

O. Henry Quotes

*Men, Art, New York, Writing, Home, Stories, Life, Giving, Littles, Moving, Way,
People, War, Cities, Differences, Air, Soul, Light, Country, Sunshine*

The true adventurer goes forth aimless and uncalculating to meet and greet unknown fate.

~O. Henry

Greenwich Village... the village of low rents and high arts.

~O. Henry

We can't buy one minute of time with cash; if we could, rich people would live longer.

~O. Henry

It ain't the roads we take; it's what's inside of us that makes us turn out the way we do.

~O. Henry

Inject a few raisins of conversation into the tasteless dough of existence.

~O. Henry

No friendship is an accident.

~O. Henry

Each of us, when our day's work is done, must seek our ideal, whether it be love or pinochle or lobster Ã la Newburg, or the sweet silence of the musty bookshelves.

~O. Henry

I've got some of my best yarns from park benches, lamp posts and newspaper stands.

~O. Henry

Fortune is a prize to be won. Adventure is the road to it. Chance is what may lurk in the shadows at the roadside.

~O. Henry

There is one day that is ours. Thanksgiving Day is the one day that is purely American.

~O. Henry

A good story is like a bitter pill, with the sugar coating inside of it.

~O. Henry

Turn up the lights. I don't want to go home in the dark.

~O. Henry

To a woman nothing seems quite impossible to the powers of the man she worships.

~O. Henry

I'll give you the whole secret to short story writing. Here it is. Rule 1: Write stories that please yourself. There is no Rule 2.

~O. Henry

I wanted to paint a picture some day that people would stand before and forget that it was made of paint. I wanted it to creep into them like a bar of music and mushroom there like a soft bullet.

~O. Henry

Write what you like; there is no other rule.

~O. Henry

It was beautiful and simple, as truly great swindles are.

~O. Henry

Life is made up of sobs, sniffles, and smiles, with sniffles predominating.

~O. Henry

If a person has lived through war, poverty and love, he has lived a full

life

~O. Henry

East is East, and West is San Francisco, according to Californians. Californians are a race of people; they are not merely inhabitants of a State.

~O. Henry

Most wonderful of all are words, and how they make friends one with another.

~O. Henry

When a man begins to be hilarious in a sorrowful way you can bet a million that he is dyeing his hair.

~O. Henry

When one loves one's Art no service seems too hard.

~O. Henry

She plucked from my lapel the invisible strand of lint (the universal act of woman to proclaim ownership).

~O. Henry

If you live in an atmosphere of luxury, luxury is yours whether your money pays for it, or another's.

~O. Henry

There is a saying that no man has tasted the full flavor of life until he has known poverty, love, and war.

~O. Henry

In the Big City a man will disappear with the suddenness and completeness of the flame of a candle that is blown out.

~O. Henry

A story with a moral appended is like the bill of a mosquito. It bores you, and then injects a stinging drop to irritate your conscience.

~O. Henry

This fair but pitiless city of Manhattan was without a soul ... its inhabitants were manikins moved by wires and springs.

~O. Henry

Now, girls, if you want to observe a young man hustle out after a pick and shovel, just tell him that your heart is in some other fellow's grave. Young men are grave-robbers by nature.

~O. Henry

The magi, as you know, were wise men wonderfully wise men who brought gifts to the Babe in the manger. They invented the art of giving Christmas presents.

~O. Henry

It couldn't have happened anywhere but in little old New York.

~O. Henry

Love and business and family and religion and art and patriotism are nothing but shadows of words when a man's starving!

~O. Henry

There is this difference between the grief of youth and that of old age; youth's burden is lightened by as much of it as another shares; old age may give and give, but the sorrow remains the same.

~O. Henry

It's said that love makes the world go around. Let me tell you, the announcement lacks verification. It's the wind from the dinner horn that does it.

~O. Henry

East is East, and West is San Francisco

~O. Henry

What else can you expect from a town thats shut off from the world by the ocean on one side and New Jersey on the other?

~O. Henry

Except in streetcars one should never be unnecessarily rude to a lady.

~O. Henry

Of habit, the power that keeps the earth from flying to pieces; though there is some silly theory of gravitation.

~O. Henry

It'll be a great place if they ever finish it.

~O. Henry

We may achieve climate, but weather is thrust upon us.

~O. Henry

My advice to you, if you should ever be in a hold up, is to line up with the cowards and save your bravery for an occasion when it may be of some benefit to you.

~O. Henry

All great men have declared that they owe their sucess to the aid and encouragement of some brilliant woman.

~O. Henry

He studied cities as women study their reflections.

~O. Henry

There was clearly nothing to do but flop down on the shabby little couch and howl.

~O. Henry

He seemed to be made of sunshine and blood-red tissue and clear weather.

~O. Henry

Bolivar cannot carry double

~O. Henry

Whenever he saw a dollar in another man's hands he took it as a personal grudge, if he couldn't take it any other way.

~O. Henry

If man knew how women pass the time when they are alone, they'd never marry.

~O. Henry

A straw vote only shows which way the hot air blows.

~O. Henry

Those whom we first love we seldom marry

~O. Henry

Perhaps there is no happiness in life so perfect as the martyr's.

~O. Henry

By nature and doctrines I am addicted to the habit of discovering choice places wherein to feed.

~O. Henry

Women's weapon, water-drops.

~O. Henry

She had become so thoroughly annealed into his life that she was like

the air he breathed--necessary but scarcely noticed.

~O. Henry

If you can't write a story that pleases yourself, you will never please the public. But in writing the story forget the public.

~O. Henry

Whenever my patient begins to count the carriages in her funeral procession I subtract 50 per cent from the curative power of medicines.

~O. Henry

A burglar who respects his art always takes his time before taking anything else.

~O. Henry

Hospitality in the prairie country is not limited. Even if your enemy passes your way, you must feed him before you shoot him.

~O. Henry

The loneliest thing in all the world is a soul when it is making ready to go on its mysterious, far journey.

~O. Henry

When I see a shipwreck, I like to know what caused the disaster...I learned nothing but the glow that wrapped her face when the soup came. That's the story.

~O. Henry

By rights you're a king. If I was you, I'd call for a new deal.

~O. Henry

History is bright and fiction dull with homely men who have charmed women.

~O. Henry

There are a few editor men with whom I am privileged to come in contact. It has not been long since it was their habit to come in contact with me. There is a difference.

~O. Henry

Men to whom life had appeared as a reversible coat - seamy on both sides.

~O. Henry

Young artists must pave their way to Art by drawing pictures for magazine stories that young authors write to pave their way to Literature.

~O. Henry

Broadway - the great sluice that washes out the dust of the gold-mines of Gotham.

~O. Henry

If there was ever an aviary overstocked with jays it is that Yaptown on the Hudson called New York

~O. Henry

Be always decent and right in your home town; and when you're on the road, never take more than four glasses of beer a day or play higher than a twenty-five-cent limit.

~O. Henry

It gives men courage and ambition and the nerve for anything. It has the colour of gold, is clear as a glass and shines after dark as if the sunshine were still in it.

~O. Henry

What is the world at its best but a little round field of the moving pictures with two walking together in it?

~O. Henry

Humans were denied the speech of animals. The only common ground of communication upon which dogs and men can get together is in fiction.

~O. Henry

Bride knoweth bride at the glance of an eye. And between them swiftly passes comfort and meaning in a language that man and widows wot not of.

~O. Henry

O all who give and receive gifts, such as they are wisest. Everywhere they are wisest. They are the magi.

~O. Henry

A holiday in a new dress—can earth offer anything more enchanting?

~O. Henry

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