**Reading - Ponderings**

**Read aloud to a child and you become a child, listening to the words as you speak. Who, then, is really doing the reading? Your mother, perhaps, or her father, or his mother. Down, down the generations and over the water and beyond, the words that create and sustain civilizations make their way back into the past. The story you tell and the story of your telling it become words spun from sugar – or thin air – into bridges. *(Roger Rosenblatt, in Family Circle)***

**I have a theory that people who are addicted to reading are trying to re-create the joy of being read to as a child by a parent or a sibling. Being read to as a child is one of the great experiences in life. (Billy Collins, poet, in Paris Review)**

**Reading is socially accepted disassociation. You flip a switch and you're not there anymore. It's better than heroin. (Mary Karr, memoirist)**

**People who love reading are often called bookworms -- but that's the wrong way around. It's not you that worms into a book; it's books that worm into you. *(Amanda Craig, novelist)***

**Reading without reflecting is like eating without digesting. *(Edmund Burke)***

**Books are the carriers of civilization. Without books, history is silent, literature dumb, science crippled, thought and speculation at a standstill. *(Barbara W. Tuchman)***

**The Incredible Book: If books didn't exist and someone invented them and said that 6000 years of human experience could be put in your pocket and that you could take one wherever you wanted and you could select whatever you wanted to pursue -- that would be called the greatest invention of the ages. *(Dr. Norman Cousins)***

**The reading of all good books is like a conversation with the finest minds of past centuries. *(Rene Descartes)***

**If you don't know the exact moment when the lights will go out, you might as well read until they do. *(Clive James, critic)***

**A good book should leave you slightly exhausted at the end. You live several lives while reading it. *(William Styron)***

**Nobody wants to read about a good-looking happy person. (Carrie Fisher)**

**To be a good reader doesn't mean being a discriminating reader. It means being an omnivorous reader. (Adam Gopnik, critic)**

**He has only half learned the art of reading who has not added to it the more refined art of skipping and skimming. (Arthur Balfour)**

**In the case of good books, the point is not how many of them you can get through, but rather how many can get through to you. *(M. J. Adler, author)***

**Reading makes immigrants of us all -- it takes us away from home, but more important, it finds homes for us everywhere. *(Hazel Rochman, in Against Borders)***

**All too often, what readers do is judge profound what they have failed to grasp. *(Dan Sperber, cognitive scientist)***

**A good book must be the ax for the frozen sea within us. *(Franz Kafka)***

**You know you’ve read a good book when you turn the last page and feel a little as if you have lost a friend. *(Paul Sweeney, in The Quarterly)***

**A great book should leave you with many experiences and slightly exhausted at the end. You live several lives while reading it. *(William Styron)***

**We read to know we are not alone. (C. S. Lewis)**

**Books are like people, in that they'll turn up in your life when you most need them. *(Emma Thompson)***

**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)***

**A good book listens as well. *(Mark Haddon, novelist)***

**It is not true that we have only one life to live; if we can read, we can live as many more lives and as many kinds of lives as we wish. (S. I. Hayakawa, American educator and politician, 20th century)**

**A reader lives a thousand lives before he dies. The man who never reads lives only one. (George R. R. Martin, author)**

**If people say they just love the smell of books, I always want to pull them aside and ask, "To be clear, do you know how reading works?" (Bridger Winegar, in Reader's Digest)**

**A well-composed book is a magic carpet on which we are wafted to a world that we cannot enter in any other way. (Caroline Gordon, in How to Read a Novel)**

**To acquire the habit of reading is to construct for yourself a refuge from almost all the miseries of life. *(W. Somerset Maugham)***

**No two persons ever read the same book. (Edmund Wilson)**

**Peter Ustinov explains why he reads so much: "If you're going to be the prisoner of your own mind, the least you can do is make sure it's well furnished." *(Leonard Lyons, in Reader's Digest)***

**There are two motives for reading a book: one, that you can enjoy it; the other, that you can boast about it. *(Bertrand Russell)***

**The world is a book, and those who do not travel read only one page. *(St. Augustine)***

**A bookstore is one of the only pieces of evidence we have that people are still thinking. *(Jerry Seinfeld)***

**Every book is a self-help book. *(Marc Maron, comedian*)**

**Reading is the sole means by which we slip, involuntarily, often helplessly, into another's skin, another's voice, another's soul. (Joyce Carol Oates)**

**Tell me what you read and I’ll tell you who you are. (Francois Mauriac, author)**

**Trying to determine what is going on in the world by reading newspapers is like trying to tell the time by watching the second hand of a clock. *(Ben Hecht)***

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*Be careful about reading health books. You may die of a misprint. *(Mark Twain)***

**The man who does not read good books has no advantage over the man who cannot read them*. (Mark Twain)***

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