

# Mary Antin Quotes

*Past, School, Children, Running, Spiritual, Writing, World, Two, Mother, May,  
Noses, Honor, Giving Up, Ruined, Long, Errors, Practice, Police, Real, Bigs*

The apex of my civic pride and personal contentment was reached on the bright September morning when I entered the public school.

~Mary Antin

On a royal birthday every house must fly a flag, or the owner would be dragged to a police station and be fined twenty-five rubles.

~Mary Antin

The first meal was an object lesson of much variety. My father produced several kinds of food, ready to eat, without any cooking, from little tin cans that had printing all over them.

~Mary Antin

It is not that I belong to the past, but the past that belongs to me.

~Mary Antin

Our mothers are racked with the pains of our physical birth; we ourselves suffer the longer pains of our spiritual growth.

~Mary Antin

You heard on all sides that the brightest Jewish children were turned down if the examining officers did not like the turn of their noses.

~Mary Antin

You went up to be examined with the other Jewish children, your heart heavy about that matter of your nose.

~Mary Antin

Such creatures of accident are we, liable to a thousand deaths before we are born. But once we are here, we may create our own world, if we choose.

~Mary Antin

I have so little mastered the art of tranquil living that wherever I go I trail

storm clouds of drama around me.

~Mary Antin

What we get in steerage is not the refuse, but the sinew and bone of all the nations.

~Mary Antin

The past was only my cradle, and now it cannot hold me, because I am grown too big.

~Mary Antin

There was one public school for boys, and one for girls, but Jewish children were admitted in limited numbers - only ten to a hundred; and even the lucky ones had their troubles.

~Mary Antin

There is never a Jewish community without its scholars, but where Jews may not be both intellectuals and Jews, they prefer to remain Jews.

~Mary Antin

A long past vividly remembered is like a heavy garment that clings to your limbs when you would run.

~Mary Antin

I want now to be of today. It is painful to be conscious of two worlds. The Wandering Jew in me seeks forgetfulness.

~Mary Antin

A proper autobiography is a death-bed confession.

~Mary Antin

The czar always got his dues, no matter if it ruined a family.

~Mary Antin

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- Honor Quotes
- Giving Up Quotes
- Ruined Quotes
- Long Quotes
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