

~Jorge Luis Borges

Being with you and not being with you is the only way I have to measure time.

~Jorge Luis Borges

Don't talk unless you can improve the silence.

~Jorge Luis Borges

I am not sure that I exist, actually. I am all the writers that I have read, all the people that I have met, all the women that I have loved; all the cities I have visited.

~Jorge Luis Borges

I cannot sleep unless I am surrounded by books.

~Jorge Luis Borges

The worst labyrinth is not that intricate form that can entrap us forever, but a single and precise straight line

~Jorge Luis Borges

The fact is that poetry is not the books in the library . . . Poetry is the encounter of the reader with the book, the discovery of the book.

~Jorge Luis Borges

Nothing is built on stone; all is built on sand, but we must build as if the sand were stone.

~Jorge Luis Borges

I can give you my loneliness, my darkness, the hunger of my heart, I am trying to bribe you with uncertainty, with danger, with defeat.

~Jorge Luis Borges

Truth never penetrates an unwilling mind.

~Jorge Luis Borges

The original is unfaithful to the translation.

~Jorge Luis Borges

Dictatorships foster oppression, dictatorships foster servitude, dictatorships foster cruelty; more abominable is the fact that they foster idiocy.

~Jorge Luis Borges

We accept reality so readily - perhaps because we sense that nothing is real.

~Jorge Luis Borges

Soccer is popular because stupidity is popular.

~Jorge Luis Borges

What you really value is what you miss, not what you have.

~Jorge Luis Borges

The future is inevitable and precise, but it may not occur. God lurks in the gaps.

~Jorge Luis Borges

The tango is a direct expression of something that poets have often tried to state in words: the belief that a fight may be a celebration.

~Jorge Luis Borges

Art always opts for the individual, the concrete; art is not Platonic.

~Jorge Luis Borges

I gazed at every mirror on the planet, not one gave back my reflection.

~Jorge Luis Borges

I owe the discovery of Uqbar to the conjunction of a mirror and an encyclopedia.

~Jorge Luis Borges

La duda es uno de los nombres de la inteligencia.

~Jorge Luis Borges

All that happens to us, including our humiliations, our misfortunes, our embarrassments, all is given to us as raw material, as clay, so that we may shape our art.

~Jorge Luis Borges

Reality is not always probable, or likely.

~Jorge Luis Borges

Reality is partial to symmetry and slight anachronisms

~Jorge Luis Borges

Let others pride themselves about how many pages they have written; I'd rather boast about the ones I've read.

~Jorge Luis Borges

No one is a poet from eight to twelve and from two to six. Whoever is a poet is one always, and continually assaulted by poetry.

~Jorge Luis Borges

There is nothing in the world that is not mysterious, but the mystery is more evident in certain things than in others: in the sea, in the eyes of the elders, in the color yellow, and in music.

~Jorge Luis Borges

The minotaur more than justifies the existence of the labyrinth.

~Jorge Luis Borges

I have committed the worst of sins one can commit... I have not been happy.

~Jorge Luis Borges

May Heaven exist, even if my place is Hell.

~Jorge Luis Borges

Life itself is a quotation.

~Jorge Luis Borges

I have always imagined that Paradise will be a kind of library.

~Jorge Luis Borges

The future has no other reality than as present hope, and the past is no more than present memory.

~Jorge Luis Borges

To fall in love is to create a religion that has a fallible god.

~Jorge Luis Borges

The Falklands thing was a fight between two bald men over a comb.

~Jorge Luis Borges

Doubt is one of the names of intelligence.

~Jorge Luis Borges

I foresee that man will resign himself each day to new abominations, and soon that only bandits and soldiers will be left...

~Jorge Luis Borges

Time can't be measured in days the way money is measured in pesos and centavos, because all pesos are equal, while every day, perhaps every hour, is different.

~Jorge Luis Borges

When writers die they become books, which is, after all, not too bad an incarnation.

~Jorge Luis Borges

I saw all the mirrors on earth and none of them reflected me.

~Jorge Luis Borges

For me, beauty is a physical sensation, something we feel with our whole body. It is not the result of judgement. We do not arrive at it by way of rules. We either feel beauty or we don't.

~Jorge Luis Borges

A writer's work is the product of laziness.

~Jorge Luis Borges

A book is not an isolated being: it is a relationship, an axis of innumerable relationships

~Jorge Luis Borges

The mind was dreaming. The world was its dream.

~Jorge Luis Borges

Perhaps the apparent favor of the universe is no more than the crocodile grin of a Doberman breathing hard and about to be hungry?

~Jorge Luis Borges

Loneliness does not worry me; life is difficult enough, putting up with yourself and with your own habits.

~Jorge Luis Borges

In my next life I will try to commit more errors.

~Jorge Luis Borges

It is clear that there is no classification of the Universe that is not

arbitrary and full of conjectures. The reason for this is very simple: we do not know what kind of thing the universe is.

~Jorge Luis Borges

Poets, like the blind, can see in the dark.

~Jorge Luis Borges

Creativity is suspended between memory and forgetting.

~Jorge Luis Borges

There's no need to build a labyrinth when the entire universe is one.

~Jorge Luis Borges

Any life, however long and complicated it may be, actually consists of a single moment — the moment when a man knows forever more who he is.

~Jorge Luis Borges

I believe that in time we will have reached the point where we will deserve to be free of government.

~Jorge Luis Borges

Writing is nothing more than a guided dream.

~Jorge Luis Borges

A system is nothing more than the subordination of all aspects of the universe to any one of such aspects.

~Jorge Luis Borges

I cannot walk through the suburbs in the solitude of the night without thinking that the night pleases us because it suppresses idle details, just as our memory does.

~Jorge Luis Borges

The central problem of novel-writing is causality.

~Jorge Luis Borges

Besides, rereading, not reading, is what counts.

~Jorge Luis Borges

Your unforgivable sins do not allow you to see my splendor.

~Jorge Luis Borges

From my weakness, I drew strength that never left me.

~Jorge Luis Borges

Man's memory shapes its own Eden within

~Jorge Luis Borges

If I were asked to name the chief event in my life, I should say my father's library.

~Jorge Luis Borges

Only in the present do things happen.

~Jorge Luis Borges

Reading is an activity subsequent to writing: more resigned, more civil, more intellectual.

~Jorge Luis Borges

While we are asleep in this world, we are awake in another one

~Jorge Luis Borges

Time forks perpetually toward innumerable futures.

~Jorge Luis Borges

The dictionary is based on the hypothesis -- obviously an unproven one -- that languages are made up of equivalent synonyms.



~Jorge Luis Borges

Time is a fire that consumes me, but I am the fire.

~Jorge Luis Borges

i walk slowly, like one who comes from so far away he doesn't expect to arrive

~Jorge Luis Borges

If space is infinite, we may be at any point in space. If time is infinite, we may be at any point in time.

~Jorge Luis Borges

Captivated by its discipline, humanity forgets and goes on forgetting that it is the discipline of chess players, not of angels.

~Jorge Luis Borges

Personally, I am a hedonistic reader; I have never read a book merely because it was ancient. I read books for the aesthetic emotions they offer me, and I ignore the commentaries and criticism.

~Jorge Luis Borges

Democracy is an abuse of statistics.

~Jorge Luis Borges

Reality may avoid the obligation to be interesting, but ... hypotheses may not.

~Jorge Luis Borges

Another school declares that all time has already transpired and that our life is only the crepuscular and no doubt falsified and mutilated memory or reflection of an irrecoverable process.

~Jorge Luis Borges

In general, every country has the language it deserves.

~Jorge Luis Borges

I am not sure of anything, I know nothing . . . can you imagine that I don't even know the date of my own death?

~Jorge Luis Borges

Every man should be capable of all ideas.

~Jorge Luis Borges

What I'm really concerned about is reaching one person. And that person may be myself for all I know.

~Jorge Luis Borges

I think of reading a book as no less an experience than travelling or falling in love.

~Jorge Luis Borges

The visible universe was an illusion or, more precisely, a sophism. Mirrors and fatherhood are abominable because they multiply it and extend it.

~Jorge Luis Borges

My undertaking is not difficult, essentially. I should only have to be immortal to carry it out.

~Jorge Luis Borges

The things that are said in literature are always the same. What is important is the way they are said.

~Jorge Luis Borges

He consorted with prostitutes and poets...and with persons even worse.

~Jorge Luis Borges

My books standing there on the shelf do not know that I have written them.

~Jorge Luis Borges

Poetry remembers that it was an oral art before it was a written art.

~Jorge Luis Borges

Each thing implies the universe.

~Jorge Luis Borges

To be immortal is commonplace; except for man, all creatures are immortal, for they are ignorant of death; what is divine, terrible, incomprehensible, is to know that one is immortal.

~Jorge Luis Borges

Poetry springs from something deeper; it's beyond intelligence.

~Jorge Luis Borges

Fame is a form, perhaps the worst form, of incomprehension.

~Jorge Luis Borges

Translations are a partial and precious documentation of the changes the text suffers.

~Jorge Luis Borges

Time, which despoils castles, enriches verses.

~Jorge Luis Borges

What a writer wants to do is not what he does.

~Jorge Luis Borges

Beyond my anxiety, beyond this writing, the universe waits, inexhaustible, inviting.

~Jorge Luis Borges

The central fact of my life has been the existence of words and the possibility of weaving those words into poetry.

~Jorge Luis Borges

We forget that we are all dead men conversing with dead men.

~Jorge Luis Borges

To die for a religion is easier than to live it absolutely.

~Jorge Luis Borges

Every novel is an ideal plane inserted into the realm of reality.

~Jorge Luis Borges

I never reread what I've written. I'm far too afraid to feel ashamed of what I've done.

~Jorge Luis Borges

When I wake up, I wake to something worse. It's the astonishment of being myself

~Jorge Luis Borges

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