

Kenzaburo Oe

Quotes

*Japan, Suffering, Writing, Firsts, War, Thinking, Country, Years, Reading, Soul,
Style, Asia, Men, People, Jobs, Culture, Understanding, Europe, Reflection,
Married*

My observation is that after one hundred and twenty years of modernisation since the opening of the country, present-day Japan is split between two opposite poles of ambiguity.

~Kenzaburo Oe

The ambiguous orientation of Japan drove the country into the position of an invader in Asia.

~Kenzaburo Oe

After the end of the Second World War it was a categorical imperative for us to declare that we renounced war forever in a central article of the new Constitution.

~Kenzaburo Oe

It is the second job of literature to create myth. But its first job is to destroy it.

~Kenzaburo Oe

It takes a person of great care and insight to watch for any abnormality in the green grass even while it grows abundantly and healthily.

~Kenzaburo Oe

Understanding comes hard to persons of high rank who are accustomed to phony lifestyles that involve no daily work.

~Kenzaburo Oe

Paradoxically, the people and state of Japan living on such moral props were not innocent but had been stained by their own past history of invading other Asian countries.

~Kenzaburo Oe

There's no better reading experience than going to the place where a text was written.

~Kenzaburo Oe

The ideal teacher student relationship exists when the student is better than the teacher.

~Kenzaburo Oe

To be upright and to have an imagination: that is enough to be a very good young man.

~Kenzaburo Oe

The dead can survive as part of the lives of those that still live.

~Kenzaburo Oe

However, please allow me to say that the fundamental style of my writing has been to start from my personal matters and then to link it up with society, the state and the world.

~Kenzaburo Oe

If any suffering was fruitless it was the agony of a hangover; what he suffered now could not expiate suffering of any other kind.

~Kenzaburo Oe

The Japanese chose the principle of eternal peace as the basis of morality for our rebirth after the War.

~Kenzaburo Oe

By reading Huckleberry Finn I felt I was able to justify my act of going into the mountain forest at night and sleeping among the trees with a sense of security which I could never find indoors.

~Kenzaburo Oe

The writer's job is the job of a clown – the clown who also talks about sorrow.

~Kenzaburo Oe

I have survived by representing these sufferings of mine in the form of

the novel.

~Kenzaburo Oe

The way Japan had tried to build up a modern state modelled on the West was cataclysmic.

~Kenzaburo Oe

I don't think young people need to see the face of the deceased.

~Kenzaburo Oe

After I got married, the first child born to us was mentally handicapped.

~Kenzaburo Oe

Even though we now have the half-century-old new Constitution, there is a popular sentiment of support for the old one that lives on in reality in some quarters.

~Kenzaburo Oe

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