

# Neil Peart Quotes

*People, Dream, Want, Play, Song, Believe, Thinking, Heart, Sports, World,  
School, Light, Trying, Sleep, Fighting, Art, Ifs, Wish, Different, Force*

If you choose not to decide, you still have made a choice.

~Neil Peart

Quick to judge, quick to anger, slow to understand... prejudice, fear and ignorance walk hand-in-hand.

~Neil Peart

...The important thing is: if you fail once, or if your luck is bad this time, the dream is still there. A dream is only over if you give it up-or if it comes true.

~Neil Peart

From the point of ignition. To the final drive. The point of the journey is not to arrive.

~Neil Peart

I think everything I do has Howard Roark [hero of The Fountainhead] in it, you know, as much as anything. The person I write for is Howard Roark.

~Neil Peart

You can surrender without a prayer, but never really pray without surrender. You can fight without ever winning, but never ever win without a fight.

~Neil Peart

If you've got a problem, take it out on a drum.

~Neil Peart

A spirit with a vision is a dream with a mission.

~Neil Peart

Playing a three-hour Rush show is like running a marathon while solving equations.

~Neil Peart

How can anybody be enlightened? Truth is after all so poorly lit

~Neil Peart

Waiting for the winds of change to sweep the clouds away. Waiting for the rainbow's end to cast its gold your way ... You don't get something for nothing. You can't have freedom for free

~Neil Peart

Now I call myself a bleeding heart libertarian. Because I do believe in the principles of Libertarianism as an ideal - because I'm an idealist.

~Neil Peart

What is a master but a master student? And if that's true, then there's a responsibility on you to keep getting better and to explore avenues of your profession.

~Neil Peart

All the world's indeed a stage And we are merely players Performers and portrayers Each another's audience outside the gilded cage

~Neil Peart

Dedicated to the future, with honor to the past.

~Neil Peart

No, his mind is not for rent To any God or government Always hopeful yet discontent He knows changes aren't permanent But change is.

~Neil Peart

Don't try to change Doofus, let Doofus change you.

~Neil Peart

I remain the optimist: you just do your best and hope for the best. But

it's an evolving state of mind.

~Neil Peart

Live for yourself... there's no one else more worth living for...

~Neil Peart

Stamina is the force that drives the drumming; it's not really a sprint.

~Neil Peart

Now I lay me down to sleep, I pray the Lord my soul to keep.

~Neil Peart

Living in the limelight: the universal dream for those who wish to SEEM. Those who wish to BE, must put aside the alienation, get on with the fascination, the real relation, the underlying theme.

~Neil Peart

I still totally believe in individual rights and individual responsibility and in choosing to do good.

~Neil Peart

It's always a happy day when YYZ appears on our luggage tags.

~Neil Peart

No one gets to their heaven without a fight...

~Neil Peart

Could hell be a place where there is no self-respect? A place where people have no pride in their own existence or behavior, and thus would have none for anyone or anything else?

~Neil Peart

Look in, look the storm in the eye. Look out, to the sea and the sky. Look around, at the sight and sound. Look in, look out, look around.

~Neil Peart

Let your heart be the anchor and the beat of your song.

~Neil Peart

The tarot card 'The Tower' seemed a chilling reflection of the events of September 11, 2001.

~Neil Peart

I have come to believe that anger and grudges are burning embers in the heart.

~Neil Peart

It was actually drumming that gave me the stamina to get into sports later.

~Neil Peart

We're only immortal for a limited time.

~Neil Peart

I don't like lyrics that are just thrown together, that were obviously written as you went along, or the song was already written and the guy made up the lyrics in five minutes.

~Neil Peart

Everything in moderation, with occasional excess.

~Neil Peart

Throw off those chains of reason and your prison disappears.

~Neil Peart

Once I had defined myself as a compositional drummer, I thought, "Well, I want to be an improvisational drummer."

~Neil Peart

Extroverts never understand introverts, and it was like that in school days.

~Neil Peart

You can't get wise with sleep still in your eyes no matter what your dream might be.

~Neil Peart

You just become adaptable and try to lead a good life in ways that make sense, regardless. Because I know at the end of it, if I'm going to meet Jesus or Allah or Buddha, I'm going to be all right.

~Neil Peart

But glittering prizes and endless compromises, Shatter the illusion of integrity...

~Neil Peart

If I do something weird, play it twice and it's a new part.

~Neil Peart

The ones we wish could hear us have heard it all before.

~Neil Peart

To me, the highest expression of life is art with jokes. It's very rarified, very difficult to accomplish if you want to be more than just funny, and more than just jokes about human gaseousness.

~Neil Peart

Like a force of nature love can fade with the stars at dawn...

~Neil Peart

Geddy once joked, 'You're the only guy I know who rehearses to rehearse!'

~Neil Peart

While I believe in all that freedom, I also believe that no one should suffer needlessly.

~Neil Peart

To me, drum soloing is like doing a marathon and solving equations at the same time.

~Neil Peart

I had spindly little ankles, and growing up in Canada, I couldn't skate. I was no good at any sports so was very much a pariah through those adolescent years.

~Neil Peart

Extroverts never understand introverts, and it was like that in school days. I read recently that all of us can be defined in adult life by the way others perceived us in high school.

~Neil Peart

I love jokes as much as anyone, but I don't want to hear my snail jokes every day. But I might want to hear a good song every day.

~Neil Peart

Those who know what's best for us must rise and save us from ourselves.

~Neil Peart

Courageous convictions will drag the dream into existence.

~Neil Peart

Half the world cries  
Half the world laughs  
Half the world tries  
To be the other half

~Neil Peart

Sometimes you're up against everybody in the whole world - even your

friends and family are saying, "You need a single." You feel sometimes incredibly alone.

~Neil Peart

One likes to believe in the freedom of music...

~Neil Peart

Lessons taught but never learned, all around us anger burns. Guide the future by the past. Long ago the mould was cast.

~Neil Peart

I'm a linear thinking agnostic, but not an atheist folks.

~Neil Peart

I want to be an improviser, and I've worked very hard at that. It's an art. You don't just play whatever comes into your head; you have to be very deliberate about what you do.

~Neil Peart

Each of us A cell of awareness Imperfect and incomplete Genetic blends With uncertain ends On a fortune hunt that's far too fleet

~Neil Peart

Adventures suck when you're having them.

~Neil Peart

And the men who hold high places must be the ones who start to mold a new reality closer to the heart.

~Neil Peart

For me, drum elements are like hieroglyphics - I think of a certain physical figure, and a little three-dimensional glyph will appear in my mind as I'm playing.

~Neil Peart



I'm still no good at ball-and-stick games. If I go play golf with the guys, it's intended to be a joke.

~Neil Peart

Pure libertarianism believes that people will be generous and help each other. Well, they won't. I wish it were so, and I live that way.

~Neil Peart

I am a big fan of Dos Passos' stylistic ability, his poetic approach to prose, but the ideas presented in the songs are quite different from those which he exemplified.

~Neil Peart

I expect if you're a professional public speaker, you probably wouldn't want to go onstage and sing and play drums.

~Neil Peart

What a young musician's dream, to say, "Look at those chrome drums. Look at that 22-inch ride cymbal. I'll have those." It was one of those unparalleled exciting days of your life.

~Neil Peart

From first to last, the peak is never passed. Something always fires the light that gets in your eyes.

~Neil Peart

When I was young, my ambitions were very modest. I thought, "If only I could play at the battle of the bands at the Y, that would be the culmination of existence!"

~Neil Peart

With people too, you constantly think, "If I'm nice to people and treat them well, they'll appreciate it and behave better." They won't, but it's still not a bad way to live.

~Neil Peart

Better the pride that resides as a citizen of the world than a pride that divides when a colorful rag is unfurled

~Neil Peart

If you want something done right, just forget it.

~Neil Peart

To get nostalgic about other people's music, or even about your own, makes a terrible statement about the condition of your life and your prospects for the future.

~Neil Peart

People don't realize the limitations of 200 words, and the way they get chiselled down into a song that has to be sung.

~Neil Peart

I will choose a path that's clear, I will choose freewill.

~Neil Peart

Half the world hates What half the world does every day Half the world waits While half gets on with it anyway

~Neil Peart

All this machinery making modern music can still be open-hearted. Not so boldly charted, it's really just a question of your honesty.

~Neil Peart

As crises came up later on - "Oh, we have to compromise, and the record company wants to do this," I'd be like, "No, I don't have to."

~Neil Peart

I'm less comfortable in a gregarious social situation, and you can be

introverted and still share everything. It just means that you're guarded.

~Neil Peart

Too much attention and hoopla doesn't agree with my temperament.

~Neil Peart

Different hearts beat on different strings

~Neil Peart

You can do a lot in a lifetime, if you don't burn out too fast/You can make the most of the distance/First you need endurance/First you've got to last.

~Neil Peart

A quality of justice A quantity of light A particle of mercy Makes the color of right

~Neil Peart

Innocence gave me confidence to go up against reality.

~Neil Peart

When I'm riding my motorcycle, I'm glad to be alive. When I stop riding my motorcycle, I'm glad to be alive.

~Neil Peart

No changes are permanent, but change is.

~Neil Peart

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