

# Leo Rosten Quotes

*Thinking, People, Mean, Purpose, Life, Men, Communication, Writing,  
Inspirational, Play, Self, Dog, Happiness, Money, Past, Pain, Believe, Firsts,  
Differences, Book*

The first printed mention of bagels... is to be found in the Community Regulations of Kracow, Poland, for the year 1610 which stated that bagels would be given as a gift to any woman in childbirth.

~Leo Rosten

We see things as we are, not as they are.

~Leo Rosten

Happiness comes only when we push our brains and hearts to the farthest reaches of which we are capable.

~Leo Rosten

I learned that it is the weak who are cruel, and that gentleness is to be expected only from the strong.

~Leo Rosten

What's green, hangs on a wall and whistles? [A Herring]

~Leo Rosten

Money can't buy happiness, but neither can poverty.

~Leo Rosten

The purpose of life is to matter, to be productive, to have it make a difference that you lived at all-using the talents that God has given you for the betterment of others.

~Leo Rosten

The purpose of life is not to be happy, the purpose of life is to matter.

~Leo Rosten

I sometimes think there is a dimension beyond the four of experience and Einstein: insight, that fifth dimension which promises to liberate us from bondage to the long, imperfect past

~Leo Rosten

If at first you don't succeed, before you try again, stop to figure out what you did wrong.

~Leo Rosten

A conservative is one who admires radicals centuries after they're dead.

~Leo Rosten

If you are going to do something wrong, at least enjoy it.

~Leo Rosten

Words must surely be counted among the most powerful drugs man ever invented.

~Leo Rosten

Courage is the capacity to confront what can be imagined.

~Leo Rosten

Extremists think 'communication' means agreeing with them.

~Leo Rosten

Why did God give me two ears and one mouth? So that I will hear more and talk less.

~Leo Rosten

Humor is the affectionate communication of insight.

~Leo Rosten

The writer wants to be understood much more than he wants to be respected or praised or even loved. And that, perhaps, is what makes him different from others.

~Leo Rosten

I never cease being dumbfounded by the unbelievable things people

believe.

~Leo Rosten

If a picture is worth a thousand words, please paint me the Gettysburg Address.

~Leo Rosten

Everyone, in some small sacred sanctuary of the self, is nuts.

~Leo Rosten

You can learn much about life from a checker game: surrender one to take two; don't make two moves at one time; move up, not down; and when you reach the top, you may move as you like.

~Leo Rosten

The only reason for being a professional writer is that you can't help it.

~Leo Rosten

Satire is focused bitterness.

~Leo Rosten

Thinking is harder work than hard work.

~Leo Rosten

Every writer is a narcissist. This does not mean that he is vain; it only means that he is hopelessly self-absorbed.

~Leo Rosten

When in trouble, mumble.

~Leo Rosten

People say: idle curiosity. The one thing that curiosity cannot be is idle.

~Leo Rosten

Some things are so unexpected that no one is prepared for them.

~Leo Rosten

Where there is too much, something is missing.

~Leo Rosten

The only thing I can say about W. C. Fields ... is this: Any man who hates dogs and babies can't be all bad.

~Leo Rosten

First-rate people hire first-rate people; second-rate people hire third-rate people.

~Leo Rosten

Dogs are getting bigger, according to a leading dog manufacturer.

~Leo Rosten

The fellow who laughs last may laugh best, but he gets the reputation of being very slow-witted.

~Leo Rosten

Machines certainly can solve problems, store information, correlate, and play games - but not with pleasure.

~Leo Rosten

Words sing. They hurt. They teach. They sanctify. They were man's first, immeasurable feat of magic. They liberated us from ignorance and our barbarous past.

~Leo Rosten

The hardest part of growing up is learning how to wait

~Leo Rosten

Many [of the Americans] polled showed a marked disapproval of the

Wallonians, Danerians, and Pirenians. The fact that these minorities were invented by the pollster did not diminish the hostility.

~Leo Rosten

Hope is ambiguous, but fear is precious.

~Leo Rosten

The love of money is the source of an enormous amount of good; the fact that the good is a by-product of the selfish pursuit of riches has nothing to do with its indisputable value.

~Leo Rosten

Her cooking suggested she had attended the Cordon Noir.

~Leo Rosten

It is not that which is beautiful that pleases us, but that which pleases is called beautiful.

~Leo Rosten

There was no answer, no solution, no sop, no deliverance. What, then, did I do? I read faster.

~Leo Rosten

For some not to be martyrs is martyrdom indeed.

~Leo Rosten

Happiness, in the ancient, noble sense, means self-fulfillmentâ€”and is given to those who use to the fullest whatever talents God â€” bestowed upon them.

~Leo Rosten

Acting is a form of deception, and actors can mesmerize themselves almost as easily as an audience.

~Leo Rosten

You understand people better if you look at them-no matter how old or impressive or important they may be-as if they were children. For most men never mature; they simply grow taller.

~Leo Rosten

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