

William Golding

Quotes

*Thinking, Men, Writing, People, Book, Mean, Lord, Two, Fire, Long, Islands,
Believe, Law, Savages, Children, Fall, Language, Life, Humans, Paper*

I think women are foolish to pretend they are equal to men, they are far superior and always have been.

~William Golding

We have a disharmony in our natures. We cannot live together without injuring each other.

~William Golding

I began to see what people were capable of doing. Anyone who moved through those years without understanding that man produces evil as a bee produces honey, must have been blind or wrong in the head.

~William Golding

We're all mad, the whole damned race. We're wrapped in illusions, delusions, confusions about the penetrability of partitions, we're all mad and in solitary confinement.

~William Golding

I am astonished at the ease with which uninformed persons come to a settled, a passionate opinion when they have no grounds for judgment.

~William Golding

The thing is - fear can't hurt you any more than a dream.

~William Golding

I believe man suffers from an appalling ignorance of his own nature. I produce my own view in the belief that it may be something like the truth.

~William Golding

I am by nature an optimist and by intellectual conviction a pessimist.

~William Golding

My yesterdays walk with me. They keep step, they are gray faces that

peer over my shoulder.

~William Golding

At the moment of vision, the eyes see nothing.

~William Golding

The greatest ideas are the simplest.

~William Golding

What a man does defiles him, not what is done by others.

~William Golding

No human endeavour can ever be wholly good... it must always have a cost.

~William Golding

Sleep is when all the unsorted stuff comes flying out as from a dustbin upset in a high wind.

~William Golding

We've got to have rules and obey them. After all, we're not savages. We're English, and the English are best at everything.

~William Golding

Maybe there is a beastâ€¦ maybe it's only us.

~William Golding

He who rides the sea of the Nile must have sails woven of patience.

~William Golding

Towards midnight the rain ceased and the clouds drifted away, so that the sky was scattered once more with the incredible lamps of stars.

~William Golding

The mask was a thing on it's own, behind which Jack hid, liberated from shame and self-consciousness.

~William Golding

Ralph wept for the end of innocence, the darkness of man's heart, and the fall through the air of the true, wise friend called Piggy.

~William Golding

I hope my books make statements about our general condition.

~William Golding

However you disguise novels, they are always biographies.

~William Golding

We're not savages. We're English.

~William Golding

The greatest pleasure is not - say - sex or geometry. It is just understanding. And if you can get people to understand their own humanity - well, that's the job of the writer.

~William Golding

Even if you got rid of paper, you would still have story-tellers. In fact, you had the story-tellers before you had the paper.

~William Golding

If faces were different when lit from above or below -- what was a face? What was anything?

~William Golding

How can you expect to be rescued if you don't put first things first and act proper?

~William Golding

Novelists do not write as birds sing, by the push of nature. It is part of the job that there should be much routine and some daily stuff on the level of carpentry.

~William Golding

Worse than madness. Sanity.

~William Golding

We just got to go on, that's all. That's what grownups would do.

~William Golding

The world, that understandable and lawful world, was slipping away.

~William Golding

Which is better--to have laws and agree, or to hunt and kill?

~William Golding

Language fits over experience like a straight-jacket.

~William Golding

Childhood is a disease - a sickness that you grow out of.

~William Golding

I am not a theologian or a philosopher. I am a story teller.

~William Golding

What are we? Humans? Or animals? Or savages?

~William Golding

Fancy thinking the Beast was something you could hunt and kill! You knew, didn't you? I'm part of you? Close, close, close! I'm the reason why it's no go? Why things are what they are?

~William Golding

Life should serve up its feast of experience in a series of courses.

~William Golding

What kind of human person has a favorite eraser?

~William Golding

Nothing is so impenetrable as laughter in a language you don't understand.

~William Golding

Art is partly communication, but only partly. The rest is discovery.

~William Golding

The beast was harmless and horrible; and the news must reach the others as soon as possible.

~William Golding

He found himself understanding the wearisomeness of this life, where every path was an improvisation and a considerable part of one's waking life was spent watching one's feet.

~William Golding

Graham Greene at 82 years old was still writing, and I don't think anyone can deny the force, the expertise, and the unique quality of his writing, if you take his complete oeuvre.

~William Golding

I am here; and here is nowhere in particular.

~William Golding

There is, they say, no fool like an old fool.

~William Golding

But forgiveness must not only be given but received also.

~William Golding

We did everything adults would do. What went wrong?

~William Golding

How would I myself live in this proposed society? How long would it be before I went stark staring mad?

~William Golding

Kill the pig! Cut his throat! Kill the pig! Bash him in!

~William Golding

There were no words, and no movements but the tearing of teeth and claws.

~William Golding

Serve you right if something did get you, you useless lot of cry-babies!

~William Golding

Which is better, law and rescue, or hunting and breaking things up?

~William Golding

The writer probably knows what he meant when he wrote a book, but he should immediately forget what he meant when he's written it.

~William Golding

Ralph... would treat the day's decisions as though he were playing chess. The only trouble was that he would never be a very good chess player.

~William Golding

It wasn't until I was 37 that I grasped the great truth that you've got to write your own books and nobody else's, and then everything followed from there.

~William Golding

He lost himself in a maze of thoughts that were rendered vague by his lack of words to express them. Frowning, he tried again.

~William Golding

They walked along, two continents of experience and feeling unable to communicate.

~William Golding

Simon became inarticulate in his effort to express mankind's essential illness.

~William Golding

An orotundity, which I define as Nobelitis a pomposity in which one is treated as representative of more than oneself by someone conscious of representing more than himself.

~William Golding

The skull regarded Ralph like one who knows all the answers and won't tell.

~William Golding

Philosophy and Religion-what are they when the wind blows and the water gets up in lumps?

~William Golding

The Navy's a very gentlemanly business. You fire at the horizon to sink a ship and then you pull people out of the water and say, 'Frightfully sorry, old chap.'

~William Golding

And I've been wearing specs since I was three.

~William Golding

the conch exploded into a thousand white fragments and ceased to exist.

~William Golding

One's intelligence may march about and about a problem, but the solution does not come gradually into view. One moment it is not. The next it is there.

~William Golding

Are we savages or what?

~William Golding

This is our island. It's a good island. Until the grownups come to fetch us we'll have fun.

~William Golding

Kill the pig. Cut her throat. Spill her blood.

~William Golding

I don't think they [contemporary writers] read me either. I mean, if we're concerned genuinely with writing, I think we probably get on with our work.

~William Golding

A star appeared...and was momentarily eclipsed by some movement.

~William Golding

The water rose further and dressed Simon's coarse hair with brightness. The line of his cheek silvered and the turn of his shoulder became sculptured marble.

~William Golding

The candle-buds opened their wide white flowers....Their scent spilled out into the air and took possession of the island.

~William Golding

The trouble was, if you were a chief you had to think, you had to be wise.

~William Golding

Only one novel is a novel: that is a successful novel.

~William Golding

The rules!" shouted Ralph, "you're breaking the rules!" "Who cares?"

~William Golding

One tries to tell a truth, and one hopes that the truth has a general application rather than just a specific one.

~William Golding

They looked at each other, baffled, in love and hate.

~William Golding

As soon as *Oliver Twist* is serialized, people who would never dream of reading [Charles] Dickens, if they hadn't seen him on their box, buy the paperback.

~William Golding

There's a kinship among men who have sat by a dying fire and measured the worth of their life by it.

~William Golding

The novel is very much alive, indeed. In Toronto at the Sixth Annual International Festival of Authors (October 1985) I listened to novelists by the dozen.

~William Golding

People don't help much.

~William Golding

If I blow the conch and they don't come back; then we've had it. We shan't keep the fire going. We'll be like animals. We'll never be rescued." "If you don't blow, we'll soon be animals anyway.

~William Golding

Life's scientific, but we don't know, do we? Not certainly, I mean.

~William Golding

Every novel is a biography. Well, then, this is a novel [The Paper Men] which is a biography that is pretending to be an autobiography. That's what you could say about it.

~William Golding

Honestly, I haven't the time to read contemporary writers. I know this is awful, but in the main it is true.

~William Golding

You'll get back to where you came from.

~William Golding

Heaven lies around us in our infancy.

~William Golding

I do think that art that doesn't communicate is useless.

~William Golding

For a small island [Great Britain], the place is remarkably diverse.

~William Golding

Couldn't a fire outrun a galloping horse?

~William Golding

I suppose I'd have to say that my favourite author is Homer. After Homer's Iliad, I'd name The Odyssey, and then I'd mention a number of plays of Euripides.

~William Golding

For a small island, the place is remarkably diverse. Writers tend to see things from their own points of view, looking in one direction very much.

~William Golding

My father was very musical, and music plays quite a large part in my life.

~William Golding

As far as the novel is concerned in my own country, I think it's in a pretty healthy state.

~William Golding

What could be safer than the bus center with its lamps and wheels?

~William Golding

Then you have people coming up like Malcolm Bradbury, a relatively young writer who deals with the academic scene and deals with it, I think, brilliantly.

~William Golding

I'm not a critic so much of my own writing. People must make up their own minds over that.

~William Golding

Don't get me wrong. I have nothing against this as a method, but it is not what English writers do.

~William Golding

Maybe half a dozen think they are a community, but, in general terms, I think English writers tend to face outwards, away from each other, and write in their own patch, as it were.

~William Golding

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