

Oliver Sacks Quotes

*Brain, People, Memories, Thinking, Musical, Men, Feelings, Unique, Eye,
Passion, Moving, Science, Medicine, Art, Different, Health, Mean, Children,
Mind, Creativity*

In examining disease, we gain wisdom about anatomy and physiology and biology. In examining the person with disease, we gain wisdom about life.

~Oliver Sacks

Above all, I have been a sentient being, a thinking animal, on this beautiful planet, and that in itself has been an enormous privilege and adventure.

~Oliver Sacks

The power of music to integrate and cure. . . is quite fundamental. It is the profoundest nonchemical medication.

~Oliver Sacks

My religion is nature. That's what arouses those feelings of wonder and mysticism and gratitude in me.

~Oliver Sacks

Every act of perception, is to some degree an act of creation, and every act of memory is to some degree an act of imagination.

~Oliver Sacks

We see with the eyes, but we see with the brain as well. And seeing with the brain is often called imagination.

~Oliver Sacks

People will make a life in their own terms, whether they are deaf or colorblind or autistic or whatever. And their world will be quite as rich and interesting and full as our world.

~Oliver Sacks

If a man has lost a leg or an eye, he knows he has lost a leg or an eye; but if he has lost a selfâ€”himselfâ€”he cannot know it, because he is no longer there to know it.

~Oliver Sacks

Language, that most human invention, can enable what, in principle, should not be possible. It can allow all of us, even the congenitally blind, to see with another person's eyes.

~Oliver Sacks

We speak not only to tell other people what we think, but to tell ourselves what we think. Speech is a part of thought.

~Oliver Sacks

Much more of the brain is devoted to movement than to language. Language is only a little thing sitting on top of this huge ocean of movement.

~Oliver Sacks

It is up to me now to choose how to live out the months that remain to me.

~Oliver Sacks

I am a man of vehement disposition, with violent enthusiasms, and extreme immoderation in all my passions.

~Oliver Sacks

Music is...a fundamental way of expressing our humanity - and it is often our best medicine.

~Oliver Sacks

Biologically, physiologically, we are not so different from each other; historically, as narratives - we are each of us unique.

~Oliver Sacks

There is only one cardinal rule: One must always listen to the patient.

~Oliver Sacks

Music can lift us out of depression or move us to tears - it is a remedy, a tonic, orange juice for the ear.

~Oliver Sacks

I am now face to face with dying. But I am not finished with living.

~Oliver Sacks

I have to live in the richest, deepest, most productive way I can

~Oliver Sacks

Creativity involves the depth of a mind, and many, many depths of unconsciousness.

~Oliver Sacks

In terms of brain development, musical performance is every bit as important educationally as reading or writing.

~Oliver Sacks

Music is part of being human.

~Oliver Sacks

Psychotic hallucinations, whether they are visual or vocal, they address you. They accuse you. They seduce you. They humiliate you. They jeer at you. You interact with them.

~Oliver Sacks

Music has a bonding power, it's primal social cement

~Oliver Sacks

One might say that science itself, and civilization and art, are all about different orderings of the world - to contain it, and to make it in some sense intelligible, communicable. And bearable.

~Oliver Sacks

I often feel that life is about to begin, only to realize it is almost over.

~Oliver Sacks

We now know that memories are not fixed or frozen, like Proust's jars of preserves in a larder, but are transformed, disassembled, reassembled, and recategorized with every act of recollection.

~Oliver Sacks

The past which is not recoverable in any other way is embedded, as if in amber, in the music, and people can regain a sense of identity.

~Oliver Sacks

Waking consciousness is dreaming - but dreaming constrained by external reality

~Oliver Sacks

Music evokes emotion and emotion can bring it's memory.

~Oliver Sacks

I feel a sudden clear focus and perspective. There is no time for anything inessential.

~Oliver Sacks

Very young children love and demand stories, and can understand complex matters presented as stories, when their powers of comprehending general concepts, paradigms, are almost nonexistent.

~Oliver Sacks

At 11, I could say 'I am sodium' (Element 11), and now at 79, I am gold.

~Oliver Sacks

We have, each of us, a life story, whose continuity, whose sense, is our lives.

~Oliver Sacks

I feel I should be trying to complete my life, whatever completing a life means.

~Oliver Sacks

About 10 percent of the hearing impaired get musical hallucinations, and about 10 percent of the visually impaired get visual hallucinations.

~Oliver Sacks

I rejoice when I meet gifted young people... I feel the future is in good hands.

~Oliver Sacks

Memory is dialogic and arises not only from direct experience but from the intercourse of many minds.

~Oliver Sacks

Elements and birthdays have been intertwined for me since boyhood, when I learned about atomic numbers.

~Oliver Sacks

Music, uniquely among the arts, is both completely abstract and profoundly emotional.

~Oliver Sacks

A profound intriguing and compelling guide to the intricacies of the human brain.

~Oliver Sacks

I was always the youngest boy in my class at high school. I have retained this feeling of being the youngest, even though now I am almost the oldest person I know.

~Oliver Sacks

I think there is no culture in which music is not very important and central. That's why I think of us as a sort of musical species.

~Oliver Sacks

Fascinating, Doidge's book is a remarkable and hopeful portrait of the endless adaptability of the human brain.

~Oliver Sacks

If we have youth, beauty, blessed gifts, strength, if we find fame, fortune, favor, fulfillment, it is easy to be nice, to turn a warm heart to the world.

~Oliver Sacks

It really is a very odd business that all of us, to varying degrees, have music in our heads.

~Oliver Sacks

The power of music and the plasticity of the brain go together very strikingly, especially in young people.

~Oliver Sacks

Sign language is the equal of speech, lending itself equally to the rigorous and the poetic, to philosophical analysis or to making love.

~Oliver Sacks

I cannot pretend i am not without fear.

~Oliver Sacks

Dangerously well'â€™ what an irony is this: it expresses precisely the doubleness, the paradox, of feeling â€™too well

~Oliver Sacks

When I was five, I am told, and asked what my favorite things in the world were, I answered, smoked salmon and Bach.

~Oliver Sacks

I suspect that music has qualities both of speech and writing - partly built in, partly individually constructed - and this goes on all through one's life.

~Oliver Sacks

there are other senses -Â- secret senses, sixth senses, if you will -Â- equally vital, but unrecognized, and unlauded.

~Oliver Sacks

he wanted to do, to be, to feel- and could not; he wanted sense, he wanted purpose- in Freud's words, 'Work and Love'.

~Oliver Sacks

First thing about being a patient-you have to learn patience.

~Oliver Sacks

Nature gropes and blunders and performs the crudest acts. There is no steady advance upward. There is no design.

~Oliver Sacks

In general, people are afraid to acknowledge hallucinations because they immediately see them as a sign of something awful happening to the brain, whereas in most cases they're not.

~Oliver Sacks

Eccentricity is like having an accent. It's what "other" people have.

~Oliver Sacks

I have often seen quite demented patients recognize and respond vividly to paintings and delight in the act of painting at a time when they are scarcely responsive, disoriented, and out of it.

~Oliver Sacks

The power of music, whether joyous or cathartic must steal on one unawares, come spontaneously as a blessing or a grace--

~Oliver Sacks

There is among doctors, in acute hospitals at least, a presumption of stupidity in their patients.

~Oliver Sacks

Astoundedâ€™ and indifferentâ€™ for he was a man who, in effect, had no â€™day before'.

~Oliver Sacks

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