

# M. H. Abrams

## Quotes

*Thinking, Humanity, Literature, People, Interesting, Book, Teaching, Military, Country, Desperation, Inspirational, Survival, Former, Fashion, Fun, Hard Work, Poetry, Enlightenment, Mean, Writing*

We are human, and nothing is more interesting to us than humanity.

~M. H. Abrams

It's amazing how, age after age, in country after country, and in all languages, Shakespeare emerges as incomparable.

~M. H. Abrams

The theories of the major philosophers of the 18th century secular enlightenment were biblical and theological in spite of themselves.

~M. H. Abrams

Life without literature is a life reduced to penury.

~M. H. Abrams

The survival of artistic modes in which we recognize ourselves, identify ourselves and place ourselves will survive as long as humanity survives.

~M. H. Abrams

Key metaphors help determine what and how we perceive and how we think about our perceptions.

~M. H. Abrams

If you read quickly to get through a poem to what it means, you have missed the body of the poem.

~M. H. Abrams

When I was a graduate student, the leading spirits at Harvard were interested in the history of ideas.

~M. H. Abrams

When something startlingly new comes up, young people, especially, seize it. You can't complain about that. I think its heyday has passed, but it's had an effect and will continue to have an effect.

~M. H. Abrams

I think most of the things I published have been published out of desperation, not because they were perfected.

~M. H. Abrams

If you don't set your writing - teaching - at a level that makes them stretch, they are never going to develop their intellectual muscle.

~M. H. Abrams

John Updike is always fun. And one of my former students, Tom Pynchon. And Harold Bloom, another former student.

~M. H. Abrams

If you learn one thing from having lived through decades of changing views, it is that all predictions are necessarily false.

~M. H. Abrams

Hard work makes easy reading or, at least, easier reading.

~M. H. Abrams

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