“Classic”: a book which people praise and don’t read.’

Mark Twain (1835 – 1910)
‘A book is more than the sum of its materials. It is an artefact of the human mind and hand.’

Geraldine Brooks (*b.*1955)
‘A bookstore is one of the only pieces of evidence we have that people are still thinking.’

Jerry Seinfeld (b.1954)
'A good book is an event in my life.'

Stendhal (1783 – 1842)

*The Red and the Black*
‘A good book is the best of friends, the same today and for ever.’

Martin Tupper (1810 – 1899)
'A good novel tells us the truth about its hero; but a bad novel tells us the truth about its author.'

G K Chesterton (1874 – 1936)
‘A good poem is a contribution to reality. The world is never the same once a good poem has been added to it.’

Dylan Thomas (1914 – 1953)
'A great book should leave you with many experiences, slightly exhausted at the end. You live several lives while reading.'

William Styron (1925 – 2006)
‘A man’s got to take a lot of punishment to write a really funny book.’

Ernest Hemingway (1899 – 1961)
‘A room without books is like a body without a soul.’

Marcus Tullius Cicero (106BC – 43BC)
‘A short story is a different thing all together: a short story is like a kiss in the dark from a stranger.’

Stephen King (b. 1947)
'A successful book is not made of what is in it, but what is left out of it.'

Mark Twain (1835 – 1910)
‘All I have learned, I learned from books.’

Abraham Lincoln (1809 – 1865)
“Always be careful of books,” said Tessa, “and what is inside them, for words have the power to change us.”

Cassandra Clare (b. 1973)

*Clockwork Angel*
‘Always read something that will make you look good if you die in the middle of it.’

P J O’Rourke (b. 1947)
‘Books are a uniquely portable magic.’

Stephen King (b. 1947)
‘Books are like imprisoned souls till someone takes them down from a shelf and frees them.’

Samuel Butler (1835 – 1902)
‘Books are mirrors: you only see in them what you already have inside you.’

Carlos Ruiz Zafón (b. 1964)
'Books are my friends, my companions. They make me laugh and cry and find meaning in life.'

Christopher Paolini (b. 1983)

Eragon
‘Books are the treasured wealth of the world and the fit inheritance of generations and nations.’

Henry David Thoreau (1817 – 1862)
‘Books break the shackles of time, proof that humans can work magic.’

Carl Sagan (1934 – 1996)
'Books let us into their souls and lay open to us the secrets of our own.'

William Hazlitt (1778 – 1830)
‘Books: the best antidote against the marsh-gas of boredom and vacuity’

George Steiner (b. 1929)
‘Choose an author as you choose a friend.’

Sir Christopher Wren (1632 – 1723)
‘Everything in the world exists in order to end up as a book.’

Stéphane Mallarmé (1842 – 1898)
'Fantasy is hardly an escape from reality. It’s a way of understanding it.'

Lloyd Alexander (1924 – 2007)
‘History will be kind to me for I intend to write it.’

Winston Churchill (1874 – 1965)
‘I cannot live without books.’

Thomas Jefferson (1743 – 1826)
‘I cannot remember the books I’ve read any more than the meals I have eaten; even so, they have made me.’

Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803 – 1882)
‘I find television very educating. Every time somebody turns on the set, I go into the other room and read a book.’

Julius Henry “Groucho” Marx (1890 – 1977)
‘I know exactly what I would do with immortality: I would read every book in the library.’

Mark Jason Dominus (b. 1969)
‘I know I was writing stories when I was five. I don’t know what I did before that. Just loafed, I suppose.’

P G Wodehouse (1881 – 1975)
‘I love the place; the magnificent books; I require books as I require air.’

Sholem Asch (1880 – 1957)
‘I love the smell of book ink in the morning.’

Umberto Eco (b. 1932)
'I read a book one day and my whole life was changed.'

Orhan Pamuk (b. 1952)

*The New Life*
'I think books are like people, in the sense that they’ll turn up in your life when you most need them.'

Emma Thompson (b. 1959)
‘I’ve never known any trouble that an hour’s reading didn’t assuage.’

Charles de Secondat (1689 – 1755)
‘Ideas are like rabbits. You get a couple and learn how to handle them, and pretty soon you have a dozen.’

John Steinbeck (1902 – 1968)
‘If books are not good company, where shall I find it?’

Mark Twain (1835 – 1910)
'If you want to change the world, pick up your pen and write.'

Martin Luther (1483 – 1546)
‘In literature, as in love, we are astonished at what is chosen by others.’

André Maurois (1885 – 1967)
‘In Western Civilisation, our elders are books.’

Gary Snyder (b. 1930)
‘In writing, punctuation plays the role of body language. It helps readers hear you the way you want to be heard’

Russell Baker (b. 1925)
‘It’s thanks to my evening reading alone that I am still more or less sane’

W G Sebald (1944 – 2001)
‘It is a great thing to start life with a small number of really good books which are your very own.’

Arthur Conan Doyle (1859 – 1930)
‘It is my ambition to say in ten sentences what others say in a whole book’.

Friedrich Nietzsche (1844 – 1900)
‘Just the knowledge that a good book is awaiting one at the end of a long day makes that day happier.’

Kathleen Norris (b. 1947)
‘Keep good company, read good books, love good things and cultivate soul and body as faithfully as you can’

Louisa May Alcott (1832 – 1888)
‘Literature is the history of the soul.’

Barry Hannah (1942 – 2010)
'Many people, myself among them, feel better at the mere sight of a book.'

Jane Smiley (b. 1949)

*Thirteen Ways of Looking at the Novel*
‘Most new books are forgotten within a year, especially by those who borrow them.’

Evan Esar (1899 – 1995)
'Never trust anyone who has not brought a book with them.'

Lemony Snicket (b. 1970)
*Horseradish: Bitter Truths You Can’t Avoid*
‘O day of days when we can read! The reader and the book, either without the other is naught.’

Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803 – 1882)
‘Oh! I am delighted with the book! I should like to spend my whole life in reading it.’

Jane Austen (1775 – 1817)
Northanger Abbey
'Once you have read a book you care about, some part of it is always with you.'

Louis L’Amour (1908 – 1988)
‘Once you learn to read, you will be forever free.’

Frederick Douglass (1818 – 1895)
‘One day I will find the right words, and they will be simple.’

Jack Kerouac (1922 – 1969)

*The Dharma Bums*
‘Only two classes of books are of universal appeal: the very best and the very worst.’

Ford Madox Ford (1873 – 1939)
‘People say that life is the thing, but I prefer reading.’

Logan Pearsall Smith (1865 – 1946)
‘Picking five favourite books is like picking the five body parts you’d most like not to lose.’

Neil Gaiman (b. 1960)
‘Poetry is not the things said, but a way of saying it’

A E Housman (1859 – 1936)
‘Poetry is the rhythmical creation of beauty in words.’

Edgar Allan Poe (1809 – 1849)
‘Read the best books first, or you may not have a chance to read them at all.’

Henry David Thoreau (1817 – 1862)
‘Reading brings us unknown friends.’

Honoré de Balzac (1799 – 1850)
‘Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body.’

Joseph Addison (1672 – 1719)
'So many books, so little time.'

Frank Zappa (1940 – 1993)
‘So much of what I see reminds me of something I read in a book. Shouldn’t it be the other way round?’

Nora Ephron (1941 – 2012)
‘That I can read and be happy while I am reading, is a great blessing.’

Anthony Trollope (1815 – 1882)
‘The ability to read awoke inside me some long dormant craving to be mentally alive.’

Malcolm X (1925 – 1965)
‘The creative writer does the same as the child at play: he creates a world of fantasy which he takes very seriously.’

Sigmund Freud (1856 – 1939)
‘The greatest gift is a passion for reading.’

Elizabeth Hardwick (1916 – 2007)
‘The love of books is among the choicest gifts of the gods.’

Arthur Conan Doyle (1859 – 1930)
‘The man who does not read has no advantage over the man who cannot read.’

Mark Twain (1835 – 1910)
‘The more you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you’ll go.’

Dr Seuss (Theodor Seuss Geisel) (1904 – 1991)
‘The things I want to know are in books; my best friend is the man who’ll get me a book I ain’t read.’

Abraham Lincoln (1809 – 1865)
‘There are no faster or firmer friendships than those formed between people who love the same books.’

Irving Stone (1903 – 1989)
‘There are perhaps no days of our childhood we lived so fully as those we spent with a favourite book.’

Marcel Proust (1871 – 1922)
‘There are worse crimes than burning books. One of them is not reading them.’

Ray Bradbury (1920 – 2012)
‘There is no friend as loyal as a book.’

Ernest Hemingway (1899 – 1961)
‘There is no mistaking a real book when one meets it. It is like falling in love.’

Christopher Morley (1890 – 1957)
‘There is no such thing as a child who hates to read; only children who have not found the right book.’

Frank Serafini (b. 1945)
‘There is no such thing as a moral or an immoral book. Books are well written, or badly written.’

Oscar Wilde (1854 – 1900)
'There’s more to life than books you know, but not much more.'

Morrissey (b. 1959)
‘Think before you speak. Read before you think.’

Fran Lebowitz (b. 1950)
‘To learn to read is to light a fire; every syllable that is spelled out is a spark.’

Victor Hugo (1802 – 1885)
‘To lose a passport was the least of one’s worries. To lose a notebook was a catastrophe.’

Bruce Chatwin (1940 – 1989)
‘We live for books.’

Umberto Eco (b. 1932)

The Name of the Rose
‘We read to know we are not alone.’

C S Lewis (1898 – 1963)
‘We write to taste life twice, in the moment and in retrospect.’

Anaïs Nin (1903 – 1977)
‘What kind of life can you have in a house without books?’

Sherman Alexie (b. 1966)

*Flight*
‘What on earth could be more luxurious than a sofa, a book, and a cup of coffee? Was ever anything so civil?’

Anthony Trollope (1815 – 1882)
‘When I get a little money I buy books; and if any is left I buy food and clothes.’

Erasmus (1466 – 1536)
‘When you handle books all day long, every new one is a friend and a temptation.’

Elizabeth Kostova (b. 1964)

The Historian
‘Why can’t people just sit and read books and be nice to each other?’

David Baldacci (b. 1960)

The Camel Club
‘You can make anything by writing.’

C S Lewis (1898 – 1963)
'You can’t get a cup of tea big enough or a book long enough to suit me.'

C S Lewis (1898 – 1963)
'You cannot open a book without learning something.'

Confucius (551 – 479 BCE)
‘You don’t have to burn books to destroy a culture. Just get people to stop reading them.’

Ray Bradbury (1920 – 2012)
'You don’t put your life into your books, you find it there.'

Alan Bennett (b. 1934)

The Uncommon Reader
‘You don’t write because you want to say something, you write because you have something to say.’

F Scott Fitzgerald (1896 – 1940)