

Kurt Vonnegut Quotes

*People, Thinking, Writing, War, Men, Slaughterhouse Five, Book, Art, Ideas,
Years, Life, Believe, Way, Hate, School, Character, Country, Beautiful, Nice,
Mean*

True terror is to wake up one morning and discover that your high school class is running the country.

~Kurt Vonnegut

We are what we pretend to be, so we must be careful what we pretend to be.

~Kurt Vonnegut

There is a tragic flaw in our precious constitution, and I don't know what can be done to fix it. This is it: Only nut cases want to be president.

~Kurt Vonnegut

I want to stand as close to the edge as I can without going over. Out on the edge you see all the kinds of things you can't see from the center.

~Kurt Vonnegut

He didn't look like a soldier at all. He looked like a filthy flamingo.

~Kurt Vonnegut

Any reviewer who expresses rage and loathing for a novel is preposterous. He or she is like a person who has put on full armor and attacked a hot fudge sundae.

~Kurt Vonnegut

Perhaps I am the turtle, able to live simply anywhere, even underwater for short periods, with my home on my back.

~Kurt Vonnegut

About astrology and palmistry: they are good because they make people vivid and full of possibilities. They are communism at its best. Everybody has a birthday and almost everybody has a palm.

~Kurt Vonnegut

We are here on Earth to fart around. Don't let anybody tell you any

different.

~Kurt Vonnegut

Enjoy your body, use it every way you can. Don't be afraid of it, or what other people think of it, it's the greatest instrument you'll ever own.

~Kurt Vonnegut

Beware of the man who works hard to learn something, learns it, and finds himself no wiser than before.

~Kurt Vonnegut

Laughter and tears are both responses to frustration and exhaustion. I myself prefer to laugh, since there is less cleaning up to do afterward.

~Kurt Vonnegut

Here is a lesson in creative writing. First rule: Do not use semicolons. They are transvestite hermaphrodites representing absolutely nothing. All they do is show you've been to college.

~Kurt Vonnegut

Being a Humanist means trying to behave decently without expectation of rewards or punishment after you are dead.

~Kurt Vonnegut

We're terrible animals. I think that the Earth's immune system is trying to get rid of us, as well it should.

~Kurt Vonnegut

One of the few good things about modern times: If you die horribly on television, you will not have died in vain. You will have entertained us.

~Kurt Vonnegut

There is love enough in this world for everybody, if people will just look.

~Kurt Vonnegut

Like all real heroes, Charley had a fatal flaw. He refused to believe that he had gonorrhea, whereas the truth was that he did.

~Kurt Vonnegut

A purpose of human life, no matter who is controlling it, is to love whoever is around to be loved.

~Kurt Vonnegut

It's a terrible waste to be happy and not notice it.

~Kurt Vonnegut

Our awareness is all that is alive and maybe sacred in any of us. Everything else about us is dead machinery.

~Kurt Vonnegut

There's a Chaplain who never visited the front.

~Kurt Vonnegut

I really wonder what gives us the right to wreck this poor planet of ours.

~Kurt Vonnegut

The arts are not a way to make a living. They are a very human way of making life more bearable.

~Kurt Vonnegut

Most writers are not quick-witted when they talk. Novelists, in particular, drag themselves around in society like gut-shot bears.

~Kurt Vonnegut

Doesn't anything socialistic make you want to throw up? Like great public schools, or health insurance for all?

~Kurt Vonnegut

Everything is nothing, with a twist.

~Kurt Vonnegut

Evolution is so creative. That's how we got giraffes.

~Kurt Vonnegut

You meet saints everywhere. They can be anywhere. They are people behaving decently in an indecent society.

~Kurt Vonnegut

I can think of no more stirring symbol of man's humanity to man than a fire engine.

~Kurt Vonnegut

What war has always been is a puberty ceremony.

~Kurt Vonnegut

Smoking is the only honorable form of suicide.

~Kurt Vonnegut

Science is magic that works.

~Kurt Vonnegut

Dear future generations: Please accept our apologies. We were rolling drunk on petroleum.

~Kurt Vonnegut

Nietzsche had a little one-liner on how to choose a wife. He said, "Are you willing to have a conversation with this woman for the next forty years?" That's how to pick a wife.

~Kurt Vonnegut

I still catch myself feeling sad about things that don't matter anymore.

~Kurt Vonnegut

Here we are, trapped in the amber of the moment. There is no why.

~Kurt Vonnegut

Having a yacht is a reason for being more cheerful than most.

~Kurt Vonnegut

Music is, to me, proof of the existence of God. It is so extraordinarily full of magic, and in tough times of my life I can listen to music and it makes such a difference.

~Kurt Vonnegut

Maybe they invited me because they know I have a tuxedo

~Kurt Vonnegut

And I asked myself about the present: how wide it was, how deep it was, how much was mine to keep.

~Kurt Vonnegut

If somebody says, "I love you," to me, I feel as though I had a pistol pointed at my head. What can anybody reply under such conditions but that which the pistol-holder requires? "I love you, too."

~Kurt Vonnegut

I could go on to speak of sanity as compared with insanity, decency as compared with vandalism, friendship as compared with rabies.

~Kurt Vonnegut

Another flaw in the human character is that everybody wants to build and nobody wants to do maintenance.

~Kurt Vonnegut

You don't do art for any other reason than to help your soul grow.

~Kurt Vonnegut

...this is a hard world to be ludicrous in, with so many human beings so reluctant to laugh, so incapable of thought, so eager to believe and snarl and hate.

~Kurt Vonnegut

There is no beginning, no middle, no end, no suspense, no moral, no causes, no effects. What we love in our books are the depths of many marvelous moments seen all at one time.

~Kurt Vonnegut

Use the time of a total stranger in such a way that he or she will not feel the time was wasted.

~Kurt Vonnegut

To practice any art, no matter how well or badly, is a way to make your soul grow. So do it.

~Kurt Vonnegut

We have to continually be jumping off cliffs and developing our wings on the way down.

~Kurt Vonnegut

Hate, in the long run, is about as nourishing as cyanide.

~Kurt Vonnegut

An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.

~Kurt Vonnegut

Plato says that the unexamined life is not worth living. But what if the examined life turns out to be a clunker as well?

~Kurt Vonnegut

The two real political parties in America are the Winners and the Losers. The people don't acknowledge this. They claim membership in

two imaginary parties, the Republicans and the Democrats, instead.

~Kurt Vonnegut

And I urge you to please notice when you are happy, and exclaim or murmur or think at some point, 'If this isn't nice, I don't know what is.

~Kurt Vonnegut

Nobody will stop you from creating. Do it tonight. Do it tomorrow. That is the way to make your soul grow.

~Kurt Vonnegut

Those who believe in telekinetics, raise my hand.

~Kurt Vonnegut

Unusual travel suggestions are dancing lessons from God.

~Kurt Vonnegut

I was taught that the human brain was the crowning glory of evolution so far, but I think it's a very poor scheme for survival.

~Kurt Vonnegut

Unannounced changes in life's itinerary are like dancing lessons from God.

~Kurt Vonnegut

We are what we imagine ourselves to be.

~Kurt Vonnegut

Being an American means never having to say you're sorry.

~Kurt Vonnegut

The universe is a big place, perhaps the biggest.

~Kurt Vonnegut

Well here you are, there it is, THIS is what it's all about.

~Kurt Vonnegut

Seems like the only kind of job an American can get these days is committing suicide in some way.

~Kurt Vonnegut

Time is liquid. One moment is no more important than any other and all moments quickly run away.

~Kurt Vonnegut

I'm a doctor of cowshit, pigshit, and chickenshit....when you doctors figure out what you want, you'll find me out in the barn shoveling my thesis.

~Kurt Vonnegut

There are plenty of good reasons for fighting, I said, but no good reason ever to hate without reservation, to imagine that God Almighty Himself hates with you, too.

~Kurt Vonnegut

You'll forget it when you're dead, and so will I. When I'm dead, I'm going to forget everything-and I advise you to do the same.

~Kurt Vonnegut

Men are jerks. Women are psychotic.

~Kurt Vonnegut

I would have been dead if it weren't for that great gift to civilization from the Chemistry Department of Harvard, which was napalm, or sticky jellied gasoline.

~Kurt Vonnegut

How nice -- to feel nothing, and still get full credit for being alive.

~Kurt Vonnegut

Somebody gets into trouble, then gets out of it again. People love that story. They never get tired of it.

~Kurt Vonnegut

Life happens too fast for you ever to think about it. If you could just persuade people of this, but they insist on amassing information.

~Kurt Vonnegut

A sane person to an insane society must appear insane.

~Kurt Vonnegut

The most damning revelation you can make about yourself is that you do not know what is interesting and what is not.

~Kurt Vonnegut

Beer, of course, is actually a depressant, but poor people will never stop hoping otherwise.

~Kurt Vonnegut

If your brains were dynamite there wouldn't be enough to blow your hat off.

~Kurt Vonnegut

And a step backward, after making a wrong turn, is a step in the right direction.

~Kurt Vonnegut

The secret to success in any human endeavor is total concentration.

~Kurt Vonnegut

A saint is a person who behaves decently in a shockingly indecent society.

~Kurt Vonnegut

Symbols can be so beautiful, sometimes.

~Kurt Vonnegut

Eat, drink, and be merry for tomorrow we die.

~Kurt Vonnegut

...Skyscraper National Park

~Kurt Vonnegut

Sing in the shower. Dance to the radio. Tell stories. Write a poem to a friend, even a lousy poem. Do it as well as you possibly can. You will get an enormous reward. You will have created something.

~Kurt Vonnegut

Maturity is a bitter disappointment for which no remedy exists, unless laughter could be said to remedy anything.

~Kurt Vonnegut

And what do the birds say? All there is to say about a massacre, things like "Poo-tee-weet?"

~Kurt Vonnegut

We could have saved the earth, but we were too damned cheap.

~Kurt Vonnegut

Of all the words of mice and men, the saddest are, "It might have been.

~Kurt Vonnegut

When I write, I feel like an armless, legless man with a crayon in his mouth.

~Kurt Vonnegut

No art is possible without a dance with death.

~Kurt Vonnegut

Roses are red, And ready for plucking, You're sixteen, And ready for high school.

~Kurt Vonnegut

Every sentence must do one of two things-reveal character or advance the action.

~Kurt Vonnegut

Here's what I think the truth is: We are all addicts of fossil fuels in a state of denial, about to face cold turkey.

~Kurt Vonnegut

Kurt Vonnegut speaking to John Irving while Irving was administering the Heimlich maneuver in response to Vonnegut's uncontrollable coughing..."John,stop- I am not choking. I have emphysema.

~Kurt Vonnegut

Everything was beautiful and nothing hurt.

~Kurt Vonnegut

That is my principal objection to life, I think: It's too easy, when alive, to make perfectly horrible mistakes.

~Kurt Vonnegut

All this happened, more or less.

~Kurt Vonnegut

People have to talk about something just to keep their voice boxes in working order so they'll have good voice boxes in case there's ever anything really meaningful to say.

~Kurt Vonnegut

Say what you will about the sweet miracle of unquestioning faith, I consider a capacity for it terrifying and absolutely vile.

~Kurt Vonnegut

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