

Bowl Readings

... millions long for immortality who don't know what to do with themselves on a rainy Sunday afternoon. ~ *Susan Ertz*

...I also believe that introversion is my greatest strength. I have such a strong inner life that I'm never bored and only occasionally lonely. No matter what mayhem is happening around me, I know I can always turn inward. ~ *Susan Cain*

“Boredom is the fear of self.” ~ *Marie Joséphine de Suin*

“Human beings make life so interesting. do you know, that in a universe so full of wonders, they have managed to invent boredom. (Death)” ~ *Terry Pratchett, Hogfather*

Bliss—a-second-by-second joy and gratitude at the gift of being alive, conscious—lies on the other side of crushing, crushing boredom. Pay close attention to the most tedious thing you can find (Tax Returns, Televised Golf) and, in waves, a boredom like you've never known will wash over you and just about kill you. Ride these out, and it's like stepping from black and white into color. Like water after days in the desert. Instant bliss in every atom. ~ *David Foster Wallace*

Boredom is a pleasing antidote for fear ~ *Daphne du Maurier, Rebecca*

Boredom is that awful state of inaction when the very medicine — that is, activity — which could solve it, is seen as odious.

Archery? It is too cold, and besides, the butts need re-covering; the rats have been at the straw.

Music? To hear it is tedious; to compose it, too taxing. And so on.

Of all the afflictions, boredom is ultimately the most unmanaging.

Eventually, it transforms you into a great nothing who does nothing — a cousin to sloth and a brother to melancholy. ~ *Margaret George, The Autobiography of Henry VIII: With Notes by His Fool, Will Somers*

Boredom is therefore a vital problem for the moralist, since at least half the sins of mankind are caused by the fear of it. ~ *Bertrand Russell, The Conquest of Happiness*

Every improvement in communication makes the bore more terrible. ~ *Frank Moore Colby*

Happiness is nothing but temporary moments here and there - and I love those. But I would be bored out of my mind if I were happy all the time. ~ *Zoe Saldana*

Humor can make a serious difference. In the workplace, at home, in all areas of life – looking for a reason to laugh is necessary. A sense of humor helps us to get through the dull times, cope with the difficult times, enjoy the good times and manage the scary times. ~ *Steve Goodier*

I learned how to draw from being bored in school. I would doodle on the margins of my paper. ~ *Kevin Nealon*

I really feel that the long stretches of boredom that were the hallmarks of my childhood was where I became a writer .. If we make no space for children to stare into the middle distance we lose a generation of musicians, artists and poets. ~ *Anna Quindlen*

I really think I write about everyday life. I don't think I'm quite as odd as others say I am. Life is intrinsically, well, boring and dangerous at the same time. At any given moment the floor may open up. Of course, it almost never does; that's what makes it so boring. ~ *Edward Gorey*

I'm bored' is a useless thing to say. I mean, you live in a great, big, vast world that you've seen none percent of. Even the inside of your own mind is endless; it goes on forever, inwardly, do you understand? The fact that you're alive is amazing, so you don't get to say 'I'm bored. ~ *Louis C.K.*

If I had influence with the good fairy who is supposed to preside over the christening of all children I should ask that her gift to each child in the world be a sense of wonder so indestructible that it would last throughout life, as an unfailing antidote against the boredom and disenchantments of later years, the sterile preoccupation with things artificial, the alienation from the sources of our strength.” ~ *Rachel Carson, The Sense of Wonder*

Isn't 'not to be bored' one of the principal goals of life? ~ *Gustave Flaubert, Flaubert in Egypt: A Sensibility on Tour*

My despair is less despair than boredom and loneliness. ~ *Anthony Swofford, Jarhead*

Nobody is bored when he is trying to make something that is beautiful, or to discover something that is true.~ *William Ralph Inge*

Someone's boring me. I think it's me. ~*Dylan Thomas, in Rayner Heppenstall, Four Absentees (1960)*

That's right,' she told the girls. 'You are bored. And I'm going to let you in on a little secret about life. You think it's boring now? Well, it only gets more boring. The sooner you learn it's on you to make life interesting, the better off you'll be. ~ *Maria Semple, Where'd You Go, Bernadette*

The cure for boredom is curiosity. There is no cure for curiosity. ~*Dorothy Parker*

The ear tends to be lazy, craves the familiar and is shocked by the unexpected; the eye, on the other hand, tends to be impatient, craves the novel and is bored by repetition. ~*W. H. Auden*

The life of the creative man is lead, directed and controlled by boredom. Avoiding boredom is one of our most important purposes. ~ *Saul Steinberg*

The man who is aware of himself is henceforward independent; and he is never bored, and life is only too short, and he is steeped through and through with a profound yet temperate happiness. ~*Virginia Woolf*

The truth is that everyone is bored, and devotes himself to cultivating habits. ~ *Albert Camus, The Plague*

There are 6 reasons that a person does anything: Love, faith, greed, boredom, fear... revenge.~ *Ally Carter, Don't Judge a Girl by Her Cover*

There's no excuse to be bored. Sad, yes. Angry, yes. Depressed, yes. Crazy, yes. But there's no excuse for boredom, ever. ~*Viggo Mortensen*

To me, at least in retrospect, the really interesting question is why dullness proves to be such a powerful impediment to attention. Why we recoil from the dull. Maybe it's because dullness is intrinsically painful; maybe that's where phrases like 'deadly dull' or 'excruciatingly dull' come from. But there might be more to it. Maybe dullness is associated with psychic pain because something that's dull or opaque fails to provide enough stimulation to distract people from some other, deeper type of pain that is always there, if only in an ambient, low-level way, and which most of us spend nearly all our time and energy trying to distract ourselves from feeling, or at least from feeling directly or with our full attention. Admittedly, the whole thing's pretty confusing, and hard to talk about abstractly...but surely something must lie behind not just Muzak in dull or tedious places any more but now also actual TV in waiting rooms, supermarkets' checkouts, airport gates, SUVs' backseats. Walkman, iPods, BlackBerries, cell phones that attach to your head. This terror of silence with nothing diverting to do. I can't think anyone really believes that today's so-called 'information society' is just about information. Everyone knows it's about something else, way down. ~ *David Foster Wallace*

To write, I think one must sit in one place and be bored. Boredom is a very good state for writers to be. Things cook away in your head when you're bored, and suddenly one day, you have a book or a germ of a book. ~*Neel Mukherjee*

When hit by boredom, let yourself be crushed by it; submerge, hit bottom. In general, with things unpleasant, the rule is: The sooner you hit bottom, the faster you surface. The idea here is to exact a full look at the worst. The reason boredom deserves such scrutiny is that it represents pure, undiluted time in all its repetitive, redundant, monotonous splendor.

Boredom is your window on the properties of time that one tends to ignore to the likely peril of one's mental equilibrium. It is your window on time's infinity. Once this window opens, don't try to shut it; on the contrary, throw it wide open. ~ *Joseph Brodsky*

When I hear young people today complain about being bored - and the things that keep them from being bored are generally exclusively videogames and/or computer pastimes - I just try to encourage them to go outside. ~ *Nick Offerman*

You get ideas from daydreaming. You get ideas from being bored. You get ideas all the time. The only difference between writers and other people is we notice when we're doing it. ~ *Neil Gaiman*

You need to let the little things that would ordinarily bore you suddenly thrill you. ~ *Andy Warhol*