

# Margaret Atwood Quotes

*Thinking, Writing, People, Book, Past, Mean, Want, Men, Believe, Running,  
Way, Real, Children, Lying, Heart, Stories, Reading, School, Eye, Hands*

But nothing is more opaque than absolute transparency.

~Margaret Atwood

I hope that people will finally come to realize that there is only one 'race' - the human race - and that we are all members of it.

~Margaret Atwood

Men are afraid that women will laugh at them. Women are afraid that men will kill them.

~Margaret Atwood

Canada was built on dead beavers.

~Margaret Atwood

A divorce is like an amputation: you survive it, but there's less of you.

~Margaret Atwood

We still think of a powerful man as a born leader and a powerful woman as an anomaly.

~Margaret Atwood

You can only be jealous of someone who has something you think you ought to have yourself.

~Margaret Atwood

Nature is to zoos as God is to churches.

~Margaret Atwood

If the national mental illness of the United States is megalomania, that of Canada is paranoid schizophrenia.

~Margaret Atwood

Another belief of mine; that everyone else my age is an adult, whereas I am merely in disguise.

~Margaret Atwood

You think I'm not a goddess? Try me. This is a torch song. Touch me and you'll burn.

~Margaret Atwood

In the spring, at the end of the day, you should smell like dirt.

~Margaret Atwood

Some of our earliest writing, in cuneiform, was about who owes what.

~Margaret Atwood

The body is so easily damaged, so easily disposed of, water and chemicals is all it is, hardly more to it than a jellyfish drying on sand.

~Margaret Atwood

There's the story, then there's the real story, then there's the story of how the story came to be told. Then there's what you leave out of the story. Which is part of the story too.

~Margaret Atwood

A voice is a human gift; it should be cherished and used, to utter fully human speech as possible. Powerlessness and silence go together.

~Margaret Atwood

The answers you get from literature depend on the questions you pose.

~Margaret Atwood

The Eskimos had fifty-two names for snow because it was important to them: there ought to be as many for love.

~Margaret Atwood

Touch comes before sight, before speech. It is the first language and

the last, and it always tells the truth.

~Margaret Atwood

Everyone thinks writers must know more about the inside of the human head, but that's wrong. They know less, that's why they write. Trying to find out what everyone else takes for granted.

~Margaret Atwood

In the end, we'll all become stories.

~Margaret Atwood

Nobody dies from lack of sex. It's lack of love we die from.

~Margaret Atwood

Remember that, my child. Remember you are half water. If you can't go through an obstacle, go around it. Water does.

~Margaret Atwood

Water does not resist. Water flows. When you plunge your hand into it, all you feel is a caress.

~Margaret Atwood

Little girls are cute and small only to adults. To one another they are not cute. They are life-sized.

~Margaret Atwood

Good writing takes place at intersections, at what you might call knots, at places where the society is snarled or knotted up.

~Margaret Atwood

Our problem right now is that we're so specialized that if the lights go out, there are a huge number of people who are not going to know what to do. But within every dystopia there's a little utopia.

~Margaret Atwood

I feel like cotton candy: sugar and air. Squeeze me and I'd turn into a small sickly damp wad of weeping pinky-red.

~Margaret Atwood

Oppression involves a failure of the imagination: the failure to imagine the full humanity of other human beings.

~Margaret Atwood

Happy as a clam, is what my mother says for happy. I am happy as a clam: hard-shelled, firmly closed.

~Margaret Atwood

Where do the words go when we have said them?

~Margaret Atwood

If you disagree with your government, that's political. If you disagree with your government that is approaching theocracy, then you're evil.

~Margaret Atwood

Inside the peach, there is a stone.

~Margaret Atwood

And yet it disturbs me to learn I have hurt someone unintentionally. I want all my hurts to be intentional.

~Margaret Atwood

If your not annoying somebody, you're not alive.

~Margaret Atwood

But I began then to think of time as having a shape, something you could see, like a series of liquid transparencies, one laid on top of another.

~Margaret Atwood

There is more than one kind of freedom," said Aunt Lydia. "Freedom to and freedom from. In the days of anarchy, it was freedom to. Now you are being given freedom from. Don't underrate it.

~Margaret Atwood

Hatred would have been easier. With hatred, I would have known what to do. Hatred is clear, metallic, one-handed, unwavering; unlike love.

~Margaret Atwood

If we were all on trial for our thoughts, we would all be hanged.

~Margaret Atwood

A fist is more than the sum of its fingers.

~Margaret Atwood

This is the solstice, the still point of the sun, its cusp and midnight, the year's threshold and unlocking, where the past lets go of and becomes the future; the place of caught breath.

~Margaret Atwood

If I love you, is that a fact or a weapon?

~Margaret Atwood

Lose your temper and you lose the fight.

~Margaret Atwood

A word after a word after a word is power.

~Margaret Atwood

The desire to be loved is the last illusion. Give it up and you will be free.

~Margaret Atwood

I exist in two places, here and where you are.

~Margaret Atwood

It's clear, it's fresh, like a mint candy.

~Margaret Atwood

I would like to be the air that inhabits you for a moment only. I would like to be that unnoticed and that necessary.

~Margaret Atwood

I myself have 12 hats and each one represents a different personality. Why just be yourself.

~Margaret Atwood

Stupidity is the same as evil if you judge by the results.

~Margaret Atwood

I am not my childhood,' Snowman says out loud.

~Margaret Atwood

More of your brain is involved when reading than it is when you watch television... because you are supplying just about everything... you're a creator.

~Margaret Atwood

I'm not sure which is worse: intense feeling, or the absence of it.

~Margaret Atwood

The proper study of Mankind is Everything.

~Margaret Atwood

There are some women who seem to be born without fear, just as there are people who are born without the ability to feel pain ... Providence appears to protect such women, maybe out of astonishment.

~Margaret Atwood

You may not be able to alter reality, but you can alter your attitude towards it, and this, paradoxically, alters reality. Try it and see.

~Margaret Atwood

I read for pleasure and that is the moment I learn the most.

~Margaret Atwood

If I waited for perfection... I would never write a word.

~Margaret Atwood

Don't let the bastards grind you down.

~Margaret Atwood

A rat in a maze is free to go anywhere, as long as it stays inside the maze.

~Margaret Atwood

Starlet sex scandal. Giant squid involved.

~Margaret Atwood

Potential has a shelf life.

~Margaret Atwood

Time is not a line but a dimension, like the dimensions of space.

~Margaret Atwood

Â-Do back exercises. Pain is distracting.

~Margaret Atwood

Maybe the life I think I'm living is a paranoid delusion...Sanity is a valuable possession; I hoard it the way people once hoarded money. I save it, so I will have enough, when the time comes.

~Margaret Atwood



What breaks in daybreak? Is it the night? Is it the sun, cracked in two by the horizon like an egg, spilling out light?

~Margaret Atwood

The internet is 95 percent porn and spam

~Margaret Atwood

The society in 'The Handmaid's Tale' is a throwback to the early Puritans whom I studied extensively at Harvard under Perry Miller, to whom the book is dedicated.

~Margaret Atwood

The astrologers would tell that the U.S. is ruled by fire and Canada is ruled by water. Short version: You pep us up, we cool you down.

~Margaret Atwood

There is no fool like an educated fool.

~Margaret Atwood

To live in prison is to live without mirrors. To live without mirrors is to live without the self.

~Margaret Atwood

I don't think I solve problems in my poetry; I think I uncover the problems.

~Margaret Atwood

I am nervous about dogmas of any kind, whether they be religious, political, or anti-religious. Too many heads have rolled because of them.

~Margaret Atwood

We were the people who were not in the papers. We lived in the blank white spaces at the edges of print. It gave us more freedom. We lived in

the gaps between the stories.

~Margaret Atwood

But who can remember pain, once it's over? All that remains of it is a shadow, not in the mind even, in the flesh. Pain marks you, but too deep to see. Out of sight, out of mind.

~Margaret Atwood

Which of us can resist the temptation of being thought indispensable?

~Margaret Atwood

Better never means better for everyone... It always means worse, for some.

~Margaret Atwood

Gardening is not a rational act.

~Margaret Atwood

Within one's own family, money is not the measure of things, unless the person is an absolute Scrooge. Only the most extreme kind of monster would put a price on everything.

~Margaret Atwood

You're never going to kill storytelling, because it's built into the human plan. We come with it.

~Margaret Atwood

I walk away from him. It's enormously pleasing to me, this walking away. It's like being able to make people appear and vanish, at will.

~Margaret Atwood

Forgiving men is so much easier than forgiving women.

~Margaret Atwood

The problem is huge. We've just added seventy-five million people to the already large proportion of people in the world who are malnourished all the time, whose bodies are being starved.

~Margaret Atwood

Whatever is silenced will clamor to be heard, though silently.

~Margaret Atwood

Myths can't be translated as they did in their ancient soil. We can only find our own meaning in our own time.

~Margaret Atwood

I think calling it climate change is rather limiting. I would rather call it the everything change.

~Margaret Atwood

Snowman wakes before dawn.

~Margaret Atwood

The truth is seldom welcome, especially at dinner.

~Margaret Atwood

An eye for an eye only leads to more blindness.

~Margaret Atwood

There's an epigram tacked to my office bulletin board, pinched from a magazine -- "Wanting to meet an author because you like his work is like wanting to meet a duck because you like pÃ©tÃ©.

~Margaret Atwood

People dressed in a certain kind of clothing are never wrong. Also they never fart.

~Margaret Atwood

I never say I'm an "ist" of any kind unless I know how the other person is defining it.

~Margaret Atwood

Even an obvious fabrication is some comfort when you have few others.

~Margaret Atwood

But the adjectives change,â€• said Jimmy. â€œNothing's worse than last year's adjectives.

~Margaret Atwood

The sands of time are quicksands ... so much can sink into them without a trace.

~Margaret Atwood

This above all, to refuse to be a victim.

~Margaret Atwood

Our heaven is their hell, said God. I like a balanced universe.

~Margaret Atwood

Ignoring isn't the same as ignorance, you have to work at it.

~Margaret Atwood

Anaesthesia, that's one technique: if it hurts, invent a different pain.

~Margaret Atwood

War is what happens when language fails.

~Margaret Atwood

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