

Northrop Frye

Quotes

Literature, Art, Men, People, Imagination, Mind, World, Writing, Thinking, Criticism, Mean, Language, Use, Book, Kind, Doe, Believe, May, Study, Culture

The most technologically efficient machine that man has ever invented is the book.

~Northrop Frye

There is only one way to degrade mankind permanently and that is to destroy language.

~Northrop Frye

Advertising - a judicious mixture of flattery and threats.

~Northrop Frye

Even the human heart is slightly left of centre.

~Northrop Frye

We are always in the place of beginning; there is no advance in infinity.

~Northrop Frye

The world of literature is a world where there is no reality except that of the human imagination.

~Northrop Frye

This story of loss and regaining of identity is, I think, the framework of all literature.

~Northrop Frye

Man lives, not directly or nakedly in nature like the animals, but within a mythological universe, a body of assumptions and beliefs developed from his existential concerns.

~Northrop Frye

The Bible should be taught so early and so thoroughly that it sinks straight to the bottom of the mind where everything that comes along can settle on it.

~Northrop Frye

It seems clear that the Bible belongs to an area of language in which metaphor is functional, and were we have to surrender precision for flexibility.

~Northrop Frye

We are being swallowed up by the popular culture of the United States, but then the Americans are being swallowed up by it too. It's just as much a threat to American culture as it is to ours.

~Northrop Frye

The kind of problem that literature raises is not the kind that you ever 'solve'. Whether my answers are any good or not, they represent a fair amount of thinking about the questions.

~Northrop Frye

Literature speaks the language of the imagination, and the study of literature is supposed to train and improve the imagination.

~Northrop Frye

Americans like to make money; Canadians like to audit it. I don't know of any other country where the accountant enjoys a higher social and moral status.

~Northrop Frye

We must reject that most dismal and fatuous notion that education is a preparation for life.

~Northrop Frye

The simple point is that literature belongs to the world man constructs, not to the world he sees; to his home, not his environment.

~Northrop Frye

My subject is the educated imagination, and education is something that affects the whole person, not bits and pieces of him .

~Northrop Frye

Americans like to make money, Canadians like to count it.

~Northrop Frye

The objective world is the order of nature, thinking or reflection follows the suggestions of sense experience, and words are the servomechanisms of reflection.

~Northrop Frye

Read Blake or go to hell, that's my message to the modern world.

~Northrop Frye

The disinterested imaginative core of mythology is what develops into literature, science, philosophy. Religion is applied mythology.

~Northrop Frye

The pursuit of beauty is much more dangerous nonsense than the pursuit of truth or goodness, because it affords a stronger temptation to the ego.

~Northrop Frye

We have revolutionary thought whenever the feeling "life is a dream" becomes geared to an impulse to awaken from it.

~Northrop Frye

The tricky or boastful gods of ancient myths and primitive folk tales are characters of the same kind that turn up in Faulkner or Tennessee Williams.

~Northrop Frye

Most of my writing consists of an attempt to translate aphorisms into continuous prose.

~Northrop Frye

Literature is a human apocalypse, man's revelation to man, and criticism is not a body of adjudications, but the awareness of that revelation, the last judgement of mankind.

~Northrop Frye

A snowflake is probably quite unconscious of forming a crystal, but what it does may be worth study even if we are willing to leave its inner mental processes alone.

~Northrop Frye

Failure to grasp centrifugal meaning is incomplete reading; failure to grasp centripetal meaning is incompetent reading.

~Northrop Frye

The tremendous efficiency and economy of the book has once again demonstrated itself. It's the world's most patient medium.

~Northrop Frye

It is of the essence of imaginative culture that it transcends the limits both of the naturally possible and of the morally acceptable.

~Northrop Frye

Poetry can only be made out of other poems; novels out of other novels.

~Northrop Frye

Teaching literature is impossible; that is why it is difficult.

~Northrop Frye

I see a sequence of seven main phases: creation, revolution or exodus (Israel in Egypt), law, wisdom, prophecy, gospel, and apocalypse.

~Northrop Frye

The human landscape of the New World shows a conquest of nature by

an intelligence that does not love it.

~Northrop Frye

Historically, a Canadian is an American who rejects the Revolution.

~Northrop Frye

In our day the conventional element in literature is elaborately disguised by a law of copyright pretending that every work of art is an invention distinctive enough to be patented.

~Northrop Frye

Beauty and truth may be attributes of good writing, but if the writer deliberately aims at truth, he is likely to find that what he has hit is the didactic.

~Northrop Frye

The primary and literal meaning of the Bible, then, is its centripetal or poetic meaning.

~Northrop Frye

Every human society possesses a mythology which is inherited, transmitted and diversified by literature.

~Northrop Frye

Metaphors of unity and integration take us only so far, because they are derived from the finiteness of the human mind.

~Northrop Frye

Writing: I certainly do rewrite my central myth in every book, and would never read or trust any writer who did not also do so.

~Northrop Frye

Man is constantly building anxiety-structures, like geodesic domes, around his social and religious institutions.

~Northrop Frye

Nobody is capable of of free speech unless he knows how to use language, and such knowledge is not a gift: it has to learned and worked at.

~Northrop Frye

The simplest questions are the hardest to answer.

~Northrop Frye

We find rhetorical situations everywhere in life, and only our imaginations can get us out of them.

~Northrop Frye

In the world of the imagination, anything goes that's imaginatively possible, but nothing really happens.

~Northrop Frye

Nature is inside art as its content, not outside as its model.

~Northrop Frye

Wherever illiteracy is a problem, it's as fundamental a problem as getting enough to eat or a place to sleep.

~Northrop Frye

Man creates what he calls history as a screen to conceal the workings of the apocalypse from himself.

~Northrop Frye

We do not live in a centred space any more, but have to create our own centres.

~Northrop Frye

The supremacy of the verbal over the monumental has something

about it of the supremacy of life over death.

~Northrop Frye

Separatism is a very healthy movement within culture. It's a disastrous movement within politics and economics.

~Northrop Frye

To bring anything really to life in literature we can't be lifelike: we have to be literature-like

~Northrop Frye

Literature is not a subject of study, but an object of study.

~Northrop Frye

War appeals to young men because it is fundamentally auto-eroticism.

~Northrop Frye

One doesn't bother to believe the credible: the credible is believed already, by definition. There's no adventure of the mind.

~Northrop Frye

I don't see how the study of language and literature can be separated from the question of free speech, which we all know is fundamental to our society.

~Northrop Frye

A writer's desire to write can only have come from previous experience of literature, and he'll start by imitating whatever he's read, which usually means what the people around him are writing.

~Northrop Frye

A person who knows nothing about literature may be an ignoramus, but many people don't mind being that.

~Northrop Frye

The bedrock of doubt is the total nothingness of death. Death is a leveler, not because everybody dies, but because nobody understands what death means.

~Northrop Frye

The first thing that confronts us in studying verbal structures is that they are arranged sequentially, and have to be read or listened to in time.

~Northrop Frye

The fable says that the tortoise won in the end, which is consoling, but the hare shows a good deal of speed and few signs of tiring.

~Northrop Frye

[Science fiction is] a mode of romance with a strong inherent tendency to myth.

~Northrop Frye

Those who do succeed in reading the Bible from beginning to end will discover that at least it has a beginning and an end, and some traces of a total structure.

~Northrop Frye

Writers don't seem to benefit much by the advance of science, although they thrive on superstitions of all kinds.

~Northrop Frye

Literature begins with the possible model of experience, and what it produces is the literary model we call the classic.

~Northrop Frye

Between religion's this is and poetry's but suppose this is, there must always be some kind of tension, until the possible and the actual meet at infinity.

~Northrop Frye

We notice as the Bible goes on, the area of scared space shrinks.

~Northrop Frye

The Book of Revelation, difficult as it may be for "literalists," becomes much simpler when we read it typologically, as a mosaic of allusions to Old Testament prophecy.

~Northrop Frye

What if criticism is a science as well as an art? Not a pure or exact science, of course, but these phrases belong to a nineteenth-century cosmology which is no longer with us.

~Northrop Frye

The operations of the human mind are also controlled by words of power, formulas that become a focus of mental activity.

~Northrop Frye

Related Links:

- Literature Quotes
- Art Quotes
- Men Quotes
- People Quotes
- Imagination Quotes
- Mind Quotes
- World Quotes
- Writing Quotes
- Thinking Quotes
- Criticism Quotes
- Mean Quotes
- Language Quotes
- Use Quotes
- Book Quotes
- Kind Quotes
- Doe Quotes
- Believe Quotes
- May Quotes
- Study Quotes
- Culture Quotes