

Richard Rodriguez

Quotes

*Thinking, America, Mean, Mexican, Real, Children, Ideas, Two, Race, Cities,
White, Kids, Men, Diversity, Gay, Home, Way, Mother, Talking, People*

So many of my friends tell me they're not religious. I'm like, Of course you're religious. You watch Oprah Winfrey, don't you?

~Richard Rodriguez

But America isn't a country of family values; Mexico is a country of family values. This is a country of people who leave home.

~Richard Rodriguez

Education is that human process of feeling your body mature, feeding your mind with ideas that it never had before, or information you never had. You simply cannot do that on a computer.

~Richard Rodriguez

There are things so deeply personal that they can be revealed only to strangers.

~Richard Rodriguez

A primary reason for my success in the classroom was that I couldn't forget that schooling was changing me and separating me from the life I enjoyed before becoming a student.

~Richard Rodriguez

But one does not forget by trying to forget. One only remembers.

~Richard Rodriguez

The drama of the essay is the way the public life intersects with my personal and private life. It's in that intersection that I find the energy of the essay.

~Richard Rodriguez

I write about race in America in hopes of undermining the notion of race in America.

~Richard Rodriguez

There was a poll released yesterday that said most people would rather give up sex than give up their cell phones.

~Richard Rodriguez

Language is a social event.

~Richard Rodriguez

You don't know Mexico, man. You have trivialized Mexico. You are a fool about Mexico if you think that Mexico is five blocks. That is not Mexico; that is some crude Americanism you have absorbed.

~Richard Rodriguez

Now we have this idea that, not only do you go to first grade to learn your family's language, but you go to a university to learn about the person you were before you left home.

~Richard Rodriguez

Of course, since we don't see the Indian as a living figure - having turned the Indian into a kind of mascot for the ecology movement, a symbol of prehistory - we can't see the Indian among us.

~Richard Rodriguez

Jose Vasconcelos, Mexico's great federalist and apologist, has coined a wonderful term, *la raza cósmica*, "the cosmic race," a new people having not one race but many in their blood.

~Richard Rodriguez

Learning can cause social fracture. Your people start expressing themselves.

~Richard Rodriguez

Human unhappiness is evidence of our immortality.

~Richard Rodriguez

Mexico was most powerfully my father's smile and not, as you might otherwise imagine, not language, not pigment.

~Richard Rodriguez

I don't deny people their fantasy life, but I do think that we desperately need to start realizing just how complicated our reality is in America. Sitcoms just don't show us that.

~Richard Rodriguez

My decision was sparked by affirmative action. There was a point in my life when affirmative action would have meant something to me - when my family was working-class, and we were struggling.

~Richard Rodriguez

Henry Ford didn't just create a cheap way of getting away from your in-laws; he basically understood that there was something in us as a culture that wanted to be on the move, that wanted to get out.

~Richard Rodriguez

When a society doesn't know what to do with its young, it's in real trouble. When the young don't know what to do with society - at the very least, revolutions start there.

~Richard Rodriguez

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