

Phyllis McGinley

Quotes

*Children, Girl, Men, Women, Heart, Daughter, Marriage, Mom, Mother, Heaven,
Sex, Race, Reading, Thinking, People, Garden, Mistake, Lying, Boys, Father*

A hobby a day keeps the doldrums away.

~Phyllis McGinley

Sometimes I have a notion that what might improve the situation is to have women take over the occupations of government and trade and to give men their freedom.

~Phyllis McGinley

Of one thing I am certain, the body is not the measure of healing, peace is the measure.

~Phyllis McGinley

Those wearing Tolerance for a label call other views intolerable.

~Phyllis McGinley

A mother's hardest to forgive. Life is the fruit she longs to hand you
Ripe on a plate. And while you live, Relentlessly she understands you.

~Phyllis McGinley

Words can sting like anything, but silence breaks the heart.

~Phyllis McGinley

Seventy is wormwood, Seventy is gall
But its better to be seventy, Than
not alive at all.

~Phyllis McGinley

Borrow my umbrellas, my clothes, my money, and I will likely not think
of them again. But borrow my books and I will be on your track like a
bloodhound until they are returned.

~Phyllis McGinley

In Australia, not reading poetry is the national pastime.

~Phyllis McGinley

Frigidity is largely nonsense. It is this generation's catchword, one only vaguely understood and constantly misused. Frigid women are few. There is a host of diffident and slow-ripening ones.

~Phyllis McGinley

Stir the egnog, lift the toddy, Happy New Year everybody.

~Phyllis McGinley

This is the gist of what I know: Give advice and buy a foe.

~Phyllis McGinley

The trouble with gardening is that it does not remain an avocation. It becomes an obsession.

~Phyllis McGinley

Please to put a nickel, please to put a dime. How petitions trickle in at Christmas time!

~Phyllis McGinley

The knowingness of little girls, is hidden underneath their curls.

~Phyllis McGinley

God know that a mother need fortitude and courage and tolerance and flexibility and patience and firmness and nearly every other brave aspect of the human soul.

~Phyllis McGinley

Getting along with men isn't what's truly important. The vital knowledge is how to get along with one man.

~Phyllis McGinley

Compromise, if not the spice of life, is its solidity. It is what makes nations great and marriages happy

~Phyllis McGinley

Of the small gifts of heaven, / It seems to me a more than equal share /
At birth was given / To girls with curly hair.

~Phyllis McGinley

How happy is the Optimist / To whom life shows its sunny side / His
horse may lose, his ship may list, / But he always sees the funny side.

~Phyllis McGinley

Gossip isn't scandal and it's not merely malicious. It's chatter about the
human race by lovers of the same.

~Phyllis McGinley

Scratch any father, you find / Someone chock-full of qualms and
romantic terrors, / Believing change is a threat.

~Phyllis McGinley

A lady is smarter than a gentleman, maybe, she can sew a fine seam,
she can have a baby, she can use her intuition instead of her brain, but
she can't fold a paper in a crowded train.

~Phyllis McGinley

A bookworm in bed with a new novel and a good reading lamp is as
much prepared for pleasure as a pretty girl at a college dance.

~Phyllis McGinley

In a successful marriage, there is no such thing as one's way. There is
only the way of both, only the bumpy, dusty, difficult, but always mutual
path.

~Phyllis McGinley

Marriage was all a woman's idea and for man's acceptance of the pretty
yoke, it becomes us to be grateful.

~Phyllis McGinley

I sing Connecticut, her charms / Of rivers, orchards, blossoming ridges.
/ I sing her gardens, fences, farms, / Spiders and midges.

~Phyllis McGinley

Gardening has compensations out of all proportion to its goals. It is creation in the pure sense.

~Phyllis McGinley

Nothing fails like success; nothing is so defeated as yesterday's triumphant Cause.

~Phyllis McGinley

Aunts are discreet, a little shy / By instinct. They forbear to pry.

~Phyllis McGinley

Sisters are always drying their hair. Locked into rooms, alone, they pose at the mirror, shoulders bare, trying this way and that their hair, or fly importunate down the stair to answer the telephone.

~Phyllis McGinley

People are no longer sinful, they are only immature or underprivileged or frightened or, more particularly, sick.

~Phyllis McGinley

Wherever conversation's flowing, / Why must I feel it falls on me / To keep things going?

~Phyllis McGinley

Men can't be trusted with pruning shears any more than they can be trusted with the grocery money in a delicatessen . . . They are like boys with new pocket knives who will not stop whittling.

~Phyllis McGinley

Women are not men's equals in anything except responsibility. We are

not their inferiors, either, or even their superiors. We are quite simply different races.

~Phyllis McGinley

Praise is warming and desirable. But it is an earned thing. It has to be deserved, like a hug from a child.

~Phyllis McGinley

Rain is my lover, my apple strudel. / It haunts my heels like a pedigreed poodle. / Beyond the seas or across the nation, / It follows me faithful on every vacation.

~Phyllis McGinley

Pressed for rules and verities, All i recollect are these: Feed a cold and starve a fever. Argue with no true believer. Think-too-long is never-act. Scratch a myth and find a fact.

~Phyllis McGinley

Behind every myth lies a truth; beyond every legend is reality, as radiant (sometimes as chilling) as the story itself.

~Phyllis McGinley

Ladies with curly hair / Have time to spare.

~Phyllis McGinley

What in me is pure conviction is simple prejudice in you.

~Phyllis McGinley

History must always be taken with a grain of salt. It is, after all, not a science but an art.

~Phyllis McGinley

A bit of trash now and then is good for the severest reader. It provides the necessary roughage in the literary diet.

~Phyllis McGinley

Time is the thief you cannot banish.

~Phyllis McGinley

Oh, high is the price of parenthood, and daughters may cost you double. You dare not forget, as you thought you could, that youth is a plague and a trouble.

~Phyllis McGinley

Tomorrow will come and today will pass, / But the hearts of the young are brittle as glass.

~Phyllis McGinley

The ability to forget a sorrow is childhood's most enchanting feature.

~Phyllis McGinley

Not reading poetry amounts to a national pastime here.

~Phyllis McGinley

The mass of men live lives of quiet exasperation.

~Phyllis McGinley

For little boys are rancorous When robbed of any myth, And spiteful and cantankerous To all their kin and kith. But little girls can draw conclusions And profit from their lost illusions.

~Phyllis McGinley

Say what you will, making a marriage work is a woman's business.

~Phyllis McGinley

Mere wealth, I am above it, / It is the reputation wide, / The playwright's pomp, the poet's pride / That eagerly I covet.

~Phyllis McGinley

These are my daughters, I suppose. But where in the world did the children vanish?

~Phyllis McGinley

A lover would find life less broken apart after a misguided love affair if they could feel that they had been sinful rather than foolish.

~Phyllis McGinley

I am he / Who champions total liberty - / Intolerance being, ma'am, a state / No tolerant man can tolerate.

~Phyllis McGinley

Meek-eyed parents hasten down the ramps To greet their offspring, terrible from camps.

~Phyllis McGinley

Let others, worn with living / And living's aftermath, / Take Sleep to heal the heart's distress, / Take Love to be their comfortress, / Take Song or Food or Fancy Dress, / But I shall take a Bath.

~Phyllis McGinley

Children are forced to live very rapidly in order to live at all. They are given only a few years in which to learn hundreds of thousands of things about life and the planet and themselves.

~Phyllis McGinley

Happiness puts on as many shapes as discontent, and there is nothing odder than the satisfaction of one's neighbor.

~Phyllis McGinley

O, merry is the Optimist, With the troops of courage leaguings. But a dour trend In any friend Is somehow less fatiguing.

~Phyllis McGinley

The human animal needs a freedom seldom mentioned, freedom from intrusion. He needs a little privacy as much as he wants understanding or vitamins or exercise or praise.

~Phyllis McGinley

The East is a montage. It is old and it is young, very green in summer, very white in winter, gregarious, withdrawn and at once both sophisticated and provincial.

~Phyllis McGinley

It's hard / Keeping up with the avant-garde.

~Phyllis McGinley

The Enemy, who wears her mother's usual face and confidential tone, has access; doubtless stares into her writing case and listens on the phone.

~Phyllis McGinley

There are books that one needs maturity to enjoy just as there are books an adult can come on too late to savor.

~Phyllis McGinley

It's this no-nonsense side of women that is pleasant to deal with. They are the real sportsmen.

~Phyllis McGinley

If childhood is still a state, it is now chiefly a state of confusion.

~Phyllis McGinley

Shunning the upstart shower, / The cold and cursory scrub, / I celebrate the power / That lies within the Tub.

~Phyllis McGinley

Cocktail parties ... are usually not parties at all but mass ceremonials

designed to clear up at one great stroke a wealth of obligations.

~Phyllis McGinley

There is satisfaction in seeing one's household prosper; in being both bountiful and provident.

~Phyllis McGinley

Relations are errors that Nature makes. / Your spouse you can put on the shelf. / But your friends, dear friends, are the quaint mistakes / You always commit yourself.

~Phyllis McGinley

Ah! some love Paris, / And some Purdue. / But love is an archer with a low I.Q. / A bold, bad bowman, and innocent of pity. / So I'm in love with / New York City.

~Phyllis McGinley

Love or perish" we are told and we tell ourselves. The phrase is true enough so long as we do not interpret it as "Mingle or be a failure.

~Phyllis McGinley

suffering is as necessary to entertaining as vermouth is to a Martini - a small but vital ingredient.

~Phyllis McGinley

It is the leisured, I have noticed, who rebel the most at an interruption of routine.

~Phyllis McGinley

Sons do not need you. They are always out of your reach, Walking strange waters.

~Phyllis McGinley

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