

William Saroyan

Quotes

Men, Writing, People, World, Art, Kids, Believe, Heart, Littles, Sorrow, War, Mean, Children, Life, Book, America, Thinking, Cities, Motivational, Trying

In the time of your life, live "so that in that wondrous time you shall not add to the misery and sorrow of the world, but shall smile to the infinite delight and mystery of it."

~William Saroyan

Try as much as possible to be wholly alive, with all your might, and when you laugh, laugh like hell and when you get angry, get good and angry. Try to be alive. You will be dead soon enough.

~William Saroyan

It is simply in the nature of Armenian to study, to learn, to question, to speculate, to discover, to invent, to revise, to restore, to preserve, to make, and to give.

~William Saroyan

Be grateful for yourself...be thankful.

~William Saroyan

In the end, today is forever, yesterday is still today, and tomorrow is already today.

~William Saroyan

Good people are good because they've come to wisdom through failure.

~William Saroyan

I do not know what makes a writer, but it probably isn't happiness.

~William Saroyan

The role of art is to make a world which can be inhabited.

~William Saroyan

The greatest happiness you can have is knowing that you do not necessarily require happiness.

~William Saroyan

The writer who is a real writer is a rebel who never stops.

~William Saroyan

Everybody has got to die, but I have always believed an exception would be made in my case.

~William Saroyan

You may tend to get cancer from the thing that makes you want to smoke so much, not from the smoking itself.

~William Saroyan

I sometimes think that rich men belong to another nationality entirely, no matter what their actual nationality happens to be. The nationality of the rich.

~William Saroyan

We didn't say anything because there was such an awful lot to say, and no language to say it in.

~William Saroyan

Christmas is sights, especially the sights of Christmas reflected in the eyes of a child.

~William Saroyan

Babies who have not yet been taught to speak any language are the only race of the earth, the race of man: all the rest is pretence, what we call civilization, hatred, fear, desire for strength.

~William Saroyan

Remember that every man is a variation of yourself

~William Saroyan

Doctors don't know everything really. They understand matter, not spirit. And you and I live in the spirit.

~William Saroyan

But who can speak to God, or rather who can't? The question is, who can get an answer?

~William Saroyan

You write a hit play the same way you write a flop.

~William Saroyan

A man's ethnic identity has more to do with a personal awareness than with geography.

~William Saroyan

Genius is play, and man's capacity for achieving genius is infinite, and many may achieve genius only through play.

~William Saroyan

Every man in the world is better than someone else and not as good someone else.

~William Saroyan

Of course if you like your kids, if you love them from the moment they begin, you yourself begin all over again, in them, with them, and so there is something more to the world again.

~William Saroyan

The basic truth of all things, as nearly as we may ever dream of determining and knowing this truth, is form, that which is, as it is. The way and shape of the thing no less than the thing itself.

~William Saroyan

When I began to wait to live I really began to wait to die.

~William Saroyan

No city invites the heart to come to life as San Francisco does. Arrival in San Francisco is an experience in living.

~William Saroyan

No enemy is so annoying as one who was a friend, or still is a friend, and there are many more of these than one would suspect.

~William Saroyan

I care so much about everything that I care about nothing.

~William Saroyan

It takes a lot of rehearsing for a man to be himself.

~William Saroyan

San Francisco itself is art, above all literary art. Every block is a short story, every hill a novel. Every home a poem, every dweller within immortal. That is the whole truth.

~William Saroyan

If you're alive, you can't be bored in San Francisco. If you're not alive, San Francisco will bring you to life.

~William Saroyan

I don't have a name and I don't have a plot. I have the typewriter and I have white paper and I have me, and that should add up to a novel.

~William Saroyan

What can a man do to move along in some kind of grace through his days and years?

~William Saroyan

You live and die according to what goes on in yourself, which no one

else can even begin to know, not even father, mother, wife, son, or daughter.

~William Saroyan

Each book can make a life or a fragment of it more beautiful.

~William Saroyan

Try to be alive. You will be dead soon enough.

~William Saroyan

Seek goodness everywhere, and when it is found, bring it out of its hiding place and let it be free and unashamed.

~William Saroyan

The bicycle is the noblest invention of mankind.

~William Saroyan

Live, for this is the time of your life.

~William Saroyan

If you give to a thief he cannot steal from you, and he is no longer a thief.

~William Saroyan

In the most commonplace, tiresome, ridiculous, malicious, coarse, crude, or even crooked people or events I had to seek out rare things, good things, comic things, and I did so.

~William Saroyan

Of all the things I love to taste, sweetest is the kiss of love.

~William Saroyan

I can't hate for long. It isn't worth it.

~William Saroyan

People is all everything is, all it has ever been, all it can ever be.

~William Saroyan

The whole world and every human being in it is everybody's business.

~William Saroyan

What a lonely and silly thing it is to be an Armenian writer in America.

~William Saroyan

I don't think my writing is sentimental, although it is a very sentimental thing to be a human being.

~William Saroyan

In the time of your life, live-so that in that good time there shall be no ugliness or death for yourself or for any life your life touches.

~William Saroyan

I became a writer because during several of the most important years of my life, writing seemed to me to be the most unreal, unattractive, and unnecessary idea ever imposed upon the human race.

~William Saroyan

I love the bicycle. I always have. I can think of no sincere, decent human being, male or female, young or old, saintly or sinful, who can resist the bicycle.

~William Saroyan

We are not forced into unpleasant activities. We either allow them to come about or we encourage them to come about.

~William Saroyan

Human memory works its own wheel, and stops where it will, entirely without reference to the last stop, and with no connection with the next.

~William Saroyan

We get very little wisdom from success, you know.

~William Saroyan

The order I found was the order of disorder

~William Saroyan

Human greatness is a rather difficult thing to account for, and more often than not one is mistaken in one's hunches about somebody one has met.

~William Saroyan

Every man is correct in asking God why he is stuck with himself, and his rotten luck.

~William Saroyan

To Armenians, half Armenians, quarter Armenians, and one-eight Armenians. Sixteen and thirty-second Armenians, and other winners, are likelier to be happy with a useful book

~William Saroyan

I never knew teachers are human beings like everybody else-- and better too!

~William Saroyan

Yes, the idiot is indeed the good man, but only because he doesn't know any better.

~William Saroyan

The simple fact was that if the song wasn't about me, I couldn't see how it could possibly be about anybody else, including the one I knew it was supposed to be about, and good luck to him, too.

~William Saroyan

Jack Benny had style from the beginning. He stood straight and walked

kind of sideways as if he were being gently shoved by a touch of genius.

~William Saroyan

The best that can be said for anybody is probably that you misunderstood him favorably.

~William Saroyan

I'm not the kind of guy to knock at a door and then when the door is opened not go in.

~William Saroyan

It is a pity, in my opinion, that no prize exists for the writer who best refrains from adding to the world's bad books.

~William Saroyan

Even after you've won fame and fortune, every time you write you've got to write, there's no shortcut, you have to start your career all over again.

~William Saroyan

There is little pride in writers. They know they are human and shall some day die and be forgotten. Knowing all this a writer is gentle and kindly where another man is severe and unkind.

~William Saroyan

I have managed to conceal my madness fairly effectively, and as far as I know it hasn't hurt anybody badly, for which I am grateful.

~William Saroyan

Sometimes the most intelligent thing is not to do anything, certainly nothing loaded with the imbecility of emotionality.

~William Saroyan

I believe in anything that works.

~William Saroyan

Kids are always the only future the human race has.

~William Saroyan

My work has always been the product of my time.

~William Saroyan

My work is writing, but my real work is being.

~William Saroyan

Nothing good ever ends.

~William Saroyan

Cowards are nice, they're interesting, they're gentle, they wouldn't think of shooting down people in a parade from a tower. They want to live, so they can see their kids. They're very brave.

~William Saroyan

What can I tell you, except the stupid little I know?

~William Saroyan

The people you hate, well, this is the question about such people: why do you hate them?

~William Saroyan

What a people talk about means something. What they don't talk about means something.

~William Saroyan

I am enormously wise and abysmally ignorant.

~William Saroyan

All writers are discontent. That's because they're aware of a potential and believe they're not reaching it.

~William Saroyan

Remember that every man is a variation of yourself. No man's guilt is not yours, nor is any man's innocence a thing apart.

~William Saroyan

People are people. Don't be afraid of them.

~William Saroyan

Indians are born with an instinct for riding, rowing, hunting, fishing, and swimming. Americans are born with an instinct for fooling around with machines.

~William Saroyan

Armenag Saroyan was the failed poet, the failed Presbyterian preacher, the failed American, the failed theological student.

~William Saroyan

What is a street? It is where the living weep, where the dead go off in silence to their peace.

~William Saroyan

I see life as one life at one time, so many millions simultaneously, all over the earth.

~William Saroyan

The events of life have never fallen into the form of the short story or the form of the poem, or into any other form. Yourown consciousnessisthe only formyouneed.

~William Saroyan

This is what drives a young writer out of his head, this feeling that

nothing is being said.

~William Saroyan

Writers are a fascinating breed, because there are so many kinds of them, they are made by so many circumstances, conditions, and mysteries, and there are so many ways for writing to be done.

~William Saroyan

Americans still believe they are cut out to be successful-in everything: love, love-making, luck, luck-giving, money-making, sense-making, cancer-avoiding, clothes-wearing, car-driving, and so on.

~William Saroyan

There could be no extreme vanity in my recognition of myself, if in fact there could be any at all.

~William Saroyan

Armenag Saroyan. A good man of whom the worst that anybody was willing to say, was that he was too good for this world.

~William Saroyan

Nobody, but nobody, is going to tell me I'm not the most. I am. I was the most when everybody else was struggling bitterly to become a little.

~William Saroyan

All things lie dark in possibility.

~William Saroyan

Art is what is irresistible.

~William Saroyan

I began to write in the first place because I expected everything to change, and I wanted to have things in writing the way they had been. Just a little things, of course. A little of my little.

~William Saroyan

Lionel whispered because he was under the impression that it was out of respect for books, not consideration for readers.

~William Saroyan

It is impossible not to notice that our world is tormented by failure, hate, guilt, and fear.

~William Saroyan

I used to throw things out, saying, 'This isn't great.' It didn't occur to me that it didn't have to be great.

~William Saroyan

Two years ago your father died, Ulysses. But as long as we are alive, as long as we are together, as long as two of us are left, and remember him, nothing in the world can take him from us.

~William Saroyan

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