

Robert B. Laughlin

Quotes

Mother, Space, School, Firsts, Real, Truth Is, Jobs, Introvert, Wheat Fields, Heart, Prejudice, Home, Heal Itself, Hands, Needs, Interesting, Government, Reading, Parent, Everyday

I also taught myself how to blow glass using a propane torch from the hardware store and managed to make some elementary chemistry plumbing such as tees and small glass bulbs.

~Robert B. Laughlin

My childhood home backed onto wheat and cotton fields.

~Robert B. Laughlin

The questions worth asking, in other words, come not from other people but from nature, and are for the most part delicate things easily drowned out by the noise of everyday life.

~Robert B. Laughlin

My mother also had us take piano lessons, and this had a similar effect. I hated those lessons, but I now play regularly for pleasure and have even tried my hand at composing.

~Robert B. Laughlin

A person obsessed with ultimate truth is a person asking to be relieved of money.

~Robert B. Laughlin

In parallel with the development of my interests in technical gadgetry I began to acquire a profound love of and respect for the natural world which motivates my scientific thinking to this day.

~Robert B. Laughlin

The modern concept of the vacuum of space, confirmed every day by experiment, is a relativistic ether.

~Robert B. Laughlin

But the need for conflict to expose prejudice and unclear reasoning, which is deeply embedded in my philosophy of science, has its origin in these debates.

~Robert B. Laughlin

Western society has many flaws, and it is good for an educated person to have thought some of these through, even at the expense of losing a lecture or two to tear gas.

~Robert B. Laughlin

It is an interesting fact that during my tour I was never allowed access to computers, radios, or anything else that I might damage through curiosity, or perhaps something more sinister.

~Robert B. Laughlin

I was an extremely reclusive and introverted boy.

~Robert B. Laughlin

It was at Bell Labs that I first made direct contact with real semiconductor experts and thus began to fully understand what amazing materials they were and what they could do.

~Robert B. Laughlin

As a consequence while we had a roof over our heads, food on the table, and clothes to wear to school we were constantly conscious of being of modest means.

~Robert B. Laughlin

At Berkeley I had my first encounter with real professional scientists.

~Robert B. Laughlin

So mothers everywhere take heart. The indoctrination you administer now may have unanticipated positive effects years later.

~Robert B. Laughlin

My job at Stanford is rather different from the ones I had held previously in that my own ambitions must take a back seat to the well-being of the

students with whom I work.

~Robert B. Laughlin

When I moved to Stanford I began to pursue the line of research I have been following ever since, namely trying to understand the larger implications of fractional quantum hall discovery.

~Robert B. Laughlin

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