

# Zora Neale Hurston Quotes

*Men, People, Race, Life, Eye, Love, Book, Dark, Dream, White, Thinking,  
Feelings, Love Is, Light, Ocean, Want, Heart, Inspiring, Tree, African American*

If you are silent about your pain, they'll kill you and say you enjoyed it.

~Zora Neale Hurston

Sometimes, I feel discriminated against, but it does not make me angry. It merely astonishes me. How can any deny themselves the pleasure of my company? It's beyond me.

~Zora Neale Hurston

I have the nerve to walk my own way, however hard, in my search for reality, rather than climb upon the rattling wagon of wishful illusions.

~Zora Neale Hurston

Love makes your soul crawl out from its hiding place.

~Zora Neale Hurston

All my skinfolk ain't kinfolk.

~Zora Neale Hurston

There are years that ask questions and years that answer.

~Zora Neale Hurston

Research is formalized curiosity. It is poking and prying with a purpose.

~Zora Neale Hurston

I love myself when I am laughing. . . and then again when I am looking mean and impressive.

~Zora Neale Hurston

Bitterness is the coward's revenge on the world for having been hurt.

~Zora Neale Hurston

If you haven't got it, you can't show it. If you have got it, you can't hide it.

~Zora Neale Hurston

If writers were too wise, perhaps no books would get written at all. It might be better to ask yourself 'Why?' afterwards than before. There is no agony like bearing an untold story inside you.

~Zora Neale Hurston

Once you wake up thought in a man, you can never put it to sleep again.

~Zora Neale Hurston

Gods always behave like the people who make them.

~Zora Neale Hurston

Such as I am, I am a precious gift.

~Zora Neale Hurston

That is the way with people ... If they do you wrong, they invent a bad name for you, a good name for their acts and then destroy you in the name of virtue.

~Zora Neale Hurston

Justice, like beauty, is in the eye of the beholder.

~Zora Neale Hurston

Grab the broom of anger and drive off the beast of fear.

~Zora Neale Hurston

I will fight for my country, but I will not lie for her.

~Zora Neale Hurston

Some people could look at a mud puddle and see an ocean with ships.

~Zora Neale Hurston

Someone is always at my elbow reminding me that I am the granddaughter of slaves. It fails to register depression with me.

~Zora Neale Hurston

If you want that good feeling that comes from doing things for other folks then you have to pay for it in abuse and misunderstanding.

~Zora Neale Hurston

Mama exhorted her children at every opportunity to 'jump at the sun.' We might not land on the sun, but at least we would get off the ground.

~Zora Neale Hurston

I love myself when I am laughing.

~Zora Neale Hurston

It was a weak spot in any nation to have a large body of disaffected people within its confusion.

~Zora Neale Hurston

A thing is mighty big when time and distance cannot shrink it.

~Zora Neale Hurston

You got to go there to know there.

~Zora Neale Hurston

Sweat, sweat, sweat! Work and sweat, cry and sweat, pray and sweat!

~Zora Neale Hurston

So she sat on the porch and watched the moon rise. Soon its amber fluid was drenching the earth, and quenching the thirst of the day.

~Zora Neale Hurston

Everybody has some special road of thought along which they travel when they are alone to themselves. And his road of thought is what makes every man what he is.

~Zora Neale Hurston

I have been in Sorrow's kitchen and licked out all the pots. Then I have stood on the peaky mountain wrapped in rainbows, with a harp and sword in my hands.

~Zora Neale Hurston

It seems to me that trying to live without friends is like milking a bear to get cream for your morning coffee. It is a whole lot of trouble, and then not worth much after you get it.

~Zora Neale Hurston

Learning without wisdom is a load of books on a donkey's back.

~Zora Neale Hurston

truth is a letter from courage!

~Zora Neale Hurston

It is a curious thing to be a woman in the Caribbean after you have been a woman in these United States.

~Zora Neale Hurston

People can be slave-ships in shoes.

~Zora Neale Hurston

I want a busy life, a just mind, and a timely death.

~Zora Neale Hurston

No matter how far a person can go the horizon is still way beyond you.

~Zora Neale Hurston

Mystery is the essence of divinity

~Zora Neale Hurston

Don't you realize that the sea is the home of water? All water is off on a journey unless it's in the sea, and it's homesick, and bound to make its

way home someday.

~Zora Neale Hurston

Anybody depending on somebody else's gods is depending on a fox not to eat chickens.

~Zora Neale Hurston

I do not weep at the world I am too busy sharpening my oyster knife.

~Zora Neale Hurston

She didn't read books so she didn't know that she was the world and the heavens boiled down to a drop.

~Zora Neale Hurston

The sun, the hero of every day, the impersonal old man that beams as brightly on death as on birth, came up every morning.

~Zora Neale Hurston

It is easy to be hopeful in the day when you can see the things you wish on.

~Zora Neale Hurston

Ethical and cultural desegregation. It is a contradiction in terms to scream race pride and equality while at the same time spurning Negro teachers and self-association.

~Zora Neale Hurston

When one is too old for love, one finds great comfort in good dinners.

~Zora Neale Hurston

Those that don't got it, can't show it. Those that got it, can't hide it.

~Zora Neale Hurston

The present was an egg laid by the past that had the future inside its

shell.

~Zora Neale Hurston

I made up my mind to keep my feelings to myself since they did not seem to matter to anyone else but me.

~Zora Neale Hurston

I did not just fall in love. I made a parachute jump.

~Zora Neale Hurston

It's no use of talking unless people understand what you say.

~Zora Neale Hurston

It seems that fighting is a game where everybody is the loser.

~Zora Neale Hurston

I belong to no race nor time. I am the eternal feminine with its string of beads.

~Zora Neale Hurston

She was saving up feelings for some man she had never seen.

~Zora Neale Hurston

Trees and plants always look like the people they live with, somehow.

~Zora Neale Hurston

Happiness is nothing but everyday living seen through a veil.

~Zora Neale Hurston

They seemed to be staring at the dark, but their eyes were watching God.

~Zora Neale Hurston

There is nothing to make you like other human beings so much as

doing things for them.

~Zora Neale Hurston

Tell me, and then again show me, so I can know.

~Zora Neale Hurston

Silence is all the genius a fool has.

~Zora Neale Hurston

But for the national welfare, it is urgent to realize that the minorities do think, and think about something other than the race problem.

~Zora Neale Hurston

An envious heart makes a treacherous ear.

~Zora Neale Hurston

We must learn to be honest with ourselves, and know our shortcomings. We will acquire cohesion but we will pay dearly for being a slow pupil.

~Zora Neale Hurston

Janie looked down on him and felt a self-crushing love. So her soul crawled out from its hiding place.

~Zora Neale Hurston

He looked like the love thoughts of women.

~Zora Neale Hurston

She had waited all her life for something, and it had killed her when it found her.

~Zora Neale Hurston

There is no single face in nature, because every eye that looks upon it, sees it from its own angle. So every man's spice-box seasons his own



food.

~Zora Neale Hurston

I know that nothing is destructible; things merely change forms.

~Zora Neale Hurston

Now they got to look into me loving Tea Cake and see whether it was done right or not! They don't know if life is a mess of corn-meal dumplings, and if love is a bed-quilt!

~Zora Neale Hurston

I am not tragically colored. There is no great sorrow dammed up in my soul, nor lurking behind my eyes. I do not mind at all.

~Zora Neale Hurston

I wish I could buy you for what you are really worth and sell you for what you think you're worth. I sure would make money on the deal.

~Zora Neale Hurston

It would be against all nature for all the Negroes to be either at the bottom, top, or in between. We will go where the internal drive carries us like everybody else. It is up to the individual.

~Zora Neale Hurston

Perhaps I am just a coward who loves to laugh at life better than I do cry with it. But when I do get to crying, boy, I can roll a mean tear.

~Zora Neale Hurston

If you kin see de light at daybreak, you don't keer if you die at dusk. It's so many people never seen de light at all.

~Zora Neale Hurston

every heart has its graveyard.

~Zora Neale Hurston

Lack of power and opportunity passes off too often for virtue.

~Zora Neale Hurston

Janie saw her life like a great tree in leaf with the things suffered, things enjoyed, things done and undone. Dawn and doom was in the branches

~Zora Neale Hurston

Ships at a distance have every man's wish on board.

~Zora Neale Hurston

A great state is a well-blended mash of something of all the people and all of none of the people. The liquor of statecraft is distilled from the mash you got.

~Zora Neale Hurston

Love, I find, is like singing. Everybody can do enough to satisfy themselves, though it may not impress the neighbors as being very much.

~Zora Neale Hurston

Work is the nearest thing to happiness that I can find.

~Zora Neale Hurston

Her old thoughts were going to come in handy now, but new words would have to be made and said to fit them.

~Zora Neale Hurston

Love, I find, is like singing.

~Zora Neale Hurston

Magic is older than writing. So nobody knows how it started.

~Zora Neale Hurston

Women forget all the things they don't want to remember, and remember everything they don't want to forget.

~Zora Neale Hurston

It is one of the blessings of this world that few people see visions and dream dreams.

~Zora Neale Hurston

The game of keeping what one has is never so exciting as the game of getting.

~Zora Neale Hurston

Everybody is two beings: one lives and flourishes in the daylight and stands guard. The other being walks and howls at night.

~Zora Neale Hurston

Distance is the only cure for certain diseases.

~Zora Neale Hurston

The Haitian people are gentle and lovable except for their enormous and unconscious cruelty.

~Zora Neale Hurston

...she woke up in time to see the sun sending up spies ahead of him to mark out the road through the dark. He peeped up over the door sill of the world and made a little foolishness with red.

~Zora Neale Hurston

Two things everybody's got tuh do fuh theyselves. They got tuh go tuh God, and they got tuh find out about livin' fuh theyselves.

~Zora Neale Hurston

She starched and ironed her face, forming it into just what people wanted to see.

~Zora Neale Hurston

Oh to be a pear tree - any tree in bloom! With kissing bees singing of the beginning of the world!

~Zora Neale Hurston

It was not death she feared. It was misunderstanding.

~Zora Neale Hurston

It seems like the first law of Nature is that everybody likes to receive things, but nobody likes to feel grateful.

~Zora Neale Hurston

Don't you love nobody better'n you do yo'self. Do, you'll be dying befo' yo' time is out.

~Zora Neale Hurston

you can't beat me and my prayers!

~Zora Neale Hurston

There is something about poverty that smells like death.

~Zora Neale Hurston

It was the meanest moment of eternity.

~Zora Neale Hurston

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