

# Katherine Paterson Quotes

*Book, Writing, Children, People, Thinking, Reading, Heart, Art, Real, Ideas,  
School, Believe, Kids, Imagination, Years, Beautiful, Inspirational, Trying, Home,  
Giving*

The name we give to something shapes our attitude toward it.

~Katherine Paterson

To fear is one thing. To let fear grab you by the tail and swing you around is another.

~Katherine Paterson

It is not enough to simply teach children to read; we have to give them something worth reading.

~Katherine Paterson

Peace is not won by those who fiercely guard their differences, but by those who with open minds and hearts seek out connections.

~Katherine Paterson

I love revision. Where else can spilled milk be turned into ice cream?

~Katherine Paterson

As much pleasure as young people get from Twittering and texting, there is no way these activities will nourish their minds and spirits the way literature can.

~Katherine Paterson

Reading can be a road to freedom or a key to a secret garden, which, if tended, will transform all of life.

~Katherine Paterson

As I look back on what I have written, I can see that the very persons who have taken away my time are those who have given me something to say.

~Katherine Paterson

Some folks are natural born kickers. They can always find a way to turn disaster into butter.

~Katherine Paterson

I love to read. But I loved to read a lot longer than I started to love writing.

~Katherine Paterson

I love revisions...We can't go back and revise our lives, but being allowed to go back and revise what we have written comes closest.

~Katherine Paterson

the reason God made February short a few days was because he knew that by the time people came to the end of it they would die if they had to stand one more blasted day.

~Katherine Paterson

February is just plain malicious. It knows your defenses are down.

~Katherine Paterson

Sometimes it seemed to him that his life was delicate as a dandelion. One little puff from any direction, and it was blown to bits.

~Katherine Paterson

Thus, in a real sense, I am constantly writing autobiography, but I have to turn it into fiction in order to give it credibility.

~Katherine Paterson

We are trying to communicate that which lies in our deepest heart, which has no words, which can only be hinted at through the means of a story.

~Katherine Paterson

A dream without a plan is just a wish

~Katherine Paterson

Trouble can always be borne when it is shared.

~Katherine Paterson

Kids often ask me if characters are real or made up - and I always tell them, 'I hope they're real but I made them up.'

~Katherine Paterson

Punch after punch after punch. February is a mean bully. Nothing could be worse - except August.

~Katherine Paterson

Hope ... is not a feeling; it is something you do.

~Katherine Paterson

It was up to him to pay back to the world in beauty and caring what Leslie had loaned him in vision and strength.

~Katherine Paterson

...those of us who write for children are called, not to do something to a child, but be someone for a child.

~Katherine Paterson

A library is a feast to which we are all invited.

~Katherine Paterson

I can't believe there will ever be a time when the book is truly obsolete. It is the perfect technology and feeds the soul.

~Katherine Paterson

I do know that I need solitude, not only to write but to nourish myself (being, like most writers, an introvert) so that I do keep trying to write.

~Katherine Paterson

Our fundamental task as human beings is to seek out connections-to

exercise our imaginations.

~Katherine Paterson

Mandarin ducks mate for life and will die of loneliness if separated from their chosen mate.

~Katherine Paterson

What a gift of grace to be able to take the chaos from within and from it create some semblance of order.

~Katherine Paterson

A great novel is a kind of conversion experience. We come away from it changed.

~Katherine Paterson

...One reason I became a writer was that I figured out that if you call yourself a writer, you can read all you want and people think that you are working.

~Katherine Paterson

You don't have to fight dragons to write books. You just have to live deeply the life you've been given.

~Katherine Paterson

Words are humanity's greatest natural resource, but most of us have trouble figuring out how to put them together. Words aren't cheap. They are very precious.

~Katherine Paterson

The world that is in me is the only world I have by which to grasp the world outside and as I write fiction, it is the chart by which I must steer.

~Katherine Paterson

Sitting in cold wet britches for an hour was no fun even in a magic

kingdom.

~Katherine Paterson

If you're a kid who is always on the outside hoping to be on the inside, you're watching a lot. You're trying to figure out how to become a normal person in a society that considers you weird.

~Katherine Paterson

If you could hold your nose to avoid a stink, or close your eyes to cut out a sight, why not shut off your brain to avoid a thought?

~Katherine Paterson

We all learn here by the honorable path of horrible mistakes.

~Katherine Paterson

life ain't supposed to be nothing, 'cept maybe tough

~Katherine Paterson

The children's book world has given me wonderful friendships and an unbelievably rich life.

~Katherine Paterson

I'm sure my first nine years have had a powerful influence on the kind of books I write.

~Katherine Paterson

We book people are always preaching about reading aloud to children, but unless you do, you can't realize how it enriches family life.

~Katherine Paterson

What I really want to do is to write a hilarious farce.

~Katherine Paterson

I woke up one morning and realized that what I wanted to say to

everyone - children, young people, adults - was: Read for your life.

~Katherine Paterson

You have to believe it and you hate it. I don't have to and I think it's beautiful.

~Katherine Paterson

I know a movie and a book are two different things and you are going to do different media in different ways. No author can want a movie to be exactly like the book because then it will be a bad movie.

~Katherine Paterson

You gotta know someone cares about you, or you just give up.

~Katherine Paterson

Crazy people who are judged to be harmless are allowed an enormous amount of freedom ordinary people are denied.

~Katherine Paterson

a work that intends to be art must first be entertaining.

~Katherine Paterson

He may not have been born with guts, but he didn't have to die without them.

~Katherine Paterson

It's like the smarter you are, the more things can scare you.

~Katherine Paterson

You think it's so great to die and make everyone cry and carry on. Well it ain't.

~Katherine Paterson

Many people are angry when they make a mistake, but very few people

have the sense to be sorry.

~Katherine Paterson

Sometimes you need to give people something that's for them, not just something that makes you feel good giving it.

~Katherine Paterson

What I have come to believe is that joy is the twin sister of gratitude. I am most joyful when I am most grateful.

~Katherine Paterson

Everything comes in useful once in a hundred years.

~Katherine Paterson

I have been mocked by beauty, too. But it was the beauty which cost me nothing that in the end turned upon me.

~Katherine Paterson

The last dregs of winter spoiling the taste of everything.

~Katherine Paterson

You never know ahead of time what something's really going to be like.

~Katherine Paterson

We're alike, Jess would tell himself, me and Miss Edmunds . . . We don't belong at Lark Creek, Julia and me.

~Katherine Paterson

Impressed. Lord. He had nearly drowned.

~Katherine Paterson

Nothing smelled so good or danced so well as a birch fire.

~Katherine Paterson



Everybody gets scared sometimes, May Belle. You don't have to be ashamed.

~Katherine Paterson

I was behaving, just like I promised, but fate intervened.

~Katherine Paterson

Once a book is published, it no longer belongs to me. My creative task is done. The work now belongs to the creative mind of my readers. I had my turn to make of it what I would, now it is their turn.

~Katherine Paterson

I think if a book has the power to move a reader, it also has the power to offend a reader. And you want your books to have power, so you just have to take what comes with that.

~Katherine Paterson

If you're so afraid of your imagination that you stifle it, how are you going to know God? How can you imagine heaven?

~Katherine Paterson

Reading has made such a profound difference to my life. I'm sure I became a writer because of the power of literature in my own life.

~Katherine Paterson

We do have trouble dealing with death, but it's the one thing that is guaranteed we are all going to have to do, and we are going to have to face it many times before we die ourselves.

~Katherine Paterson

It's such a thrill when an adult comes up to me and says, 'I read your book as a child and really loved it.' That's a tremendous compliment.

~Katherine Paterson

I guess real maturity, which most of us never achieve, is when you realize that you're not the center of the universe.

~Katherine Paterson

I realize, of course, that I wasn't born knowing how to read. I just can't imagine a time when I didn't know how.

~Katherine Paterson

It seems to me that there are two great enemies of peace - fear and selfishness.

~Katherine Paterson

Lord, let me heed the angels you put in my path.

~Katherine Paterson

One thing living in Japan did for me was to make me feel that what is left out of a work of art is as important as, if not more important than, what is put in.

~Katherine Paterson

Death is very mysterious to us. One moment someone is there with us, and the next moment they're not.

~Katherine Paterson

It is always sad to write about prejudice, but sometimes when we see it being played out in the lives of fictional characters, we can recognize it in our own lives.

~Katherine Paterson

My writing comes from ideas that make a sound in my heart.

~Katherine Paterson

There are few things, apparently, more helpful to a writer than having once been a weird little kid.

~Katherine Paterson

**Youth is a mortal wound.**

~Katherine Paterson

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