

Julio Cortazar

Quotes

*Thinking, Stories, Memories, Eye, Literature, Believe, Writing, Doe, Age, Life,
Sleep, Lightning, Reality, Rain, Mean, Book, Important, Littles, Echoes,
Machines*

I think we all have a little bit of that beautiful madness that keeps us walking when everything around us is so insanely sane.

~Julio Cortazar

Come sleep with me: We won't make Love, Love will make us.

~Julio Cortazar

Of all our feelings the only one which really doesn't belong to us is hope. Hope belongs to life, it's life itself defending itself. Etcetera.

~Julio Cortazar

Only in dreams, in poetry, in play do we sometimes arrive at what we were before we were this thing that, who knows, we are.

~Julio Cortazar

The evolution from happiness to habit is one of death's best weapons.

~Julio Cortazar

All profound distraction opens certain doors. You have to allow yourself to be distracted when you are unable to concentrate.

~Julio Cortazar

Time is born in the eyes, everybody knows that.

~Julio Cortazar

Only by living absurdly is it possible to break out of this infinite absurdity.

~Julio Cortazar

The novel wins by points, the short story by knockout.

~Julio Cortazar

In quoting others, we cite ourselves.

~Julio Cortazar

Memory is a mirror that scandalously lies.

~Julio Cortazar

A short story relies on those values that make poetry and jazz what they are: tension, rhythms, inner beat, into unforeseen within foreseen parameters

~Julio Cortazar

Everything can be killed except nostalgia for the kingdom, we carry it in the color of our eyes, in every love affair, in everything that deeply torments and unties and tricks.

~Julio Cortazar

Wordplay hides a key to reality that the dictionary tries in vain to lock inside every free word.

~Julio Cortazar

(memory is) A strange echo, which stores its replicas according to some other acoustic than consciousness or expectation.

~Julio Cortazar

Once in a while it happens that I vomit up a bunny... it's not reason for one to blush and isolate oneself and to walk around keeping one's mouth shut.

~Julio Cortazar

When one wants to write, one writes. If one is condemned to write, one writes.

~Julio Cortazar

Before going back to sleep I imagined (I saw) a plastic universe, changeable, full of wondrous chance, an elastic sky, a sun that suddenly is missing or remains fixed or changes its shape.

~Julio Cortazar

The modern story begun, one might say, with Edgar Allan Poe, which proceeds inexorably, like a machine destined to accomplish its mission with the maximum economy of means.

~Julio Cortazar

I realized that searching was my symbol, the emblem of those who go out at night with nothing in mind, the motives of a destroyer of compasses.

~Julio Cortazar

Happy was she who could believe without seeing, who was at one with the duration and continuity of life.

~Julio Cortazar

We no longer believe because it is absurd: it is absurd because we must believe.

~Julio Cortazar

The unusual is only found in a very small percentage, except in literary creations, and that is exactly what makes literature.

~Julio Cortazar

Human history is the sad result of each one looking out for himself.

~Julio Cortazar

For me the thing that signals a great story is what we might call its autonomy, the fact that it detaches itself from its author like a soap bubble blown from a clay pipe.

~Julio Cortazar

After the age of 50 we begin to die little by little in the deaths of others.

~Julio Cortazar

What good is a writer if he can't destroy literature? And us... what good

are we if we don't help as much as we can in that destruction?

~Julio Cortazar

Where are the beginnings, the endings, and most important, the middles?

~Julio Cortazar

I think it is vanity to want to put into a story anything but the story itself.

~Julio Cortazar

The more a book is like an opium pipe, the more the Chinaman reader is satisfied with it and tends to discuss the quality of the drug rather than its lethargic effects.

~Julio Cortazar

I can't think of another writer who can move me as surreptitiously as Vian does

~Julio Cortazar

Nothing is more comical than seriousness understood as a virtue that has to precede all important literature

~Julio Cortazar

[Heaven is] that moment in which something attains its maximum depth, its maximum reach, its maximum sense, and becomes completely uninteresting.

~Julio Cortazar

Why have we had to invent Eden, to live submerged in the nostalgia of a lost paradise, to make up utopias, propose a future for ourselves?

~Julio Cortazar

The mysterious does not spell itself out in capital letters, as many writers believe, but is always between, an interstice.

~Julio Cortazar

The short-story writer knows that he can't proceed cumulatively, that time is not his ally. His only solution is to work vertically, heading up or down in literary space.

~Julio Cortazar

Literature is ... a game, but it's a game one can put one's life into.

~Julio Cortazar

Salt and the center of the world have to be there, in that spot on the tablecloth.

~Julio Cortazar

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