

# Walter Dean Myers

## Quotes

*People, Children, Book, Thinking, War, Reading, Needs, Stories, Kids, Writing,  
Want, Dream, Heart, Looks, Responsibility, Trying, Years, Life Is, Sometimes,  
Military*

Books transmit values. They explore our common humanity. What is the message when some children are not represented in those books?

~Walter Dean Myers

When I began to read, I began to exist

~Walter Dean Myers

Cutting people out of your life is easy, keeping them in is hard.

~Walter Dean Myers

We need to tell young people that America was built by men and women of all colors and that the future of this country is dependent on the participation of all of our citizens.

~Walter Dean Myers

Reading is not optional.

~Walter Dean Myers

I'll never live to write all the stories I have in my head.

~Walter Dean Myers

We need to tell kids flat out: reading is not optional.

~Walter Dean Myers

Think about all the tomorrows of your life.

~Walter Dean Myers

We all know we should eat right and we should exercise, but reading is treated as if it's this wonderful adjunct.

~Walter Dean Myers

It's a hard life sometimes and the biggest temptation is to let how hard it is be an excuse to weaken

~Walter Dean Myers

But in the end, we learn we can forgive most people. The cushion of mortality makes their wrongdoing seem less dark, and whatever roads they traveled seem less foolhardy.

~Walter Dean Myers

With my writing, what I want to do is humanize the young people I write about.

~Walter Dean Myers

Sometimes when things get hard, we tend to set our sights on what's hard, that difficult thing that keeps us upset, and we turn our back on our strengths.

~Walter Dean Myers

I like people who take responsibility for their lives.

~Walter Dean Myers

They take away your shoelaces and your belt so you can't kill yourself no matter how bad it is. I guess making you live is part of the punishment.

~Walter Dean Myers

If anyone could look into my head See or feel the dread that has captured Me or see within this sad, unhappy brain They would only turn away Turn away.

~Walter Dean Myers

Yeah, that's funny, huh?...Something hurts you real bad and you get used to it. Like being hurt becomes part of who you are.

~Walter Dean Myers

I am very much interested in getting parents to read to children, and trying to get people mentoring children. If I can do both I'll be happy.

~Walter Dean Myers

We all think we're different, but when it comes around, we end up needing the same things. Somebody to love us. Somebody to respect us.

~Walter Dean Myers

What I do with my books is to create windows to my world that all may peer into. I share the images, the feelings and thoughts, and, I hope, the delight.

~Walter Dean Myers

Each time I think there is no place lower to go, I find that there is at least one place that will mess you up worse than you were.

~Walter Dean Myers

I want young people to be hesitant to glorify war and to demand of their leaders justification for the sacrifices they ask of our citizens.

~Walter Dean Myers

I know what falling off the cliff means. I know from being considered a very bright kid to being considered like a moron and dropping out of school.

~Walter Dean Myers

I would enjoy having dinner with the poet/playwright Derek Walcott.

~Walter Dean Myers

I think it's difficult for young people to acknowledge being smart, to knowledge being a reader. I see kids who are embarrassed to read books. They're embarrassed to have people see them doing it.

~Walter Dean Myers

the beast is the monster that destroys your dream

~Walter Dean Myers

If what I read doesn't reflect my life - whether I'm gay or Latino or on welfare - doesn't that really mean that my life is not valuable?

~Walter Dean Myers

Can you become The hope I need? Can you help me be More than it is written in my future Or past? Is there another me to find?

~Walter Dean Myers

That's what's wrong with women. They want you to wait for them until they get ready and then they don't even tell you how they feel.

~Walter Dean Myers

On the streets of the city They have taken my Who-I-Am As well as my What-I-Was And now I am desperate for them both Again

~Walter Dean Myers

I admired the work ethic of the cowboys I read about. The idea of these young people taking on this much responsibility was impressive. I would like modern readers to have an appreciation of this.

~Walter Dean Myers

As a writer, I absorb stories, allow them to churn within my own head and heart - often for years - until I find a way of telling them that fits both my time and temperament.

~Walter Dean Myers

What did I do? I walked into a drugstore to look for some mints, and then I walked out. What was wrong with that? I didn't kill Mr. Nesbitt.

~Walter Dean Myers

New York is my favorite city.

~Walter Dean Myers

he was trying to convince himself that he wasn't guilty.

~Walter Dean Myers

The movie is more real in so many ways than the life I am leading. No, that's not true. I just desperately wish this was only a movie.

~Walter Dean Myers

If you know you don't have a win, then there's no use for you being in the game.

~Walter Dean Myers

I write in a small office at home.

~Walter Dean Myers

I wrote for magazines. I wrote adventure stuff, I wrote for the 'National Enquirer,' I wrote advertising copy for cemeteries.

~Walter Dean Myers

America believes what's good for us is good for the world. It's very difficult to understand that that's not necessarily true.

~Walter Dean Myers

My life is not packaged, Not tidy. There are leftover strands and jagged Edges that cut even my friends.

~Walter Dean Myers

I couldn't speak well. I went to speech therapy for 10 years. And I was sort of frustrated in that sense.

~Walter Dean Myers

As a child I wanted to be a professional athlete or lawyer.

~Walter Dean Myers

What some people wanted was sometimes too hard to get, and the stress of trying was sometimes too hard to deal with... Maybe doing

well in life was just too hard for some people.

~Walter Dean Myers

Idiots don't know they're idiots, which is unfortunate.

~Walter Dean Myers

Children have adopted a consumerist attitude - I dare you to entertain me.

~Walter Dean Myers

Each generation seems to invent its own reasons for war.

~Walter Dean Myers

My dad was a janitor for U.S. Radium Corporation, and he stayed there for 37 years. So he didn't read.

~Walter Dean Myers

But now, like a fallen sparrow  
On a golden chain, I'm forever bound in  
shadow,  
A prisoner to my pain.

~Walter Dean Myers

Looks to me like you've been making garbage for a while and dragging it with you. Now you need to get out of here, and that garbage is weighing you down.

~Walter Dean Myers

The idea of voluntary segregation went against every value I had been taught. What did being born black have to do with excellence?

~Walter Dean Myers

You cannot live this life anymore without the ability to read.

~Walter Dean Myers

Writers do not write what they know. They write what they can imagine.

~Walter Dean Myers

I talk to myself out loud at times, and feel embarrassed when people overhear me.

~Walter Dean Myers

Drew, your enemies can mess your life up,' he said. 'Or they can make it easy for you to do it to yourself.' â€”Fletch

~Walter Dean Myers

The best time to cry is at night, when the lights are out and someone is being beaten up and screaming for help.

~Walter Dean Myers

Each of us is born with a history already in place

~Walter Dean Myers

Violence was just as much about WHAT was happening as it was how it happened.

~Walter Dean Myers

When we think of war, the tendency is to picture young soldiers only in their military roles. To a large extent this dehumanizes the soldiers and makes it easier for society to commit them to combat.

~Walter Dean Myers

There is a crisis involving reading in certain communities.

~Walter Dean Myers

How deep is your game?

~Walter Dean Myers



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