

Sydney J. Harris

Quotes

*Men, People, Children, Believe, Funny, Inspirational, Art, Love, World, May,
Thinking, Mind, Character, Attitude, Running, Acceptance, Real, Enemy, Mean,
Education*

The whole purpose of education is to turn mirrors into windows.

~Sydney J. Harris

Our dilemma is that we hate change and love it at the same time; what we really want is for things to remain the same but get better.

~Sydney J. Harris

When I hear somebody sigh, 'Life is hard,' I am always tempted to ask, 'Compared to what?'

~Sydney J. Harris

The time to relax is when you don't have time for it.

~Sydney J. Harris

History repeats itself, but in such cunning disguise that we never detect the resemblance until the damage is done.

~Sydney J. Harris

Happiness is a direction, not a place.

~Sydney J. Harris

The three hardest tasks in the world are neither physical feats nor intellectual achievements, but moral acts: to return love for hate, to include the excluded, and to say, 'I was wrong'.

~Sydney J. Harris

There's no point in burying a hatchet if you're going to put up a marker on the site.

~Sydney J. Harris

Regret for the things we did can be tempered by time; it is regret for the things we did not do that is inconsolable.

~Sydney J. Harris

The two words 'information' and 'communication' are often used interchangeably, but they signify quite different things. Information is giving out; communication is getting through.

~Sydney J. Harris

The real danger is not that computers will begin to think like men, but that men will begin to think like computers.

~Sydney J. Harris

There are always too many Democratic congressmen, too many Republican congressmen, and never enough U.S. congressmen.

~Sydney J. Harris

If the devil could be persuaded to write a bible, he would title it, "You Only Live Once."

~Sydney J. Harris

We have not passed that subtle line between childhood and adulthood until we have stopped saying 'It got lost,' and say, 'I lost it.'

~Sydney J. Harris

Nobody can be so amusingly arrogant as a young man who has just discovered an old idea and thinks it is his own.

~Sydney J. Harris

"Terrorism" is what we call the violence of the weak, and we condemn it; "war" is what we call the violence of the strong, and we glorify it.

~Sydney J. Harris

Why do so many people yearn for an eternal life when they don't even know what to do with themselves in this brief one?

~Sydney J. Harris

The deepest and rarest kind of courage has nothing to do with feats or

obstacles in the outside world; and, indeed, has nothing to do with the outside world - it is the courage to be who you are.

~Sydney J. Harris

We evaluate others with a Godlike justice, but we want them to evaluate us with a Godlike compassion.

~Sydney J. Harris

An idealist believes the short run doesn't count. A cynic believes the long run doesn't matter. A realist believes that what is done or left undone in the short run determines the long run.

~Sydney J. Harris

A winner rebukes and forgives; a loser is too timid to rebuke and too petty to forgive.

~Sydney J. Harris

If you cannot endure to be thought in the wrong, you will begin to do terrible things to make the wrong appear right.

~Sydney J. Harris

The most important thing in an argument, next to being right, is to leave an escape hatch for your opponent, so that he can gracefully swing over to your side without too much apparent loss of face.

~Sydney J. Harris

If a small thing has the power to make you angry, does that not indicate something about your size?

~Sydney J. Harris

As WArden Lawes once said of convicts, no man can be called a failure until he has tried something he really likes, and fails at it.

~Sydney J. Harris

Middle Age is that perplexing time of life when we hear two voices calling us, one saying, 'Why not?' and the other, 'Why bother?'

~Sydney J. Harris

We believe what we want to believe, what we like to believe, what suits our prejudices and fuels our passions.

~Sydney J. Harris

Maturity begins when we're content to feel we're right about something without feeling the necessity to prove someone else wrong.

~Sydney J. Harris

Every morning I take out my bankbook, stare at it, shudder - and turn quickly to my typewriter.

~Sydney J. Harris

If you're not part of the solution, you're part of the problem, but the perpetual human predicament is that the answer soon poses its own problems.

~Sydney J. Harris

The primary purpose of a liberal education is to make one's mind a pleasant place in which to spend one's leisure.

~Sydney J. Harris

Enemies, as well as lovers, come to resemble each other over a period of time.

~Sydney J. Harris

A loser says that's the way it's always been done. A winner says there ought to be a better way.

~Sydney J. Harris

Real loneliness consists not in being alone, but in being with the wrong

person, in the suffocating darkness of a room in which no deep communication is possible.

~Sydney J. Harris

The best combination of parents consists of a father who is gentle beneath his firmness, and a mother who is firm beneath her gentleness.

~Sydney J. Harris

Honesty consists of the unwillingness to lie to others; maturity, which is equally hard to attain, consists of the unwillingness to lie to oneself.

~Sydney J. Harris

We can often endure an extra pound of pain far more easily than we can suffer the withdrawal of an ounce of accustomed pleasure.

~Sydney J. Harris

We truly possess only what we are able to renounce; otherwise, we are simply possessed by our possessions.

~Sydney J. Harris

Nuclear war is inevitable, says the pessimists; Nuclear war is impossible, says the optimists; Nuclear war is inevitable unless we make it impossible, says the realists.

~Sydney J. Harris

The reason that truth is stranger than fiction is that fiction has to have a rational thread running through it in order to be believable, whereas reality may be totally irrational.

~Sydney J. Harris

Elitism is the slur directed at merit by mediocrity.

~Sydney J. Harris

Good teaching must be slow enough so that it is not confusing, and fast enough so that it is not boring.

~Sydney J. Harris

The commonest fallacy among women is that simply having children makes them a mother - which is as absurd as believing that having a piano makes one a musician.

~Sydney J. Harris

Why do most Americans look up to education and down upon educated people?

~Sydney J. Harris

Perseverance is the most overrated of traits, if it is unaccompanied by talent; beating your head against a wall is more likely to produce a concussion in the head than a hole in the wall.

~Sydney J. Harris

The greatest enemy of progress is not stagnation, but false progress.

~Sydney J. Harris

Being yourself is not remaining what you were, or being satisfied with what you are. It is the point of departure and far from the goal.

~Sydney J. Harris

The greatest educational dogma is also its greatest fallacy: the belief that what must be learned can necessarily be taught.

~Sydney J. Harris

The art of living consists in knowing which impulses to obey and which must be made to obey.

~Sydney J. Harris

Never let your fears be the boundaries of your dreams. Happiness is a

direction, not a place.

~Sydney J. Harris

Never take the advice of someone who has not had your kind of trouble.

~Sydney J. Harris

At its highest level, the purpose of teaching is not to teach—it is to inspire the desire for learning. Once a student's mind is set on fire, it will find a way to provide its own fuel.

~Sydney J. Harris

The loner may be respected, but he is always resented by his colleagues, for he seems to be passing a critical judgment on them, when he may be simply making a limiting statement about himself.

~Sydney J. Harris

Intolerance is the most socially acceptable form of egotism, for it permits us to assume superiority without personal boasting.

~Sydney J. Harris

It wants to be, and proclaims itself to be, 'the greatest', but greatness is not required of a country; only goodness is.

~Sydney J. Harris

Every rule in the book can be broken, except one - be who you are, and become all you were meant to be.

~Sydney J. Harris

Once we assuage our conscience by calling something a "necessary evil", it begins to look more and more necessary and less and less evil.

~Sydney J. Harris

A cynic is not merely one who reads bitter lessons from the past, his is

also one who is permanently disappointed in the future.

~Sydney J. Harris

Democracy is the only system that persists in asking the powers that be whether they are the powers that ought to be.

~Sydney J. Harris

The art of listening needs its highest development in listening to oneself; our most important task is to develop an ear that can really hear what we're saying.

~Sydney J. Harris

This is a lesson mankind has not yet learned. We identify, and stratify, and treat persons largely on the basis of their accidental (physical) characteristics, which have no deeper meaning.

~Sydney J. Harris

Any philosophy that can be put in a nutshell belongs there.

~Sydney J. Harris

Men make counterfeit money; in many more cases, money makes counterfeit men.

~Sydney J. Harris

The profound immoralities of our time are cruelty, indifference, injustice and the use of others as means rather than ends in themselves.

~Sydney J. Harris

Self-discipline without talent can often achieve astounding results, whereas talent without self-discipline inevitably dooms itself to failure.

~Sydney J. Harris

Many a secret that cannot be pried out by curiosity can be drawn out by indifference.

~Sydney J. Harris

Why are we willing to accept a new mathematical formula we don't understand as the product of a brilliant mind, while rejecting a new art form we don't understand as the product of a deranged mind?

~Sydney J. Harris

Character is something you forge for yourself; temperament is something you are born with and can only slightly modify.

~Sydney J. Harris

The pessimist sees only the tunnel; the optimist sees the light at the end of the tunnel; the realist sees the tunnel and the light - and the next tunnel.

~Sydney J. Harris

The truest test of independent judgment is being able to dislike someone who admires us, and to admire someone who dislikes us.

~Sydney J. Harris

By the time a man asks you for advice, he has generally made up his mind what he wants to do, and is looking for confirmation rather than counseling.

~Sydney J. Harris

When we have "second thoughts" about something, our first thoughts don't seem like thoughts at all - just feelings.

~Sydney J. Harris

Nobody can misunderstand a child as much as his own parents.

~Sydney J. Harris

Almost no one is foolish enough to imagine that he automatically deserves great success in any field of activity; yet almost everyone

believes that he automatically deserves success in marriage.

~Sydney J. Harris

Many married couples separate because they quarrel incessantly, but just as many separate because they were never honest enough or courageous enough to quarrel when they should have.

~Sydney J. Harris

Any creed whose basic doctrines do not include respect for the creeds of others, is simply power politics masquerading as philosophy.

~Sydney J. Harris

Sometimes the best, and only effective, way to kill an idea is to put it into practice.

~Sydney J. Harris

The best thing you can give children, next to good habits, are good memories.

~Sydney J. Harris

Law is order in liberty, and without order liberty is social chaos.

~Sydney J. Harris

Nothing is as easy to make as a promise this winter to do something next summer; this is how commencement speakers are caught.

~Sydney J. Harris

Knowledge fills a large brain; it merely inflates a small one.

~Sydney J. Harris

Just about the only interruption we don't object to is applause.

~Sydney J. Harris

Many persons of high intelligence have notoriously poor judgement.

~Sydney J. Harris

More trouble is caused in this world by indiscreet answers than by indiscreet questions.

~Sydney J. Harris

When a baseball player makes an error, it goes into the record and is published. How many of us could stand this sort of daily scrutiny?

~Sydney J. Harris

If you want to know what a man's character is really like... ask him to tell you the living person he most admires - for hero worship is the truest index of a man's private nature.

~Sydney J. Harris

You may be sure that when a man begins to call himself a realist he is preparing to do something that he is secretly ashamed of doing.

~Sydney J. Harris

Marriages we regard as the happiest are those in which each of the partners believes he or she got the best of it.

~Sydney J. Harris

Those obsessed with health are not healthy; the first requisite of good health is a certain calculated carelessness about oneself.

~Sydney J. Harris

The founder of every creed from Jesus Christ to Karl Marx, would be appalled to return to earth and see what has been made of that creed, not by its enemies, but by its most devoted adherents.

~Sydney J. Harris

Time is love, above all else. It is the most precious commodity in the world and should be lavished on those we care most about.

~Sydney J. Harris

Those who imagine that the world is against them have generally conspired to make it true.

~Sydney J. Harris

Somebody who never got over the embarrassing fact that he was born in bed with a lady.

~Sydney J. Harris

Genealogy: A perverse preoccupation of those who seek to demonstrate that their forebears were better people than they are.

~Sydney J. Harris

Many people feel "guilty" about things they shouldn't feel guilty about, in order to shut out feelings of guilt about things they should feel guilty about.

~Sydney J. Harris

Almost every man looks more so in a belted trench coat.

~Sydney J. Harris

Man's unique agony as a species consists in his perpetual conflict between the desire to stand out and the need to blend in.

~Sydney J. Harris

Ignorance per se is not nearly as dangerous as ignorance of ignorance.

~Sydney J. Harris

As the horsepower in modern automobiles steadily rises, the congestion of traffic steadily lowers the average possible speed of your car. This is known as Progress.

~Sydney J. Harris

People who think they're generous to a fault usually think that's their only fault.

~Sydney J. Harris

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