

Nadine Gordimer

Quotes

*Writing, People, Thinking, Way, Children, Country, Humans, White, Book,
Political, Needs, Believe, Power, Mind, Television, Light, Character, Beauty,
May, Mean*

A desert is a place without expectation.

~Nadine Gordimer

The truth isn't always beauty, but the hunger for it is.

~Nadine Gordimer

A truly living human being cannot remain neutral.

~Nadine Gordimer

Peace. The upland serenity of high altitude, the openness of grassland without indigenous bush or trees; the greening, yellowing or silver-browning that prevailed, according to season.

~Nadine Gordimer

The caged eagle become a metaphor for all forms of isolation, the ultimate in imprisonment. A zoo is prison.

~Nadine Gordimer

Perhaps the best definition of progress would be the continuing efforts of men and women to narrow the gap between the convenience of the powers that be and the unwritten charter.

~Nadine Gordimer

Writing is making sense of life.

~Nadine Gordimer

I have failed at many things, but I have never been afraid.

~Nadine Gordimer

Writing is making sense of life. You work your whole life and perhaps you've made sense of one small area.

~Nadine Gordimer

Time is change; we measure its passage by how much things alter.

~Nadine Gordimer

Sentiment is for those who don't know what to do next.

~Nadine Gordimer

The gap between the committed and the indifferent is a Sahara whose faint trails, followed by the mind's eye only, fade out in sand.

~Nadine Gordimer

In a country like South Africa, writers have nuisance value, because those of us who have become known overseas have certainly helped to inform people about what life is like there.

~Nadine Gordimer

Power is something of which I am convinced there is no innocence this side of the womb.

~Nadine Gordimer

Written words still have the amazing power to bring out the best and worst of human nature

~Nadine Gordimer

All worthwhile writing... comes from an individual vision, privately pursued.

~Nadine Gordimer

The tension between standing apart, and being fully involved; that is what makes a writer.

~Nadine Gordimer

Newspapers are horror happening to other people.

~Nadine Gordimer

Nothing fades so quickly as what is unchanged.

~Nadine Gordimer

Literature is one of the few areas left where black and white feel some identity of purpose; we all struggle under censorship.

~Nadine Gordimer

The solitude of writing is also quite frightening. It's quite close to madness, one just disappears for a day and loses touch.

~Nadine Gordimer

The facts are always less than what really happened.

~Nadine Gordimer

The creative act is not pure. History evidences it. Sociology extracts it. The writer loses Eden, writes to be read and comes to realize that he is answerable.

~Nadine Gordimer

There is no moral authority like that of sacrifice.

~Nadine Gordimer

Any writer of any worth at all hopes to play only a pocket-torch of light - and rarely, through genius, a sudden flambeau - into the bloody yet beautiful labyrinth of human experience, of being.

~Nadine Gordimer

Your whole life you are really writing one book, which is an attempt to grasp the consciousness of your time and place- a single book written from different stages of your ability.

~Nadine Gordimer

When I was a child, we seemed to be living in a world remote from the rest of the world. But television has made a great difference to all of us.

~Nadine Gordimer

Mostly I'm interviewed by white people, and identified with white society.

~Nadine Gordimer

Art defies defeat by its very existence, representing the celebration of life, in spite of all attempts to degrade and destroy it.

~Nadine Gordimer

Music has no limits of a life-span.

~Nadine Gordimer

The creative act is not pure. History evidences it. Ideology demands it. Society exacts it.

~Nadine Gordimer

In various and different circumstances certain objects and individuals are going to turn out to be vital. The wager of survival cannot, by its nature, reveal which, in advance of events.

~Nadine Gordimer

My answer is: Recognize yourself in others

~Nadine Gordimer

I'm a candle flame that sways in currents of air you can't see. You need to be the one who steadies me to burn.

~Nadine Gordimer

Censorship may have to do with literature; but literature has nothing whatever to do with censorship.

~Nadine Gordimer

Nothing factual that I write or say will be as truthful as my fiction.

~Nadine Gordimer

It's absolutely fatal to your writing to think about how your work will be received. It's a betrayal of whatever talent you have.

~Nadine Gordimer

Disaster is private, in its way, as love is.

~Nadine Gordimer

Exile as a mode of genius no longer exists; in place of Joyce we have the fragments of work appearing in Index on Censorship.

~Nadine Gordimer

Responsibility is what awaits outside the Eden of Creativity.

~Nadine Gordimer

Sincerity is never having an idea of oneself.

~Nadine Gordimer

In a certain sense a writer is 'selected' by his subject - his subject being the consciousness of his own era.

~Nadine Gordimer

Keeness of hearing revives when one is alone.

~Nadine Gordimer

It was a miracle; it was all a miracle: and one ought to have known, from the sufferings of saints, that miracles are horror.

~Nadine Gordimer

Books dont need batteries

~Nadine Gordimer

Can you imagine a writer in England influencing? Absolutely not. And in France? It used to be, but no more-absolutely not. France used to, at least, have writers as diplomats, but not any more.

~Nadine Gordimer

I cannot live with someone who can't live without me.

~Nadine Gordimer

Everyone ends up moving alone towards the self

~Nadine Gordimer

I don't think I am a citizen of the world; I am very much a citizen of my own country. But my own country is closely related to other parts of the world and influenced by what happens there.

~Nadine Gordimer

Very often we support change, and then are swept away by the change. I think that...you just make your own response to your own generation. A response adequate to your time.

~Nadine Gordimer

You can't be afraid to do good in case evil results.

~Nadine Gordimer

Mumbling obeisance to abhorrence of apartheid is like those lapsed believers who cross themselves when entering a church.

~Nadine Gordimer

If I dreamt this, while walking, walking in the London streets, the subconscious of each and every other life, past and present, brushing me in passing, what makes it real? Writing it down.

~Nadine Gordimer

If one will always have to feel white first, and African second, it would be better not to stay on in Africa

~Nadine Gordimer

I couldn't be sufficiently interested in human beings to be a writer if I had contempt for human beings.

~Nadine Gordimer

Humans, the only self-regarding animals, blessed or cursed with this torturing higher faculty, have always wanted to know why.

~Nadine Gordimer

I shall never write an autobiography, I'm much too jealous of my privacy for that.

~Nadine Gordimer

when it comes to their essential faculty as writers, all writers are androgynous beings.

~Nadine Gordimer

I'm forty-nine but I could be twenty-five except for my face and my legs.

~Nadine Gordimer

If you live in Europe . . . things change . . . but continuity never seems to break. You don't have to throw the past away.

~Nadine Gordimer

Success sometimes may be defined as a disaster put on hold. Qualified. Has to be.

~Nadine Gordimer

Writing is always a voyage of discovery.

~Nadine Gordimer

Certainly the people who are close to me are happier. They feel freer.

~Nadine Gordimer

As writers, we are exploring the mystery, the mystery of existence.

~Nadine Gordimer

One can't measure how a mood of confidence comes about.

~Nadine Gordimer

I decided that I wanted nothing to do with South African government television while any of my fellow writers were banned and couldn't speak publicly.

~Nadine Gordimer

Fiction is a way of exploring possibilities present but undreamt of in the living of a single life.

~Nadine Gordimer

There's no tiling moral about beauty.

~Nadine Gordimer

Communists are the last optimists.

~Nadine Gordimer

Learning to write sent me falling, falling through the surface of the South African way of life.

~Nadine Gordimer

in writing, sex doesn't matter; it's the writing that matters.

~Nadine Gordimer

it's impossible to conquer all fear and loss by preparation. There are always sources of desolation that aren't taken into account because no one knows what they will be.

~Nadine Gordimer

Well, you know, in the fundamentalist milieu of the Afrikaners, there

was a sense that they were a chosen people, that they were bringing civilization to the blacks.

~Nadine Gordimer

The function of a writer is to make sense of life. It is such a mystery, it changes all the time, like the light.

~Nadine Gordimer

Perhaps the best way to write is to do so as if one were already dead, afraid of no one's reactions, answerable to no one's views.

~Nadine Gordimer

Writers themselves don't analyze what they do; to analyze would be to look down while crossing a canyon on a tightrope.

~Nadine Gordimer

From Ernest Hemingway's stories I learned to listen within my stories for what went unsaid by my characters.

~Nadine Gordimer

A child understands fear, and the hurt and hate it brings.

~Nadine Gordimer

People give one another things that can't be gift wrapped.

~Nadine Gordimer

I have learned since that sometimes the things we want most are impossible for us. You may long to come home, yet wander forever.

~Nadine Gordimer

You can't change a regime on the basis of compassion. There's got to be something harder.

~Nadine Gordimer

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