

Ursula K. Le Guin

Quotes

*Writing, Thinking, Men, Book, Children, Art, People, Real, Light, Dark, Lying,
Mean, Believe, War, Eye, Doe, Reality, Fiction, Life, Stories*

The creative adult is the child who has survived.

~Ursula K. Le Guin

People who deny the existence of dragons are often eaten by dragons.
From within.

~Ursula K. Le Guin

The only thing that makes life possible is permanent, intolerable uncertainty; not knowing what comes next.

~Ursula K. Le Guin

Those who build walls are their own prisoners. I'm going to go fulfill my proper function in the social organism. I'm going to unbuild walls.

~Ursula K. Le Guin

I doubt that the imagination can be suppressed. If you truly eradicated it in a child, he would grow up to be an eggplant.

~Ursula K. Le Guin

We read books to find out who we are. What other people, real or imaginary, do and think and feel... is an essential guide to our understanding of what we ourselves are and may become.

~Ursula K. Le Guin

There have been great societies that did not use the wheel, but there have been no societies that did not tell stories.

~Ursula K. Le Guin

Love doesn't just sit there, like a stone; it has to be made, like bread, remade all the time, made new.

~Ursula K. Le Guin

It is good to have an end to journey towards; but it is the journey that matters, in the end.

~Ursula K. Le Guin

You cannot buy the revolution. You cannot make the revolution. You can only be the revolution. It is in your spirit, or it is nowhere.

~Ursula K. Le Guin

Resistance and change often begin in art, and very often in our art - the art of words.

~Ursula K. Le Guin

When the enemy enthusiastically embraces you, and the fellow countrymen bitterly reject you, it is hard not to wonder if you are, in fact, a traitor.

~Ursula K. Le Guin

A profound love between two people involves, after all, the power and chance of doing profound hurt.

~Ursula K. Le Guin

In so far as one denies what is, one is possessed by what is not, the compulsions, the fantasies, the terrors that flock to fill the void.

~Ursula K. Le Guin

She obeys me, but only because she wants to. It's the only justification for obedience, Ged observed.

~Ursula K. Le Guin

The light is the left hand of darkness.

~Ursula K. Le Guin

If you evade suffering you also evade the chance of joy. Pleasure you may get, or pleasures, but you will not be fulfilled. You will not know what it is to come home.

~Ursula K. Le Guin

The only questions that really matter are the ones you ask yourself.

~Ursula K. Le Guin

The world is in balance . To light a candle is to cast a shadow.

~Ursula K. Le Guin

What sane person could live in this world and not be crazy?

~Ursula K. Le Guin

We are volcanoes. When we women offer our experience as our truth, as human truth, all the maps change. There are new mountains.

~Ursula K. Le Guin

We live in capitalism. Its power seems inescapable. So did the divine right of kings.

~Ursula K. Le Guin

To see a candle's light one must take it into a dark place.

~Ursula K. Le Guin

Only in silence the word, only in dark the light, only in dying life: bright the hawk's flight on the empty sky.

~Ursula K. Le Guin

To hear, one must be silent.

~Ursula K. Le Guin

To see that your life is a story while you're in the middle of living it may be a help to living it well.

~Ursula K. Le Guin

All makers must leave room for the acts of the spirit. But they have to work hard and carefully, and wait patiently, to deserve them.

~Ursula K. Le Guin

Hate gets going, it goes round, it gets older and tighter and older and tighter, until it holds a person inside it like a fist holds a stick.

~Ursula K. Le Guin

My imagination makes me human and makes me a fool; it gives me all the world, and exiles me from it.

~Ursula K. Le Guin

Nobody who says, "I told you so" has ever been, or will ever be, a hero.

~Ursula K. Le Guin

Paradise is for those who make paradise.

~Ursula K. Le Guin

The end justifies the means. But what if there never is an end? All we have is means.

~Ursula K. Le Guin

The unread story is not a story; it is little black marks on wood pulp. The reader, reading it, makes it live: a live thing, a story.

~Ursula K. Le Guin

We read books to find out who we are.

~Ursula K. Le Guin

It is very hard for evil to take hold of the unconsenting soul.

~Ursula K. Le Guin

If you see a whole thing - it seems that it's always beautiful. Planets, lives... But up close a world's all dirt and rocks. And day to day, life's a hard job, you get tired, you lose the pattern.

~Ursula K. Le Guin

Owning is owing, having is hoarding.

~Ursula K. Le Guin

To think that realistic fiction is by definition superior to imaginative fiction is to think imitation is superior to invention.

~Ursula K. Le Guin

There's a point, around the age of twenty, when you have to choose whether to be like everybody else the rest of your life, or to make a virtue of your peculiarities.

~Ursula K. Le Guin

Before the moon I am, what a woman is, a woman of power, a woman's power, deeper than the roots of trees, deeper than the roots of islands, older than the Making, older than the moon.

~Ursula K. Le Guin

Besides, when you say you're a feminist it annoys the bigots and the old farts and the prissy ladies so much, it's kind of irresistible.

~Ursula K. Le Guin

And though I came to forget or regret all I have ever done, yet would I remember that once I saw the dragons aloft on the wind at sunset above the western isles; and I would be content.

~Ursula K. Le Guin

Light is the left hand of darkness and darkness the right hand of light. Two are one, life and death, lying together like lovers in kemmer, like hands joined together, like the end and the way.

~Ursula K. Le Guin

Virginity is now a mere preamble or waiting room to be got out of as soon as possible; it is without significance.

~Ursula K. Le Guin

I am living in a nightmare, from which from time to time I wake in sleep.

~Ursula K. Le Guin

I had forgotten how much light there is in the world, till you gave it back to me.

~Ursula K. Le Guin

To claim power over what you do not understand is not wise, nor is the end of it likely to be good.

~Ursula K. Le Guin

But it is one thing to read about dragons and another to meet them.

~Ursula K. Le Guin

The question is always the same with a dragon: will he talk with you or will he eat you?

~Ursula K. Le Guin

It is yin and yang. Light is the left hand of darkness ... how did it go? Light, dark. Fear, courage. Cold, warmth. Female, male. It is yourself ... both and one. A shadow on snow.

~Ursula K. Le Guin

Any human power can be resisted and changed by human beings

~Ursula K. Le Guin

To be oneself is a rare thing, and a great one.

~Ursula K. Le Guin

No darkness lasts forever. And even there, there are stars.

~Ursula K. Le Guin

What goes too long unchanged destroys itself.

~Ursula K. Le Guin

Compare the torrent and the glacier. Both get where they are going.

~Ursula K. Le Guin

I am no more lonely than the loon on the pond that laughs so loud.

~Ursula K. Le Guin

A writer either speaks to adults and bores kids, or speaks to kids and upsets adults.

~Ursula K. Le Guin

Children know perfectly well that unicorns aren't real, but they also know that books about unicorns, if they are good books, are true books.

~Ursula K. Le Guin

Absolute freedom is absolute responsibility.

~Ursula K. Le Guin

The worst walls are never the ones you find in your way. The worst walls are the ones you put there .

~Ursula K. Le Guin

You can go home again...so long as you understand that home is a place where you have never been.

~Ursula K. Le Guin

There are no right answers to wrong questions.

~Ursula K. Le Guin

When you light a candle, you also cast a shadow.

~Ursula K. Le Guin

I believe that maturity is not an outgrowing, but a growing up: that an adult is not a dead child, but a child who survived.

~Ursula K. Le Guin

The children of the revolution are always ungrateful, and the revolution must be grateful that it is so.

~Ursula K. Le Guin

I never knew anybody . . . who found life simple. I think a life or a time looks simple when you leave out the details.

~Ursula K. Le Guin

Life goes on, even if two-headed and glowing faintly in the dark.

~Ursula K. Le Guin

It's a rare gift, to know where you need to be, before you've been to all the places you don't need to be.

~Ursula K. Le Guin

If it were proven that there is no God there would be no religion. ...But also if it were proven that there is a God, there would be no religion.

~Ursula K. Le Guin

Music is another way of thinking, or maybe thinking is another kind of music.

~Ursula K. Le Guin

There is no information about corporations. There is only disinformation.

~Ursula K. Le Guin

You can't crush ideas by suppressing them. You can only crush them by ignoring them. By refusing to think, refusing to change.

~Ursula K. Le Guin

All knowledge is partial, infinitesimally partial. Reason is a net thrown

out into an ocean. What truth it brings in is a fragment, a glimpse, a scintillation of the whole truth.

~Ursula K. Le Guin

Morning comes whether you set the alarm or not.

~Ursula K. Le Guin

The pornography of violence of course far exceeds, in volume and general acceptance, sexual pornography, in this Puritan land of ours.

~Ursula K. Le Guin

The story is not in the plot but in the telling.

~Ursula K. Le Guin

The important thing is not the finding, it is the seeking, it is the devotion with which one spins the wheel of prayer and scripture, discovering the truth little by little.

~Ursula K. Le Guin

What is an anarchist? One who, choosing, accepts the responsibility of choice.

~Ursula K. Le Guin

If a book told you something when you were fifteen, it will tell you it again when you're fifty, though you may understand it so differently that it seems you're reading a whole new book.

~Ursula K. Le Guin

To learn which questions are unanswerable, and not to answer them: this skill is most needful in times of stress and darkness.

~Ursula K. Le Guin

It had never occurred to me before that music and thinking are so much alike. In fact you could say music is another way of thinking, or maybe

thinking is another kind of music.

~Ursula K. Le Guin

While we read a novel, we are insaneâ€”bonkers. We believe in the existence of people who aren't there, we hear their voices... Sanity returns (in most cases) when the book is closed.

~Ursula K. Le Guin

As great scientists have said and as all children know, it is above all by the imagination that we achieve perception, and compassion, and hope.

~Ursula K. Le Guin

You must not change one thing, one pebble, one grain of sand, until you know what good and evil will follow on that act.

~Ursula K. Le Guin

If you want your writing to be taken seriously, don't marry and have kids, and above all, don't die. But if you have to die, commit suicide. They approve of that.

~Ursula K. Le Guin

There's a great fear of the imagination. It's a dangerous thing. It's out of control, it's subversive.

~Ursula K. Le Guin

One voice speaking truth is a greater force than fleets and armies.

~Ursula K. Le Guin

To break a promise is to deny the reality of the past. Therefore it is to deny the hope of a real future.

~Ursula K. Le Guin

We're each of us alone, to be sure. What can you do but hold your

hand out in the dark?

~Ursula K. Le Guin

Those who build walls are their own prisoners.

~Ursula K. Le Guin

You sit down and you do it, and you do it, and you do it, until you have learned to do it.

~Ursula K. Le Guin

If science fiction is the mythology of modern technology, then its myth is tragic.

~Ursula K. Le Guin

Success is somebody else's failure.

~Ursula K. Le Guin

So the first step out of childhood is made all at once, without looking before or behind, without caution, and nothing held in reserve.

~Ursula K. Le Guin

We like to think we live in daylight, but half the world is always dark, and fantasy, like poetry, speaks the language of the night.

~Ursula K. Le Guin

Writing makes no noise, except groans, and it can be done everywhere, and it is done alone.

~Ursula K. Le Guin

The sunlights differ, but there is only one darkness.

~Ursula K. Le Guin

Sure, it's simple, writing for kids... Just as simple as bringing them up.

~Ursula K. Le Guin

Great artists make the roads; good teachers and good companions can point them out. But there ain't no free rides, baby.

~Ursula K. Le Guin

We broke the world to make it whole.

~Ursula K. Le Guin

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