

# Norton Juster Quotes

*Phantom Tollbooth, Thinking, Book, Way, Eye, Mean, People, Kids, Effort,  
Boys, Trying, Long, Children, Writing, Mistake, Expectations, School, Princess,  
Use, May*

Time is a gift, given to you, given to give you the time you need, the time you need to have the time of your life.

~Norton Juster

So many things are possible just as long as you don't know they're impossible.

~Norton Juster

...it's not just learning that's important. It's learning what to do with what you learn and learning why you learn things that matters.

~Norton Juster

You must never feel badly about making mistakes.

~Norton Juster

The most important reason for going from one place to another is to see what's in between, and they took great pleasure in doing just that.

~Norton Juster

The only thing you can do easily is be wrong, and that's hardly worth the effort.

~Norton Juster

Expect everything, I always say, and the unexpected never happens.

~Norton Juster

But I suppose there's a lot to see everywhere, if only you keep your eyes open.

~Norton Juster

A good book written for children can be read by adults

~Norton Juster

A slavish concern for the composition of words is the sign of a bankrupt

intellect. Be gone, odious wasp! You smell of decayed syllables.

~Norton Juster

Have you ever heard a blindfolded octopus unwrap a cellophane-covered bathtub?

~Norton Juster

Since you got here by not thinking, it seems reasonable to expect that, in order to get out, you must start thinking.

~Norton Juster

What you learn today, for no reason at all, will help you discover all the wonderful secrets of tomorrow.

~Norton Juster

What you can do is often simply a matter of what you will do.

~Norton Juster

Freedom is not a license for chaos.

~Norton Juster

And it's much the same thing with knowledge, for whenever you learn something new, the whole world becomes that much richer.

~Norton Juster

Expect everything so that nothing comes unexpected.

~Norton Juster

Infinity is a dreadfully poor place. They can never manage to make ends meet.

~Norton Juster

Expectations is the place you must always go to before you get to where you're going.

~Norton Juster

Things which are equally bad are also equally good. Try to look at the bright side of things. - Humbug

~Norton Juster

There are good books and there are bad books, period, that's the distinction.

~Norton Juster

You can swim all day in the Sea of Knowledge and not get wet.

~Norton Juster

I am the Terrible Trivium, demon of petty tasks and worthless jobs, ogre of wasted effort, and monster of habit.

~Norton Juster

There is much worth noticing that often escapes the eye.

~Norton Juster

The way you see things depends a great deal on where you look at them from.

~Norton Juster

Why not? That's a good reason for almost anything - a bit used perhaps, but still quite serviceable.

~Norton Juster

Whether or not you find your own way, you're bound to find some way. If you happen to find my way, please return it, as it was lost years ago. I imagine by now it's quite rusty.

~Norton Juster

People always ask about my influences, and they cite a bunch of

people I've never heard of

~Norton Juster

The only other thing which I think is important is: Don't write a book or start a book with the expectation of communicating a message in a very important way.

~Norton Juster

...it's very much like your trying to reach infinity. You know that it's there, you just don't know where-but just because you can never reach it doesn't mean that it's not worth looking for.

~Norton Juster

Many of the things which can never be, often are.

~Norton Juster

But just because you can never reach it, doesn't mean that it's not worth looking for.

~Norton Juster

I think kids slowly begin to realize that what they're learning relates to other things they know. Then learning starts to get more and more exciting

~Norton Juster

If you want sense, you'll have to make it yourself.

~Norton Juster

Sometimes I find the best way of getting from one place to another is simply to erase everything and begin again.

~Norton Juster

It has been a long trip," said Milo, climbing onto the couch where the princesses sat; "but we would have been here much sooner if I hadn't

made so many mistakes. I'm afraid it's all my fault.

~Norton Juster

You can't improve sound by having only silence. The problem is to use each at the proper time.

~Norton Juster

...I'll continue to see things as a child. It's not so far to fall.

~Norton Juster

It's bad enough wasting time without killing it.

~Norton Juster

Everybody is so terribly sensitive about the things they know best.

~Norton Juster

Perhaps someday you can have one city as easy to see as Illusions and as hard to forget as Reality.

~Norton Juster

Is everyone who lives in Ignorance like you?" asked Milo. "Much worse," he said longingly. "But I don't live here. I'm from a place very far away called Context.

~Norton Juster

There are no wrong roads to anywhere.

~Norton Juster

I think really good books can be read by anybody.

~Norton Juster

AHA!" interrupted Officer Shrift, making another note in his little book. "Just as I thought: boys are the cause of everything.

~Norton Juster

And some looked even more like each other than they did like themselves.

~Norton Juster

Perhaps you'd care for a synonym bun," suggested the duke.

~Norton Juster

To a child, and to an adult, too, what you discover by yourself, or what you think you discover by yourself, is what stays.

~Norton Juster

When you're very young and you learn something - a fact, a piece of information, whatever - it doesn't connect to anything.

~Norton Juster

And that's why people no longer care which words they use as long as they use lots of them.

~Norton Juster

We never choose which words to use, for as long as they mean what they mean to mean, we don't care if they make sense or nonsense.

~Norton Juster

Just because you have a choice, it doesn't mean that any of them 'has' to be right.

~Norton Juster

One of the problems you have when you read with kids is that once they like something they want you to read it a hundred times.

~Norton Juster

I write best in the morning, and I can only write for about half a day, that's about it.

~Norton Juster

Do you think it will rain? Milo: But I thought you were the Weather Man? No, I'm the Whether man, for it is more important to know whether there will be weather, whether than what the weather will be.

~Norton Juster

You see, to tall men I'm a midget, and to short men I'm a giant; to the skinny ones I'm a fat man, and to the fat ones I'm a thin man.

~Norton Juster

We're right here on this very spot. Besides, being lost is never a matter of not knowing where you are; it's a matter of not knowing where you aren't - and I don't care at all about where I'm not.

~Norton Juster

They all looked very much like the residents of any small valley to which you've never been.

~Norton Juster

You see. . . it's really quite strenuous doing nothing all day, so once a week we take a holiday and go nowhere, which was just where we were going when you came along. Would you care to join us?

~Norton Juster

Just as I thought: boys are the cause of everything.

~Norton Juster

...it's just as bad to live in a place where what you do see isn't there as it is to live in one where what you don't see is.

~Norton Juster

He paused again as a tear of longing rolled from cheek to lip with the sweet-salty taste of an old memory.

~Norton Juster



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