

BEST QUOTES ON THINKING/MIND/ IDEAS

It's not about thinking outside of the box. It's about realizing there is no box.

—Jari Askins

Change your thoughts and you change your world.

--Norman Vincent Peale

We are what we think about.

--Buddha

A vacant mind invites dangerous inmates, as a deserted mansion tempts wandering outcasts to enter and take up their abode in its desolate apartments.

—Nicholas Hilliard

I not only use all the brains that I have, but all that I can borrow.

--Woodrow Wilson

Thought is action in rehearsal.

--Sigmund Freud

Many ideas grow better when transplanted into another mind than in the one where they sprung up.

--Oliver Wendell Holmes

Uncultivated minds are not full of wild flowers. Villainous weeds grow in them, and they are the haunt of toads.

--Logan Pearsall Smith

Few of us make the most of our minds. The body ceases to grow in a few years; but the mind, if we will let it, may grow almost as long as life lasts.

--Sir John Lubbock

What you think means more than anything else in your life. More than what you earn, more than where you live, more than your social position, and more than what anyone else may think about you.

—George Matthew
Adams

Teach a child how to think, not what to think.

—Sidney Sugarman

Albert Einstein came up with his theory of general relativity in 1915, revolutionizing the way we understand gravity and establishing the rules of space-time. A year later he predicted gravitational waves—ripples in the curvature of space-time that propagate as waves as they travel outward from a source like a black hole, transporting energy as gravitational radiation....‘The amazing thing about all this to me,’ says Northwestern astrophysicist Shane Larson, is that ‘Einstein had no reason to be thinking about this, but he did. There was no experiment to be done. There was no application to technology, no reason he had to work it all out other than his own pure curiosity about the way the universe was put together. And here we are 100 years later, finally able to do experiments where we can confirm that this crazy idea that Einstein had actually is the way the universe works. It’s awesome. It’s a testament to what our brains are capable of.’

—Stephanie Russell

I will not let anyone walk through my mind with their dirty feet.

—Mahatma Gandhi

When you are dead, you don’t even know that you are dead. It’s only pain for others. Same thing when you are stupid.

—Bill Nye

No brain is stronger than its weakest think.

--Thomas L. Masson

It is possible to have a brain and not have a mind. A brain is inherited; a mind is developed.

—Reuven Feuerstein

Once - many, many years ago - I thought I made a wrong decision. Of course, it turned out that I had been right all along. But I was wrong to have thought that I was wrong.

--John Foster Dulles

What I fear most, I think, is the death of the imagination.... If I sit still and don’t do anything, the world goes on beating like a slack drum, without meaning. We must be moving, working, making dreams to run toward; the poverty of life without dreams is too horrible to imagine.

-- Sylvia Plath

You cannot solve the problem with the same kind of thinking that created the problem.

--Albert Einstein

The chief function of your body is to carry your brain around.

--Thomas A. Edison

You have a shilling. I have a shilling. We swap. You have my shilling and I have yours. We are no better off. But suppose you have an idea and I have an idea. We swap. Now you have two ideas and I have two ideas. We have increased our stock of ideas 100 per cent.

--A. S. Gregg

When I have nothing to do for an hour, and I don't want to do anything, I neither read nor watch television. I sit back in a chair and let my mind relax. I do what I call idling. It's as if the motorcar's running but you haven't got it in gear. You have to allow a certain amount of time in which you are doing nothing in order to have things occur to you, to let your mind think.

--Mortimer Adler

Thought is the strongest thing we have. Work done by true and profound thought—that is a real force.

--Albert Schweitzer

A man is not idle because he is absorbed in thought.
There is a visible labour and there is an invisible labour.

--Victor Hugo

The fundamental cause of trouble in the world today is that the stupid are cocksure while the intelligent are full of doubt.

--Bertrand Russell

The actions of men are the best interpreters of their thoughts.

--John Locke

Thought is the blossom; language the bud; action the fruit behind it.

--Ralph Waldo Emerson

In our society to admit inferiority is to be a fool, and to admit superiority is to be an outcast. Those who are in reality superior in intelligence can be accepted by their fellows only if they pretend they are not.

--Marya Mannes

Who reflects too much will accomplish little.

--Johann Christoph
Friedrich
von Schiller

Is there no way out of the mind?

—Sylvia Plath

Many people have played themselves to death. Many people have eaten and drunk themselves to death. Nobody ever thought himself to death.

--Gilbert Highet

One of the advantages of having an open mind is that once in a while something good drops into it.

--Dan Bennett

Thinking is a most important and most neglected art. One of the criticisms I would suggest against our present system of education is the lack of training in the art of thinking.

--David Sarnoff

You can't stop people from thinking—but you can start them.

--Unknown

Some people become lost in thought only because it is unfamiliar territory.

--Michael Moncur

Most of our so-called reasoning consists of finding arguments for going on believing as we already do.

--J. H. Robinson

There is nothing worth so much as a mind well instructed.

--*Ecclesiasticus*

The spirit of the age is filled with disdain for thinking.

--Albert Schweitzer

To him whose elastic and vigorous thought keeps pace with the sun, the day is a perpetual morning.

--Henry David Thoreau

The obscure we see eventually, the completely apparent takes longer.

--Edward R. Murrow

Jumping to conclusions seldom leads to happy landings.

--Steve Siporin

Doubt is not a pleasant mental state, but certainty is a ridiculous one.

--Voltaire

When you have to make a choice and don't make it, that is in itself a choice.

--William James

There is no more miserable human being than one in whom nothing is habitual but indecision.

--William James

The man that doesn't change his mind doesn't think.

--Freddie Laker

He who will not reason, is a bigot; he who cannot is a fool; and he who dares not is a slave.

--Sir William Drummond

Talent is what you possess; genius is what possesses you.

--Malcolm Cowley

Adversity reveals genius; prosperity conceals it.

--Horace

A disorganized mind is unprepared for reality and easily frustrated.

--Marten Ten Hoor

There is one thing stronger than all the armies in the world: and that is an idea whose time has come.

--Victor Hugo

Intellect annuls fate. So far as a man thinks, he is free.

--Ralph Waldo Emerson

Recent discoveries in the physiology of the brain suggest that there may be two different kinds of intelligence—analytic, conceptual, verbal intelligence, located in the left hemisphere of the brain, and intuitive, artistic intelligence in the right hemisphere.

--*Newsweek*

It is much easier to do and die than it is to reason why.

--G. A. Studdert-Kennedy

All paid employments absorb and degrade the mind.

--Aristotle

Every good thought you think is contributing its share to the ultimate result of your life.

--Grenville Kleiser

In the practice of art, as well as in morals, it is necessary to keep a watchful and jealous eye over ourselves; idleness, assuming the specious disguise of industry, will lull to sleep all suspicion of our want of an active exertion of strength. A provision of endless apparatus, a bustle of infinite enquiry and research, or even the mere mechanical labour of copying, may be employed, to evade and shuffle off real labour, — the real labour of thinking.

--Sir Joshua Reynolds

The mark of genius is an incessant activity of mind. Genius is a spiritual greed.

--V. S. Pritchett

Man is only a reed, the weakest thing in nature, but he is a thinking reed, and from that comes all his dignity.

--Blaise Pascal

You cannot put a rope around the neck of an idea: you cannot put an idea up against a barrack-square wall and riddle it with bullets: you cannot confine it in the strongest prison cell that your slaves could ever build.

--Sean O'Casey

Intelligence is quickness in seeing things as they are.

--George Santayana

Intelligence is derived from two words—*inter* and *legere*—*inter* meaning ‘between’ and *legere* meaning ‘to choose.’ An intelligent person, therefore, is one who has learned ‘to choose between.’ He knows that good is better than evil, that confidence should supersede fear, that love is superior to hate, that gentleness is better than cruelty, forbearance than intolerance, compassion than arrogance, and that truth has more virtue than ignorance.

--J. Martin Klotsche

Memory, of all the powers of the mind, is the most delicate and frail.

--Ben Jonson

A great many open minds should be closed for repairs.

--*Toledo Blade*

If you keep your mind sufficiently open, people will throw a lot of rubbish into it.

--William A. Orton

Our minds are lazier than our bodies.

--La Rochefoucauld

To an imagination of any scope the most far-reaching form of power is not money, it is the command of ideas.

--Oliver Wendell
Holmes, Jr.

The ideas of the average decently informed person are so warped, and out of perspective, and ignorant, and entirely perverse and wrong and crude, on nearly every mortal subject, that the task of discussing anything with him seriously and fully and to the end is simply appalling.

--Arnold Bennett

Every new opinion, at its starting, is precisely in a minority of one.

--Thomas Carlyle

We only think when we are confronted with a problem.

--John Dewey

Thought is the strongest thing we have. Work done by true and profound thought—that is real force.

--Albert Schweitzer

An American will tinker with anything he can put his hands on.
But how rarely can he be persuaded to tinker with an abstract idea.

--Leland Stowe

The peace of the contemplative is at once the most beautiful and the most fruitful
act of man.

--Stephen Mackenna

I lived in solitude in the country and noticed how the monotony of a quiet life stimu-
lates the creative mind.

—Albert Einstein

Civilization does everything for the mind and favors it entirely at the expense of the
body.

--Napoleon I

Men fear thought as they fear nothing else on earth—more than ruin, more even
than death.

--Bertrand Russell

I like to think of thoughts as living blossoms borne by the human tree.

--James Douglas

The mind is restless, turbulent, strong and unyielding...as difficult to subdue as the
wind.

--Bhagavad-Gita

All human beings think. However, with training and coaching, they can learn to
think with grace and style and agility.

--Art Costa

For those children who do not have prerequisite thinking skills, you need to have a
special, systematic, organized program for teaching them.

--Reuven Feuerstein

Whether or not society is ready for critical thinking in a political sense, the human
race is certainly ready for it in a survival sense.

--Ernest Boyer

A single idea, if it is right, saves us the labor of an infinity of experiences.

--Jacques Maritain

Thinking is like the ability to move or perform as a ballerina or athlete...left to our own devices, the body does not move with style and grace...so too, left to our own devices, the human intellect does not function very well...We must educate for intelligent performance...with rehearsal, practice, and coaching.

--Unknown

Man is, and was always, a block-head and dullard; much readier to feel and digest, than to think and consider.

--Thomas Carlyle

In the long run of history, the censor and the inquisitor have always lost. The only sure weapon against bad ideas is better ideas.

--Alfred Whitney
Griswold

A man may die, nations may rise and fall, but an idea lives on.
Ideas have endurance without death.

--John F. Kennedy

The thinker dies, but his thoughts are beyond the reach of destruction. Men are mortal; but ideas are immortal.

--Walter Lippmann

It is always the task of the intellectual to 'think otherwise.' This is not just a perverse idiosyncrasy. It is an absolutely essential feature of a society.

--Harvey Cox

Only those who know the supremacy of the intellectual life—the life which has a seed of ennobling thought and purpose within it—can understand the grief of one who falls from that serene activity into the absorbing soul wasting struggle with worldly annoyances.

--George Eliot

It is not enough to have a good mind; the main thing is to use it well.

--Descartes

To the dull mind all nature is leaden. To the illumined mind the whole world burns and sparkles with light.

--Ralph Waldo Emerson

One good head is better than a hundred strong hands.

--Thomas Fuller

Reason is man's faculty for grasping the world by thought, in contradiction to intelligence, which is man's ability to manipulate the world with the help of thought.

--Erich Fromm

A good mind possesses a kingdom.

--Seneca

Mind is a most delicate evidence.

Not a soul has seen it yet.

--Richard Eberhart

Outside, among your fellows, among strangers, you must preserve appearances, a hundred things you cannot do; but inside, the terrible freedom!

--Ralph Waldo Emerson

Every thought is a seed. If you plant crab apples, don't count on harvesting Golden Delicious.

—Bill Meyer

Mind is everything. Muscle - pieces of rubber. All that I am, I am because of my mind.

—Paavo Nurmi

Men are not prisoners of fate, but only prisoners of their own minds.

--Franklin D. Roosevelt

It is the rigid dogma that destroys truth; and, please notice, my emphasis is not on the dogma but on the rigidity. When men say of any question, 'This is all there is to be known or said of the subject; investigation ends here,' that is death.

--Alfred North Whitehead

Let our teaching be full of ideas. Hitherto it has been stuffed only with facts.

--Anatole France

The teacher is one who makes two ideas grow where only one grew before.

--Elbert Hubbard

A mother gives birth to the child; a teacher gives birth to the mind.

--Narendra Modi

Teach children what to think and you limit them to your ideas. Teach children how to think and their ideas are unlimited.

—Sandra Parks

If you want people to think, ask them a question.

--Lenay Smith

The mind is not a vessel to be filled but a fire to be lit.

—Plutarch

I have defined teaching as the nurturing of the power of thought, and thought as the process of creating form. And form is the product of the mind's search for relationships. When the mind perceives, it invariably perceives a relationship; even when two ideas seem to be quite opposite, as in 'the quick and the dead,' the mind invents a relationship. Nobody can perceive and form ideas and concepts for anyone else, which is what Carl Rogers meant when he said that nobody can teach anybody else.

—W. R. Wees

Apothegms to thinking minds are the seeds from which spring vast fields of new thought, that may be further cultivated, beautified, and enlarged.

—Ramsay

The deepest personal defeat suffered by human beings is constituted by the difference between what one was capable of becoming and what one has in fact become.

--Ashley Montagu

Beauty fades, but dumb is forever.

--Amy Poehler

Think of how stupid the average person is, and realize half of them are stupider than that.

--George Carlin

Stay fit to fight. Your body is your ultimate weapons system. Physical fitness for your body is essential for mental fitness.

--General David Petraeus

The interior of a teenager's mind is an endless war between Stupid and Clever.

—William Landay

We like to think of college as a meritocracy, a place where only the dedicated and smart survive. But it seems to be something else. Between 1970 and 2012, the proportion of American 24-year-olds who came from affluent families and had a bachelor's degree rose from 40 percent to 73 percent—quite an enlightenment period for privileged kids. But over the same period, the proportion of American 24-year-olds who came from low-income families and had a bachelor's degree rose from 6 percent to just 8 percent. The country's uneven public-school systems cannot be blamed entirely for this state of affairs. Too many people come to college unprepared academically, it's true. But even those low-income students who outperform their affluent peers on tests are less likely to graduate from college.

—Amanda Ripley

Pure logic is the ruin of the spirit.

—Antoine de
Saint-Exupery

Tell me what are the prevailing sentiments that occupy the minds of your young men, and I will tell you what is to be the character of the next generation.

--Edmund Burke

The world's precious treasures are in the mind of a child.

—Unknown

Our present-day knowledge of the child's mind is comparable to the fifteenth-century map of the world—a mixture of truth and error. Vast areas remain to be explored.

—Arnold Gesell

Minds differ still more than faces.

--Voltaire

Never, never rest contented with any circle of ideas, but always be certain that a wider one is still possible.

--Richard Jefferies

Learn to love ideas for themselves; and do not think, the instant a truth dawns on you, of devising a scheme for reforming the world.

--John Lancaster
Spalding

The vitality of thought is an adventure. *Ideas won't keep*. Something must be done about them. When the idea is new, its custodians have fervor, live for it, and if need be, die for it.

--Alfred North Whitehead

The unconscious part of your brain never stops working. So when you're faced with a perplexing job, work on it as hard as you can. Then, if you can't lick it, try sleeping on it or taking a walk or relaxing with friends. If you have primed yourself with all available facts, the answer is likely to 'dawn' on you while your mind is seemingly at rest.

--John Kord Lagemann

Let no man imagine that he has no influence. Whoever he may be, and wherever he may be placed, *the man who thinks*, becomes a light and a power.

--Henry George

New ideas can be good or bad, just the same as old ones.

--Franklin D. Roosevelt

Thinking is the hardest work there is, which is the probable reason why so few engage in it.

--Henry Ford

Thinking is the talking of the soul with itself.

--Plato

A well cultivated mind is made up of all the minds of preceding ages; it is only the one single mind educated by all previous time.

--Fontenelle

Ideas are free. But when the author confines them to his study, they are like birds in a cage, which none but he can have a right to let fly.

--Sir Joseph Yates

Hesitancy in judgment is the only true mark of the thinker.

--Dagobert D. Runes

Every mind is shaped by the most banal experiences.

--Paul Valery

The greatness of mankind derives from thought.

--Blaise Pascal

An idea is a giant dwarf that one must keep one's eyes on night and day, for the idea which today crawls at your feet will dominate your head tomorrow. An idea is like the spark that falls on the thatch; you need to have good eyes even in daylight to predict the outbreak of the blaze.

--Alexandre Dumas

We are lazier in our minds than in our bodies.

--Francois, duc de La
Rochefoucauld

There can be no greater pleasures than those of the mind.

--Cicero

The body is a slave and subject to a master; but the mind is free.

--St. Thomas Aquinas

The whole dignity of man lies in the power of thought.

--Blaise Pascal

Thought is always in advance; it can see too far ahead, outstripping our bodies which are in the present.

--Albert Camus

A thought is a meaningful proposition.

--Ludwig Wittgenstein

The totality of true thought is a picture of the world.

--Ludwig Wittgenstein

Is it not true that thought and speech are the same, thought being thus named because it is the silent inner conversation of the soul with itself?

--Plato

The best thoughts can only exist where knowledge and genius are to be found.

--Dante

The normal reaction to a new idea is to think of reasons why it can't be done.

--Unknown

There are almost no limits to the discoveries of how the human brain operates—in illness and health, in sleep and waking and dreaming, in calm and under tension. The question is how far man can put these discoveries to use without using them not for cure but for power.

--Max Lerner

The mind is like the stomach. It's not how much you put into it that counts, but how much it digests.

--Albert J. Nock

A new idea is delicate. It can be killed by a sneer or a yawn; it can be stabbed to death by a quip and worried to death by a frown on the right man's brow.

—Ovid

You can kill men and cripple nations, but you cannot kill a good idea.

--Medgar Evers

Great minds discuss ideas, average minds discuss events, small minds discuss people.

--Eleanor Roosevelt

There is nothing in the world more powerful than an idea. No weapon can destroy it; no power can conquer it except the power of another idea.

--James Roy Smith

Thinking is only a process of talking to yourself intelligently.

--Unknown

Iron rusts from disuse; stagnant water loses its purity and in cold weather becomes frozen; even so does inaction sap the vigor of the mind.

--Leonardo da Vinci

New opinions are always suspected, and usually opposed, without any other reason but because they are not already common.

--John Locke

Strongest minds
Are often those of whom the noisy world
Hears least.

--William Wordsworth

Thoughts rule the world.

—Ralph Waldo Emerson

Mind is the great lever of all things; human thought is the process by which human ends are ultimately answered.

--Daniel Webster

An invasion of armies can be resisted, but not an idea whose time has come.

--Victor Hugo

The mind of man may be compared to a musical instrument with a certain range of notes, beyond which in both directions we have an infinitude of silence.

--John Tyndall

I am half inclined to think we are all ghosts....It is not only what we have inherited from our fathers that exists again in us, but all sorts of old dead ideas and all kinds of old dead beliefs and things of that kind. They are not actually alive in us; but there they are dormant, all the same, and we can never be rid of them. Whenever I take up a newspaper and read it, I fancy I see ghosts creeping between the lines. There must be ghosts all over the world. They must be as countless as grains of the sands, it seems to me. And we are so miserably afraid of the light, all of us.

--Henrik Ibsen

Ideals are like stars; you will not succeed in touching them with your hands. But like the seafaring man on the desert of waters, you choose them as your guides, and following them you will reach your destiny.

--Carl Schurz

Minds are like parachutes. They only function when they are open.

--Sir Thomas Robert
Dewar

Thinking is an experimental dealing with small quantities of energy, just as a general moves miniature figures over a map before setting his troops in action.

--Sigmund Freud

One man that has a mind and knows it can always beat ten men who haven't and don't.

--George Bernard Shaw

It is not in the power of the most exalted wit or enlarged understanding, by any quickness or variety of thought, to invent or frame one new simple idea.

--John Locke

What it (my mind) is really most like is a spider's web, insecurely hung on leaves and twigs, quivering in every wind, and sprinkled with dewdrops and dead flies. And at its geometric centre, pondering forever the Problem of Existence, sits motionless and spider-like the uncanny Soul.

--Logan Pearsall Smith

We are an intelligent species and the use of our intelligence quite properly gives us pleasure. In this respect the brain is like a muscle. When it is in use we feel very good. Understanding is joyous.

--Carl Sagan

What is the hardest task in the world? To think.

--Ralph Waldo Emerson

Man is obviously made to think. It is his whole dignity and his whole merit.

--Pascal

Ideas control the world.

—James A. Garfield

Ideas are like beards; men do not have them until they grow up.

--Voltaire

Our ideas, like orange-plants, spread out in proportion to the size of the box which imprisons the roots.

--Edward Bulwer-Lytton

Ideas are the factors that lift civilization. They create revolutions. There is more dynamite in an idea than in many bombs.

--Bishop John Vincent

An idea, like a ghost, according to the common notion of ghosts, must be spoken to a little before it will explain itself.

—Charles Dickens

To have ideas is to gather flowers; to think, is to weave them into garlands.

--Anne Sophie Swetchine

Ideas make their way in silence like the waters that, filtering behind the rocks of the Alps, loosen them from the mountains on which they rest.

—Jean Henri Merle
D'Aubigne

He who wishes to fulfill his mission in the world must be a man of one idea, that is of one great overmastering purpose, overshadowing all his aims, and guiding and controlling his entire life.

—Herbert Ernest Bate

The failure of the mind in old age is often less the result of natural decay, than of disuse. Ambition has ceased to operate; contentment brings indolence, and indolence decay of mental power, ennui, and sometimes death. Men have been known to die, literally speaking, of disease induced by intellectual vacancy.

--Sir B. Brodie

Old minds are like old horses; you must exercise them if you wish to keep them in working order.

--John Quincy Adams

He presents me with what is always an acceptable gift who brings me news of a great thought before unknown. He enriches me without impoverishing himself.

—Christian Nestell
Bovee

Ideas are the root of creation.

—Ernest Dimnet

Man's fear of ideas is probably the greatest dike holding back human knowledge and happiness.

--Morris Leopold Ernst

People demand freedom of speech to make up for the freedom of thought which they avoid.

--Søren Kierkegaard

I know but one freedom and that is the freedom of the mind.

--Antoine de
Saint-Exupéry

The telephone book is full of facts, but it doesn't contain a single idea.

—Mortimer Adler

Everyone needs a warm personal enemy or two to keep him free from rust in the movable parts of his mind.

--Gene Fowler

Difficulties strengthen the mind, as labor does the body.

--Seneca

It would be extremely naive to expect the dominant classes to develop a type of education that would enable subordinate classes to perceive social injustices critically.

—Paulo Freire

It must be remembered that the purpose of education is not to fill the minds of students with facts. It is to teach them to think, if that is possible, and always to think for themselves.

--Robert Hutchins

Every human mind is a great slumbering power until awakened by a keen desire and by definite resolution to do.

—Edgar F. Roberts

The first and simplest emotion which we discover in the human mind, is curiosity.

—Edmund Burke

Since new developments are the products of a creative mind, we must therefore stimulate and encourage that type of mind in every way possible.

--George Washington
Carver

Where is the power? Not on the outside, but within....Thoughts are things. You are the thinker that thinks the thought, that makes the thing. If you don't like it, then change your thoughts. Make it what you want it to be.

--Johnnie Colemon

Most people grow old within a small circle of ideas, which they have not discovered for themselves. There are perhaps less wrong-minded people than thoughtless.

--Marquis de Luc de
Vauvenargues

This is the great vice of academicism, that it is concerned with ideas rather than with thinking.

--Lionel Trilling

If you make people think they're thinking, they'll love you. If you really make them think, they'll hate you.

--Don Marquis

Though the proportion of those who think be extremely small, yet every individual flatters himself that he is one of the number.

--Charles Caleb Colton

Nothing is more common than for men to think that because they are familiar with words, they understand the ideas they stand for.

--Cardinal John Newman

There are two ways to slide easily through life; to believe everything or doubt everything. Both ways save us from thinking.

--Alfred Korzybski

If anyone has a new idea in this country, there are twice as many people who keep putting a man with a red flag in front of it.

--Prince Philip

Every time a man puts a new idea across he finds ten men who thought of it before he did—but they only thought of it.

--William James

Ideas won't keep: something must be done about them.

--Alfred North Whitehead

I am long on ideas, but short on time. I expect to live only about a hundred years.

--Thomas A. Edison

A mind is a terrible thing to waste.

--*The United Negro
College Fund*

It is the mind that makes the body.

--Sojourner Truth

The mind is the standard of the man.

--Paul Laurence Dunbar

All that you accomplish or fail to accomplish in life is a direct result of the images you hold in your mind.

--Hortense Canady

Good ideas must be driven into existence through courageous patience.

—Admiral Hyman
Rickover

If you control a man's thinking, you do not have to worry about his action. When you determine what a man shall think, you do not have to concern yourself about what he will do. If you make a man feel inferior, you do not have to compel him to accept an inferior status, he will seek it himself. If you make a man think he is justly an outcast, you do not have to order him to the back door. He will go without being told; and if there is no back door, his very nature will demand one.

--Carter G. Woodson

One of the greatest pains to human nature is the pain of a new idea.

--Walter Begehot

Great minds have purposes, others have wishes.

--Washington Irving

Too often we give children answers to remembers rather than problems to solve.

--Roger Lewin

You are today where your thoughts have brought you; you will be tomorrow where your thoughts take you.

--James Allen

The world we have created is a product of our thinking; it cannot be changed without changing our thinking.

--Albert Einstein

A student's greatest thinking will come from his or her ability to break away—not to conform.

--Unknown

All great ideas are controversial, or have been at one time.

--George Selden

If you can't write your idea on the back of a business card, you don't have a clear idea.

--Glenn Jacobus

Man's mind stretched to a new idea never goes back to its original dimensions.

--Oliver Wendell Holmes

We often think of ourselves as living in a world which no longer has any unexplored frontiers. We speak of pioneering as a thing of the past. But in doing so we forget that the greatest adventure of all still challenges us—what Mr. Justice Holmes called 'the adventure of the human mind.' Men may be hemmed in geographically, but every generation stands on the frontiers of the mind. In the world of ideas, there is always pioneering to be done, and it can be done by anyone who will use the equipment with which he is endowed. The great ideas belong to everyone.

--Mortimer J. Adler

Cultivation of the mind is as necessary as food to the body.

--Cicero

A child's mind is like a bank—whatever you put in, you get back in ten years, with interest.

--Frederic Wertham

The brain—
is wider than the sky.

--Emily Dickinson

Learners do not care how much you know until they know how much you care.

--Unknown

To the vast majority of mankind nothing is more agreeable than to escape the need for mental exertion....To most people nothing is more troublesome than the effort of thinking.

--James Bryce

There is no expedient to which a man will not go to avoid the real labor of thinking.

--Thomas A. Edison

The mind of man is like a clock that is always running down, and requires to be as constantly wound up.

--William Hazlitt

If we work upon marble, it will perish. If we work upon brass, time will efface it. If we rear temples, they will crumble to dust. But if we work upon men's immortal minds, if we imbue them with high principles, with the just fear of God and love of their fellow men, we engrave on those tablets something which no time can efface, and which will brighten and brighten to all eternity.

--Daniel Webster

Certain it is that minds, like bodies, will often fall into a pimpled, ill-conditioned state from mere excess of comfort.

--Charles Dickens

Many ideas grow better when transplanted into another mind than in the one where they sprang up.

--Oliver Wendell Holmes

When I examine myself and my methods of thought, I come to the conclusion that the gift of fantasy has meant more to me than my talent for absorbing positive knowledge.

--Albert Einstein

Nobody can think straight who does not work. Idleness warps the mind. Thinking without constructive action becomes a disease.

--Henry Ford

The society bestows its rewards on the talent for figuring a market, not on the proofs of learning or the subtlety of mind.

--Lewis Lapham

We do not conquer mountains, nor tame the elements. The true conquest lies in penetrating the self-imposed barriers, those limitations within our minds.

--John Amatt

I know of no country in which there is so little independence of mind and real freedom of discussion as in America.

--Alexis de Tocqueville

Intellectual liberty is the air of the soul, the sunshine of the mind, and without it, the world is a prison, the universe is a dungeon.

--Robert G. Ingersoll

An idea that is not dangerous is unworthy of being called an idea at all.

--Elbert G. Hubbard

I hate to be near the sea, and to hear it raging and roaring like a wild beast in its pen. It puts me in mind of the everlasting efforts of the human mind, struggling to be free and ending just where it began.

--William Hazlitt

It is always easier to believe than to deny. Our minds are naturally affirmative.

--John Burroughs

Nothing is more dangerous than an idea, when a man has only one idea.

--Alain

We are governed not by armies and police but by ideas.

--Mona Caird

The greatest intellectual capacities are only found in connection with a vehement and passionate will.

--Arthur Schopenhauer

What you think is an illusion created by your glands, your emotions and, in the last analysis, by the content of your stomach. That gray matter you're so proud of is like a mirror in an amusement park which transmits to you nothing but distorted signals from reality forever beyond your grasp.

--Ayn Rand

Think wrongly, if you please, but in all cases think for yourself.

--Doris Lessing

We shall succeed only so far as we continue that most distasteful of all activity, the intolerable labour of thought.

--Learned Hand

Profundity of thought belongs to youth, clarity of thought to old age.

--Friedrich Nietzsche

Facts in books, statistics in encyclopedias, the ability to use them in men's heads.
--Fogg Brackell

An Englishman thinks seated; a Frenchman, standing; an American, pacing; and Irishman, afterward.
--Austin O'Malley

The mind that finds its way to wild places is the poet's; but the mind that never finds its way back is the lunatic's.
--G. K. Chesterton

Too often we... enjoy the comfort of opinion without the discomfort of thought.
--John F. Kennedy

The eye sees only what the mind is prepared to comprehend.
--Robertson Davies

The flesh endures the storms of the present alone; the mind, those of the past and future as well as the present.
--Epicurus

Our minds are lazier than our bodies.
--La Rochefoucauld

Little minds are tamed and subdued by misfortune; but great minds rise above them.
--Washington Irving

The only man who can change his mind is a man that's got one.
--Edward Noyes Westcott

All the problems of the world could be settled easily if men were only willing to think. The trouble is that men very often resort to all sorts of devices in order not to think, because thinking is such hard work.
--Thomas Watson

Education means developing the mind, not stuffing the memory.
—Unknown

Learning without thought is labor lost; thought without learning is dangerous.
--Confucius

Memory is the library of the mind.

--Francis Fauvel-
Gourand

I am thought,
I can see what the eyes cannot see.
I can hear what the ears cannot hear.
I can feel what the heart cannot feel.

--Peter Nivio Zurlenga

If everyone is thinking alike, then somebody isn't thinking.

--George Patton

Thinking is 80% Perception.

--Unknown

I do not believe that disciplined reflection takes time away from work; it sustains the spirit and increases the intensity and quality of work.

--Keshavan Nair

Talent is what you possess; genius is what possesses you.

--Malcolm Cowley

Many creatures have brains. Man alone has a mind.

--R. Buckminster Fuller

A country without intellectuals is like a body without a head.

--Ayn Rand

Being an intellectual creates a lot of questions and no answers. You can fill your life up with ideas and still go home lonely. All you really have that really matters are feelings.

--Janis Joplin

You can kill a man but you can't kill an idea.

--Medgar Evers

It is useless to send armies against ideas.

--Georg Brandes

The test and the use of man's education is that he finds pleasure in the exercise of his mind.

--Jacques Barzun

Just think of the tragedy of teaching children not to doubt.

--Clarence Darrow

To think is to differ.

--Clarence Darrow

If you think long you think wrong.

--Jim Kaat

Our job is not to make up anybody's mind, but to open minds and to make the agony of the decision-making so intense you can escape only by thinking.

--Fred Friendly

Intelligence appears to be the thing that enables a man to get along without education. Education enables a man to get along without the use of his intelligence.

--Albert Edward Wiggam

Few minds wear out, more rust out.

—Christian Nestell
Bovee

THE THINKER

Holding his chin
thinking
how to
hold the chin
and watch the computer
do
the thinking.

--William Marr

As soon as you can say what you think, and not what some other person has thought for you—you are on your way to being a remarkable person.

--J. M. Barrie

If you can't put down an idea on paper, the chances are that you don't have an idea.
--Andy Rooney

If you employed study, thinking and planning time daily, you could develop and use the power that can change the course of your destiny.
--W. Clement Stone

The mind is the limit. As long as the mind can envision the fact that you can do something, you can do it—as long as you really believe 100 percent.
--Arnold
Schwarzenaegger

The human mind treats a new idea the way the body treats a strange protein; it rejects it.
—B. Medawar

The only reason some people get lost in thought is because it's unfamiliar territory.
—Paul Fix

A woman's mind and winter wind change oft.
—Proverb

I had no reason to doubt that brains were suitable for a woman. And as I had my father's kind of mind—which was also his mother's—I learned that the mind is not sex-typed.
Margaret Mead

It's ridiculous to think that half the brains in the country are locked up in female heads and are not being used.
--Baroness Sears

The significant problems we face cannot be solved at the same level of thinking we were at when we created them.
--Albert Einstein

A mother gives birth to the child; a teacher gives birth to the mind.
—Unknown

The busiest of living agents are certain dead men's thoughts.
—Christian Nestell
Bovee

To him whose elastic and vigorous thought keeps pace with the sun, the day is a perpetual morning.

—Henry David Thoreau

Great thoughts reduced to practice become great acts.

—William Hazlitt

The mind of the scholar, if he would leave it large and liberal, should come in contact with other minds.

—Henry Wadsworth
Longfellow

Sit in reverie and watch the changing color of the waves that break upon the idle seashore of the mind.

—Henry Wadsworth
Longfellow

The defects of the mind, like those of the face, grow worse as we grow old.

—de La Rochefoucauld

The mind does not create what it perceives, any more than the eye creates the rose.

—Ralph Waldo Emerson

I've known countless people who were reservoirs of learning yet never had a thought.

—Wilson Mizner

Every thought which genius and piety throw into the world alters the world.

—Ralph Waldo Emerson

As certainly as water falls in rain on the tops of mountains and runs down into valleys, plains and pits, so does thought fall first on the best minds, and run down, from class to class, until it reaches the masses, and works revolutions.

--Ralph Waldo Emerson

Thinkers help other people to think, for they formulate what others are thinking. No person writes or thinks alone—thought is in the air, but its expression is necessary to create a tangible Spirit of the Times.

--Elbert Hubbard

It is thought, and thought alone, that divides right from wrong; it is thought, and thought only, that elevates or degrades human deeds and desires.

--George Moore

Nothing can withstand the powers of the mind. Barriers, enormous masses of matter, the remotest recesses are conquered; all things succumb; the very heaven itself is laid open.

--Manilius

A great many people think they are thinking when they are merely rearranging their prejudices.

--William James

Take time to deliberate, but when the time for action has arrived, stop thinking and go in.

--Napoleon Bonaparte

Few people think more than two or three times a year; I have made an international reputation for myself by thinking once or twice a week.

--George Bernard Shaw

Think much, speak little, write less.

—French Proverb

Daring ideas are like chessmen moved forward; they may be beaten, but they may start a winning game.

--Goethe

In Japan we have the phrase, 'Shoshin,' which means 'beginner's mind.' Our 'original mind' includes everything within itself. It is always rich and sufficient within itself. This does not mean a closed mind, but actually an empty mind and a ready mind. If your mind is empty, it is always ready for anything. It is open to everything. In the beginner's mind there are many possibilities; in the expert's mind there are few.

--Shunryu Suzuki

To solve a problem it is necessary to think. It is necessary to think even to decide what facts to collect.

--Robert Maynard
Hutchins

Our future economy will depend to an ever greater extent on thinking rather than repeating learned information....Education modeled around long lists of facts that 'every adult should know' and standardized tests will produce robots adept at *Trivial Pursuit* but unable to think for themselves or innovate for the future.

--Robert Reich

An idea is a feat of association.

--Robert Frost

Memory is the cabinet of imagination, the treasury of reason, the registry of conscience, and the council chamber of thought.

--St. Basil

Imagination is more important than knowledge.

--Albert Einstein

There is nothing more potent than thought.

--Mohandas K. Gandhi

This epoch will pass—indeed, it is already passing. We are beginning to grasp that although power can be contained in a boiler, mastery exists only in the brain: in other words, that it is ideas, not locomotives, that move the world. To harness locomotives to the ideas is good; but do not let us mistake the horse for the rider.

--Victor Hugo

It may be those who do most, dream most.

--Stephen Leacock

Creative minds always have been known to survive any kind of bad training.

--Anna Freud

Imagination has brought mankind through the dark ages to its present state of civilization. Imagination led Columbus to discover America. Imagination led Franklin to discover electricity. Imagination has given us the steam engine, the telephone, the talking-machine, and the automobile, for these things had to be dreamed of before they became realities. So I believe that dreams—daydreams, you know, with your eyes wide open and your brain machinery whizzing—are likely to lead to the betterment of the world. The imaginative child will become the imaginative man or woman most apt to invent, and therefore to foster, civilization.

--L. Frank Baum

Creative thinking may simply mean the realization that there's no particular virtue in doing things the way they have always been done.

--Rudolph Flesch

A conclusion is the place where you got tired of thinking.

--Arthur Bloch

To think is to say *no*.

--Emile Auguste Chartier

Mediocre minds usually dismiss anything which reaches beyond their own understanding.

--François, Duc de La
Rochefoucauld

A man who is 'of sound mind' is one who keeps the inner madman under lock and key.

--Paul Valéry

Our most important thoughts are those which contradict our emotions.

--Paul Valéry

Why should a man's mind have been thrown into such close, sad, sensational, inexplicable relations with such a precarious object as his body?

--Thomas Hardy

It distresses me, this failure to keep pace with the leaders of thought, as they pass into oblivion.

--Sir Max Beerbohm

The mind of men is a mystery; and, like the plant, each one of us naturally appropriates and assimilates that about him which responds to that which is within him.

--Joseph Roux

It is often the case with fine natures, that when the fire of the spirit dies out with increasing age, the power of intellect is unaltered or increased. An originally educated judgment grows broader and gentler as the river of life widens out to the everlasting sea.

--Margaret Gatty

It is quite wrong to think of old age as a downward slope. On the contrary, one climbs higher and higher with the advancing years, and that, too, with surprising strides. Brain-work comes as easily to the old as physical exertion to the child. One is moving, it is true, towards the end of life, but that end is now a goal, and not a reef in which the vessel may be dashed.

--George Sand

There is no female mind. The brain is not an organ of sex. Might as well speak of a female liver.

—Charlotte Perkins
Gilman

It isn't what people think that is important, but the reason they think what they think.

--Eugene Ionesco

The shrewd guess, the fertile hypothesis, the courageous leap to a tentative conclusion—these are the most valuable coin of the thinker at work.

--Jerome S. Bruner

Thinking in its lower grades is comparable to paper money, and in its higher forms it is a kind of poetry.

--Havelock Ellis

The average man never really thinks from end to end of his life. The mental activity of such people is only a mouthing of clichés.

--H. L. Mencken

The secret isolated joy of the thinker, who knows that, a hundred years after he is dead and forgotten, men who never heard of him will be moving to the measure of his thought.

--Oliver Wendell
Holmes, Jr.

The thoughts that come often unsought, and, as it were, drop into the mind, are commonly the most valuable of any we have.

--John Locke

The most tyrannical governments are those which make crimes of opinion, for everyone has an inalienable right to his thoughts.

--Spinoza

Imagination is intelligence having fun.

--George Scialabba

When I examine myself and my methods of thought, I come to the conclusion that the gift of fantasy has meant more to me than any talent for abstract, positive thinking.

--Albert Einstein

In your lifetime if you can come up with one original idea you have accomplished a great deal.

--Max Roach

The human being is transformed by where his mind goes, not where his body goes.

--Na'im Akbar

The mind is the standard of the man.

--Paul Laurence Dunbar

I'd learned about the strength of the mind and seen that mental toughness, more than brawn, determines who survives and who buckles.

--Nathan McCall

Instinct is the nose of the mind.

--Delphine de Girardin

If one wants to be successful, one must think; one must think until it hurts. One must worry a problem in one's mind until it seems there cannot be another aspect of it that hasn't been considered.

--Lord Thomson of Fleet

The mind is like the stomach. It is not how much you put into it that counts, but how much it digests.

--A. J. Nock

The human mind cannot create anything. It produces nothing until after having been fertilized by experience and meditation; its acquisitions are the germs of its production.

--Georges-Louis Leclerc,
Comte de Buffon

In many ways ideas are more important than people—they are much more permanent.

--C. F. Kettering

A great idea is usually original to more than one discoverer. Great ideas come when the world needs them. They surround the world's ignorance and press for admission.

--Austin Phelps

The world so clamors for action that men and women devote little time to thinking. Many believe in second-hand thinking. They find it easier to ascertain and adopt the thoughts of others than to think for themselves.

--James F. Byrnes

The empires of the future are the empires of the mind.

--Winston Churchill

Our life is what our thoughts make it. A man will find that as he alters his thoughts toward things and other people, things and other people will alter towards him.

--James Allen

Some of the greatest thinking has been done by those who cared little for riches—Pasteur, Edison, Jane Addams—and who shall say that theirs was not the richer life? Today, the world knows the poetry of Shakespeare, the music of Wagner, the art of Rembrandt; but who knows even the names of the money barons of their day—or cares to know? If you want your name to live after you, you'll not give all your thought to money. But, whether you want to make money, or write a book, or build a bridge, or run a streetcar—or do anything else successfully—you'll do well to remember that in all the world there is no word more important than—*'Think!'*

--Edwin Baird

Times of general calamity and confusion have ever been productive of the greatest minds. The purest ore is produced from the hottest furnace, and the brightest thunderbolt is elicited from the darkest storms.

—Charles Caleb Colton

Getting an idea should be like sitting down on a pin; it should make you jump up and do something.

--E. L. Simpson

We are what we think. All that we are arises with our thoughts. With our thoughts, we make the world.

--Buddha

The man with a new idea is a crank until the idea succeeds.

--Mark Twain

All generalizations are false, including this one.

--Mark Twain

Everyone is a genius at least once a year; a real genius has his original ideas closer together.

--G. C. Lichtenberg

It is the mark of an educated mind to be able to entertain a thought without accepting it.

—Aristotle

The world has a standing pique against genius.

--Hazlitt

A genius is a crackpot until he hits the jackpot.

--Unknown

All of our ideas come from the natural world: trees equal umbrellas.

--Wallace Stevens

I like to be the midwife of confused and painful ideas which are struggling to reach the light of day.

--Bernard Berenson

We do not have to visit a madhouse to find disordered minds; our planet is the mental institution of the universe.

--Goethe

Man is a reasoning rather than a reasonable animal.

--Alexander Hamilton

Thinking isn't to agree or disagree—that's voting.

--Robert Frost

Thinking is past experiences guiding present actions.

—William Kilpatrick

Learning without thought is labor lost; thought without learning is perilous.

—Confucius

Ours is an age which is proud of machines that think, and suspicious of the men who try to.

--Howard Mumford Jones

Everything has been thought of before, but the problem is to think of it again.

--Goethe

The mind is never satisfied with the objects immediately before it, but is always breaking away from the present moment, and losing itself in schemes of future felicity....The natural flights of the human mind are not from pleasure to pleasure, but from hope to hope.

--Samuel Johnson

Where all think alike, no one thinks very much.

--Walter Lippmann

Sometimes I wonder, and then I don't know.

--John L. Sullivan

Every man of genius sees the world at a different angle from his fellows.

--Havelock Ellis

An idea is the most exciting thing there is.

--John Russell

If we watch ourselves honestly, we shall often find that we have begun to argue against a new idea even before it has been completely stated.

--Arthur Koestler

Absolutized thought is the real crime of the intellectuals.

--Daniel Bell

My mind is like a tape recorder with one button—Erase.

--Andy Warhol

It is love of candor that makes men radical thinkers.

--Eric Bentley

How do I know what I think till I see what I say?

--E. M. Forster

As towards most other things of which we have but little personal experience (foreigners, or socialists, or aristocrats, as the case may be), there is a degree of vague ill-will towards what is called *Thinking*.

--Vernon Lee

Minds, like diapers, need occasional changing.

--Karen Cushman

Lying in bed just before going to sleep is the worst time for organized thinking; it is the best time for free thinking. Ideas drift like clouds in an undecided breeze, taking first this direction and then that.

--E. L. Konigsburg

We know what a person thinks not when he tells us what he thinks, but by his actions.

--Isaac Bashevis Singer

The mind of men is a mystery; and, like the plant, each one of us naturally appropriates and assimilates that about him which responds to that which is within him.

--Joseph Roux

No man ever will unfold the capacities of his own intellect who does not at least checker his life with solitude.

--De Quincey

Children absorb our lessons, and then time and experience help knit them together. Thought is a process, not an event.

--Unknown

Vision is not necessarily having a plan, but having a mind that always plans. In sum, vision means to be in touch with the unlimited potential and expanse of this marvelous instrument called the human mind.

--Peter Koestenbaum

Stupid is forever; ignorance can be fixed.

—Don Wood

So you see!
There's no end
To the things you might know,
Depending how far beyond Zebra you go.

-- Dr. Seuss,
On Beyond Zebra

Never be afraid to sit awhile and think.

--Lorraine Hansberry

There are no evil thoughts except one: the refusal to think.

--Ayn Rand

Thinking is more precious than all five senses.

--Rabbi Nachman of
Bratslav

The mind grows by what it feeds on.

--J. G. Holland

Not the state of the body but the state of the mind and soul is the measure of the well-being of each of us.

--Winfred Rhoades

A child's mind is like a shallow brook which ripples and dances merrily over the stony course of its education and reflects here a flower, there a bush, yonder a fleecy cloud...

--Helen Keller

I have a great belief in the fact that whenever there is chaos, it creates wonderful thinking. I consider chaos a gift.

--Septima Poinsette
Clark

Strong minds break strong chains.

--Jesse Jackson

One's mind once stretched by a new idea, never regains its original dimension.
--Oliver Wendall Holmes

The brain is a wonderful organ. It starts working the moment you get up in the morning, and does not stop until you get into the office.
--Robert Frost

The mind can only absorb what the seat can endure.
--Unknown

A mediocre idea that generates enthusiasm will go farther than a great idea that inspires no one.
--Mary Kay Ash

Our heads are round so that our thinking can change direction.
--Francis Picabia

Fortune favors the prepared mind.
--Louis Pasteur

If there is anything more dangerous to the life of the mind than having no independent commitment to ideas, it is having an excess of commitment to some special and constricting idea.
--Richard Hofstadter

Sixty minutes of thinking of any kind is bound to lead to confusion and unhappiness.
--James Thurber

Nothing pains some people more than having to think.
--Martin Luther King, Jr.

Questions show the mind's range, and answers its subtlety.
--Joseph Joubert

Mere words are cheap and plenty enough, but ideas that rouse and set multitudes thinking come as gold from the mines.
--A. Owen Penny

Some minds are like concrete: all mixed up and permanently set.
--Jesse Howard

The best way to have a good idea is to have lots of ideas.

--Linus Pauling

Every time you tear a leaf off a calendar, you present a new place for new ideas and progress.

--Charles Kettering

If you want to kill any idea in the world, get a committee working on it.

--Charles Kettering

The opportunities of man are limited only by his imagination. But so few have imagination that there are ten thousand fiddlers to one composer.

--Charles Kettering

The heart is the chief feature of a functioning mind.

--Frank Lloyd Wright

We can have facts without thinking but we cannot have thinking without facts.

--John Dewey

Creativity can solve almost any problem. The creative act, the defeat of habit by originality, overcomes everything.

--George Lois

Good ideas alter the power balance in relationships, that is why good ideas are always initially resisted. Good ideas come with a heavy burden. Which is why so few people have them. So few people can handle it.

--Hugh Macleod

The greatest challenge to any thinker is stating the problem in a way that will allow a solution.

--Bertrand Russell

You can think best when you're happiest.

--Peter Thomson

Reading, after a certain age, diverts the mind too much from its creative pursuits. Any man who reads too much and uses his own brain too little falls into lazy habits of thinking.

--Albert Einstein

I think and think for months and years. Ninety-nine times, the conclusion is false.
The hundredth time I am right.

--Albert Einstein

Imagination is everything. It is the preview of life's coming attractions.

--Albert Einstein

Logic will get you from A to B. Imagination will take you everywhere.

--Albert Einstein

Memory is deceptive because it is colored by today's events.

--Albert Einstein

We shall require a substantially new manner of thinking if mankind is to survive.

--Albert Einstein

The conventional view serves to protect us from the painful job of thinking.

--John Kenneth
Galbraith

Of all the passions, fear weakens judgment most.

--Cardinal De Retz

Where there is an open mind, there will always be a frontier.

--Charles F. Kettering

I have found power in the mysteries of thought.

--Euripides

Memory is the treasury and guardian of all things.

--Cicero

Problems are the stimulus to thinking.

--John Dewey

Not to understand another person's way of thinking does not make that person confused.

--Michael Quinn Patten

Thinking ability is not a substitute for knowledge; nor knowledge a substitute for thinking ability. Both are essential. Knowledge and thinking ability are two sides of the same coin.

--R. S. Nickerson

The greatest weapon against stress is our ability to choose one thought over another.

--William James

Always keep your mind open—but not so open that your brains fall out!

--Scottish Proverb

Any intelligent fool can make things bigger and more complex... It takes a touch of genius - and a lot of courage to move in the opposite direction.

--Albert Einstein

Creativity is the residue of wasted time.

--Albert Einstein

Genius is nothing more nor less than childhood recovered at will.

--Charles Baudelaire

A foolish consistency is the hobgoblin of little minds.

--Ralph Waldo Emerson

The beginning of thought is in disagreement—not only with others but also with ourselves.

--Eric Hoffer

Thinking with me is like looking for a person whose address I don't know. I stand on a street corner all day long waiting for him to pass by. Certainly there are more efficient ways of locating a person whose address you don't know. But if you have a whole lifetime to wait and enjoy watching things go by, then waiting on street corners is as good a method as any. If you don't find the person you are looking for, you might meet someone else.

--Eric Hoffer

A multitude of words is probably the most formidable means of blurring and obscuring thought. There is no thought, however momentous, that cannot be expressed lucidly in 200 words.

--Eric Hoffer

It has been my experience that there is no substitute for time where thinking is concerned. Why is it so? The answer seems to be that in many cases to think means to be able to allow the mind to stray from the task at hand. The mind must be able to be 'elsewhere.' This needs time.

--Eric Hoffer

What counts most is holding on. The growth of a train of thought is not a direct forward flow. There is a succession of spurts separated by intervals of stagnation, frustration, and discouragement. If you hold on, there is bound to come a certain clarification. The unessential components drop off and a coherent, lucid whole begins to take shape.

--Eric Hoffer

Some people have no original ideas because they do not think well enough of themselves to consider their ideas worth noticing and developing.

--Eric Hoffer

You're neither right nor wrong because people agree with you. You're right because your facts and your reasoning are right.

--Warren Buffett

It takes a wonderful brain and exquisite senses to produce a few stupid ideas.

--George Santayana

Creativity is intelligence having fun.

--Albert Einstein

A mind, like a home, is furnished by its owner, so if one's life is cold and bare he can blame none but himself.

--Louis L'Amour

Damage to the brain can impair the most-intimate aspects of ourselves, such as the capacity to make moral judgments or to inhibit bad actions. To some scholars, the neural basis of mental life suggests that rational deliberation and free choice are illusions. Because our thoughts and actions are the products of our brains, and because what our brains do is determined by the physical state of the world and the laws of physics—perhaps with a dash of quantum randomness in the mix—there seems to be no room for choice.

--Paul Bloom

The test of a first-rate intelligence is the ability to hold two opposed ideas in mind at the same time and still retain the ability to function. One should, for example, be able to see that things are hopeless and yet be determined to make them otherwise.

--F. Scott Fitzgerald

Not a hundredth part of the thoughts in my head have ever been or ever will be spoken or written—as long as I keep my senses, at least.

--Jane Welsh Carlyle

To believe your own thought, to believe that what is true for you in your private heart is true for all men—that is genius.

--Ralph Waldo Emerson

A man is but the product of his thoughts. What he thinks, he becomes.

--Mohandas Gandhi

The difference between success and mediocrity is all in the way you think.

--Dean Francis

Whenever somebody comes up with a good idea, there's somebody else who has never had a good idea in his life who stands up and says, Oh, you can't do that.

--Tom Clancy

There is nothing so unthinkable as thought, unless it be the entire absence of thought.

--Samuel Butler

He does not live in vain, who employs his wealth, his thought, his speech to advance the good of others.

--Hindu Maxim

Let no man imagine that he has no influence. Whoever he may be, and wherever he may be placed, the man who thinks becomes a light and a power.

--Henry George

Where the Mind is biggest, the Heart, the Senses, Magnanimity, Charity, Tolerance, Kindliness, and the rest of them scarcely have room to breathe.

--Virginia Woolf

When men think much, they can rarely decide.

--Anthony Trollope

You say that my way of thinking cannot be tolerated? What of it? The man who alters his way of thinking to suit others is a fool. My way of thinking is the result of my reflections. It is part of my inner being, the way I am made. I do not contradict them, and would not even if I wished to. For my system, which you disapprove of, is also my greatest comfort in life, the source of all my happiness—it means more to me than my life itself.

--Marquis de Sade

An idea isn't worth much until a man is found who has the energy and ability to make it work.

--William Feather

Most men seem to live according to sense rather than reason.

--Saint Thomas Aquinas

Philosophy doesn't merely tell us about the subjective, leaving the objective world to science....The finest scientific thinking will always be driven and informed by the philosophical spirit. The grand forward push of human knowledge requires each of us to begin by trying to think independently, to recognize that knowledge is more than information, to see that we are moral beings who must closely interrogate both ourselves and the world we inhabit—to live, as Socrates recommended, an examined life.

--Clancy Martin

Superstition is the poison of the mind.

--Joseph Lewis

Thought takes man out of servitude, into freedom.

--Henry Wadsworth
Longfellow

Nothing in all the world is more dangerous than sincere ignorance and conscientious stupidity.

--Martin Luther King, Jr.

The direction of a man's thought is always the decisive factor in his personality. His whole outer life will be determined by the inward inclination of his mind.

--Erich Sauer

A fat paunch never breeds fine thoughts.

--Saint Jerome

Sometimes the mind, for reasons we don't necessarily understand, just decides to go to the store for a quart of milk.

--Andrew Schneider

Those who dream by day are cognizant of many things that escape those who dream only at night.

--Edgar Allan Poe

A thought which does not result in an action is nothing much, and an action which does not proceed from a thought is nothing at all.

--Georges Bernanos

Nothing can contribute more to peace of soul than the lack of any opinion whatever.

--Georg C. Lichtenberg

To find yourself, think for yourself.

--Socrates

The mind ought sometimes to be diverted, that it may return the better to thinking.

--Phaedrus

Imagination is but another name for super intelligence.

--Edgar Rice Burroughs

Man cannot produce a single work without the assistance of the slow, assiduous, corrosive worm of thought.

--Eugenio Montale

Dive into the sea of thought, and find there pearls beyond price.

--Moses Ibn Ezra

If you wish to know the mind of a man, listen to his words.

--Johann Wolfgang von
Goethe

Your mind will answer most questions if you learn to relax and wait for the answer.

--William S. Burroughs

Few men during their lifetime come anywhere near exhausting the resources dwelling within them. There are deep wells of strength that are never used.
--Richard Evelyn Byrd

The only successful substitute for brains is silence.
--Unknown

Thinking clearly and effectively is the greatest asset of any human being.
--Harry Lorayne

A multitude of words is no proof of a prudent mind.
--Thales

The brain's calculations do not require our conscious effort, only our attention and our openness to let the information through. Although the brain absorbs universes of information, little is admitted into normal consciousness.
--Marilyn Ferguson

The mind is the limit. As long as the mind can envision the fact that you can do something, you can do it, as long as you really believe 100 percent.
--David Hockney

Dogmatism does not mean the absence of thought, but the end of thought.
--Gilbert Keith
Chesterton

Every man is free to rise as far as he's able or willing, but the degree to which he thinks determines the degree to which he'll rise.
--Ayn Rand

If we keep an open mind, too much is likely to fall into it.
--Natalie Clifford Barney

Having a high IQ is not equivalent to being highly creative....Above a certain level, intelligence doesn't have much effect on creativity: most creative people are pretty smart, but they don't have to be *that* smart, at least as measured by conventional intelligence tests. An IQ of 120, indicating that someone is very smart but not exceptionally so, is generally considered sufficient for creative genius.
--Nancy Andreasen

Creative people are better at recognizing relationships, making associations and connections, and seeing things in a original way—seeing things that others cannot see.

--Nancy Andreasen

Having too many ideas can be dangerous. Part of what comes with seeing connections no one else sees is that not all of these connections actually exist.

--Nancy Andreasen

The funny thing about [one's own] talent is that you are blind to it. You just can't see what it is when you have it...When you have talent and see things in a particular way, you are amazed that other people can't see it.

--Unknown Artist

There is no greater joy that I have in my life than having an idea that's a good idea. At that moment it pops into my head, it is so deeply satisfying and rewarding...My nucleus accumbens is probably going nuts when it happens.

--Unknown Scientist

When eureka moments occur, they tend to be precipitated by long periods of preparation and incubation, and to strike when the mind is relaxed—during that state we called REST. 'A lot of it happens when you are doing one thing and you're not thinking about what your mind is doing.' One of the artists in my study told me. 'I'm either watching television, I'm reading a book, and I make a connection...It may have nothing to do with what I am doing, but somehow or other you see something or hear something or do something, and it pops that connection together.

--Nancy Andreasen

It is during this nap that I get a lot of my work done. I find that when the ideas come to me, they come as I'm falling asleep, they come as I'm waking up, they come if I'm sitting in the tub. I don't normally take baths...but sometimes I'll just go in there and have a think.

--Unknown

Many creative people are autodidacts. They like to teach themselves, rather than be spoon-fed information or knowledge in standard education settings.

--Nancy Andreasen

Nurture your mind with great thoughts, for you will never go any higher than you think.

—Benjamin Disraeli

A good question is never answered. It is not a bolt to be tightened into place but a seed to be planted and to bear more seed toward the hope of greening the landscape of idea.

--John Ciardi

Many creative people are polymaths, as historic geniuses including Michelangelo and Leonardo da Vinci were....The arts and sciences are seen as separate tracks, and students are encouraged to specialize in one or the other. If we wish to nurture creative students, this may be a serious error.

--Nancy Andreasen

In the R&D business, we kind of lump people into two categories: inventors and engineers. The inventor is the kite kind of person. They have a zillion ideas and they come up with great first prototypes. But generally an inventor...is not a tidy person. He sees the big picture and...[is] constantly lashing something together that doesn't really work. And then the engineers are the strings, the craftsmen [who pick out a good idea] and make it really practical. So, one is about a good idea, the other is about...making it practical.

--Unknown Scientist

The grinding of the intellect is for most people as painful as a dentist's drill.

--Leonard Woolf

A man who does not think for himself does not think at all.

—Oscar Wilde

I love all men who think, even those who think otherwise than myself.

—Victor Hugo

All my life I have tried to pluck a thistle and plant a flower wherever the flower would grow in thought and mind.

—Abraham Lincoln

Some minds remain open long enough for the truth not only to enter but to pass on through by way of a ready exit without pausing anywhere along the route.

—Elizabeth Kenny

Merely having an open mind is nothing. The object of opening the mind, as of opening the mouth, is to shut it again on something solid.

—Gilbert Keith
Chesterton

The mind is a strange machine which can combine the materials offered to it in the most astonishing ways.

—Bertrand Russell

We are shaped by our thoughts; we become what we think. When the mind is pure, joy follows like a shadow that never leaves.

—Gautama Buddha

The popular idea that a child forgets easily is not an accurate one. Many people go right through life in the grip of an idea which has been impressed on them in very tender years.

—Agatha Christie

For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord, for as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

—*Isaiah 55:8-9*

Be a Columbus to whole new continents and worlds within you, opening new channels, not of trade, but of thought.

—Henry David Thoreau

Thought is subversive and revolutionary, destructive and terrible, Thought is merciless to privilege, established institutions, and comfortable habit. Thought is great and swift and free.

—Bertrand Russell

No mind is thoroughly well organized that is deficient in a sense of humor.

—Samuel Taylor
Coleridge

I very rarely think in words at all. A thought comes, and I may try to express it in words afterwards.

—Albert Einstein

Wise thinkers prevail everywhere.

—Sophocles

Ideas are funny little things. They won't work unless you do.

—*Farmers' Almanac*

One thing above all gives charm to men's thoughts, and this is unrest. A mind that is not uneasy irritates and bores me.

—Anatole France

You must first clearly see a thing in your mind before you can do it.

—Alex Morrison

The human brain is amazing. It functions 24/7 from when we were born & only stops when you take a test or talk to someone attractive.

—Unknown

Bad mind, bad heart.

—Anacharsis Cloots

I have never found a companion that was so companionable as solitude. We are for the most part more lonely when we go abroad among men than when we stay in our chambers. A man thinking or working is always alone, let him be where he will.

—Henry David Thoreau

Education's purpose is to replace an empty mind with an open one.

--Malcolm Forbes

An educated mind is, as it were, composed of all the minds of preceding ages.

--Bernard de Fontenelle

Vacant minds must have their uses, yet it seems a pity to waste first-class bodies on them.

—Unknown

Successful innovators recognize that discovery of great ideas come from looking at the same thing as everyone else and observing something different.

—Reed Markham

I try to feed my brain so it doesn't get stuck in sludge. I spontaneously take classes and go to lectures that come up. I rationalize my endless hours of Scrabble and Boggle online as brain aerobics, as pumping blood to my head.

—Candice Bergen

If they don't think, people act senselessly.

—Andrei Platonov

He that cannot reason is a fool. He that will not is a bigot. He that dare not is a slave.

—Andrew Carnegie

We do not keep the outward form of order, where there is deep disorder in the mind.

—William Shakespeare

Reason can never be popular. Passions and feelings may become popular, but reason will always remain the sole property of a few eminent individuals.

—Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

We are not put into this world to sit still and know; we are put into it to act. It is true that in order to learn men must for a little while withdraw from action, must seek some quiet place of remove from the bustle of affairs, where their thoughts may run clear and tranquil, and the heats of business be for the time put off; but that cloistered refuge is no place to dream in.

—Woodrow Wilson

One cool judgment is worth a thousand hasty counsels. The thing to do is to supply light and not heat.

—Woodrow Wilson

An American will tinker with anything he can put his hands on. But how rarely can he be persuaded to tinker with an abstract idea.

—Leland Stowe

I can well conceive a man without hands, feet, head. But I cannot conceive man without thought; he would be a stone or a brute.

—Blaise Pascal

As a single footstep will not make a path on the earth, so a single thought will not make a pathway in the mind. To make a deep physical path, we walk again and again. To make a deep mental path, we must think over and over the kind of thoughts we wish to dominate our lives.

—Henry David Thoreau

It terrified me to have an idea that was solely mine to be no longer a part of my mind, but totally public.

—Maya Lin

Most everything in my brain, someone else helped put there.

—Unknown

A family is a place where minds come in contact with one another. If these minds love one another the home will be as beautiful as a flower garden. But if these minds get out of harmony with one another it is like a storm that plays havoc with the garden.

—Buddha

What is the mind like? Is it like a computer? Is it like a ship, where there's the captain's quarters and the machine room? Is it like a theater, where there's a backstage and an onstage and an audience?

—Pete Docter

An idea not coupled with action will never get any bigger than the brain cell it occupied.

—Arnold H. Glasow

I'm a rude guest, I'm rude to friends, I drift off a lot, I just ignore people because all of a sudden I get caught up in an idea. My friends are used to it—*Oh, Harlan's going off to la-la land.*

—Harlan Coben

A sword, a spade, and a thought should never be allowed to rust.

—James Stephens

Walking is also an ambulation of mind.

—Gretel Ehrlich

To die for an idea is to place a pretty high price upon conjectures.

—Anatole France

Many people would sooner die than think. In fact they do.

—Bertrand Russell

People's minds are changed through observation and not through argument.

—Will Rogers

Thought = creation. If these thoughts are attached to powerful emotions (good or bad) that speeds the creation

—Rhonda Byrne

I never came upon any of my discoveries through the process of rational thinking.
—Albert Einstein

The mind of the Renaissance was not a pilgrim mind, but a sedentary city mind,
like that of the ancients.
—George Santayana

Rarely do we find men who willingly engage in hard, solid thinking. There is an al-
most universal quest for easy answers and half-baked solutions. Nothing pains
some people more than having to think.

—Martin Luther
King, Jr.

The greatest thing a human being ever does in this world is to see something. To
see clearly is poetry, prophecy, and religion; all in one.
—John Ruskin

It is good to rub and polish our brain against that of others.
—Michel de Montaigne

I may be obsessed, or suffering from anthropocentric illusions; but I cannot escape
the feeling that the human mind and human curiosity are significant in this world
—even perhaps in the cosmos of geological time and intergalactic space. With this
impression (or illusion) that the mind is the best of us, and the best of biological evo-
lution, I cannot escape (and neither can you!) the feeling of responsibility to glorify
the human mind, and to take it seriously, even dream about its ultimate flowering
into something far beyond the primitive muscle-guider and sensation-recorder with
which we started.

—Harlow Shapley

Few of us take the pains to study the origin of our cherished convictions; indeed, we
have a natural repugnance to so doing. We do not think enough about thinking, and
much of our confusion is the result of current illusions in regard to it.

—James Harvey
Robinson

The failure of modern civilization is partly due to defective logic.
—M. K. Bradby

A thinking man is the worst enemy the Prince of Darkness can have.

—Thomas Carlyle

In every case of reflective activity, a person finds himself confronted with a given present situation from which he has to arrive at, or conclude to, something else that is not present. This process of arriving at an idea of what is absent on the basis of what is at hand is *inference*.

—John Dewey

All but the most thoughtless and impulsive will, in short, use their minds before giving credence to others' reports and try to collect evidence before trusting their own surmises. The world is too full of error and falsehood to make any other course mentally or physically safe.

—Jacques Barzun and
Henry F. Graff

The aim of education is precisely to develop intelligence of this independent and effective type—a *disciplined mind*.

—John Dewey

We state emphatically that, upon its intellectual side, education consists in the formation of wide-awake, careful, thorough habits of thinking.

—John Dewey

To the psychologist the mind of the child still gives an impression of appalling chaos.

—Édouard Claparede

Our present-day knowledge of the child's mind is comparable to the fifteenth-century map of the world—a mixture of truth and error.

—Arnold Gesell

I have defined teaching as the nurturing of the power of thought, and thought as the process of creating form. And form is the product of the mind's search for relationships. When the mind perceives, it invariably perceives a relationship; even when two ideas seem to be quite opposite, as in 'the quick and the dead,' the mind invents a relationship. Nobody can perceive and form ideas and concepts for anyone else, which is what Carl Rogers meant when he said that nobody can teach anybody else.

—W. R. Wees

It seems axiomatic to say that the most intense thinking occurs when you want to fit some ideas together and you can't. Then when someone comes along and tells you how to put the things together, what the relationships are, you stop thinking about it and go on to the next problem. And if someone keeps on telling you answers, you just stop listening to what he is saying and start thinking about something that you *can* think about. Many youngsters find this sort of thing happening to them in school much of the time and some of them all of the time.

—W. R. Wees

A fool can look at the universe and see nothing, but the right man can look at a pinpoint, at a moth, at a cell and guess out the universe. That is the measure of the perceiving mind.

—John Ciardi

It's best that we should not all think alike. It's difference of opinion that makes horse races.

—Mark Twain

Active, persistent, and careful consideration of any belief or supposed form of knowledge in light of the grounds which support it, and the further conclusions to which it tends, constitutes reflective thought.

—John Dewey

All thinking begins with wonder.

—Socrates

Belief is thought at rest.

—Larry Harvey

Memory is the thing you forget with.

—Alexander Chase

If our tools for thinking are ideas and phrases devised by other people—as, in an age of social media and ambient television, they increasingly are—then we may face a struggle to know whether our minds are really our own.

—Caleb Crain

I think there is only one quality worse than hardness of heart and that is softness of head.

—Theodore Roosevelt

We often refuse to accept an idea merely because the tone of voice in which it has been expressed is unsympathetic to us.

—Friedrich Nietzsche

Fantasy is the ability to think in pictures.

—Mari

The mind has greater power over the emotions, and is less subject thereto, insofar as it understands all things to be necessary.

—Baruch Spinoza

Stop thinking, and end your problems.

—Lao Tzu

What you think means more than anything else in your life. More than what you earn, more than where you live, more than your social position, and more than what anyone else may think about you.

—George Matthew
Adams

A child who reads will be an adult who thinks.

—Unknown

The monotony and solitude of a quiet life stimulates the creative mind.

—Albert Einstein

The pure natural scientist is liable to forget that minds exist, and that if it were not for them he could neither know nor act on physical objects.

—Charles D. Broad

Common sense is a flower that doesn't grow in everyone's garden.

—Unknown

You have power over your mind - not outside events. Realize this, and you will find strength.

—Marcus Aurelius

Of all the ways of defining man, the worst is the one which makes him out to be a rational animal.

—Anatole France

Your mind is a garden, your thoughts are the seeds.
You can grow flowers, or you can grow weeds.

—Unknown

A powerful idea communicates some of its strength to him who challenges it.

—Marcel Proust

Was it only by dreaming or writing that I could find out what I thought?

—Joan Didion

Through space the universe encompasses and swallows me up like an atom; through thought I comprehend the world.

—Blaise Pascal

Seeds of great discoveries are constantly floating around us, but they only take root in minds well prepared to receive them.

—Joseph Henry

O for a life of Sensations rather than of Thoughts.

—John Keats

A 'new thinker,' when studied closely, is merely a man who does not know what other people have thought.

—Frank Moore Colby

I've reached an age where my train of thought often leaves the station without me.

—[facebook.com/aunty-acid](https://www.facebook.com/aunty-acid)

Creative thinking should be viewed as an essential supplement to, though not a replacement for, critical thinking.

— Lloyd P. Provost &
R. M. Sprout

A public-opinion poll is no substitute for thought.

—Warren Buffett

When every physical and mental resources is focused, one's power to solve a problem multiplies tremendously.

—Norman Vincent Peale

It'd be nice to believe that somewhere in the holocaust of memory will be the ashes of those moments so vivid and pungent that they continue to have the power to thrill us or turn our stomachs, ashes that seem not past but present: the nap of the living room rug in your childhood home, your mother's voice calling you to get up, the hideous faux pas you committed in 10th grade, the smell of your first girlfriend's perfume, that night you thought you might never stop laughing. *Where you when Kennedy was shot?* Oddly, our most iconic and enduring collective memories, in this country at least, are of collapse, explosion, trauma: colossal buildings dropping into billowing clouds of their own debris, as majestic as *Saturn V* liftoffs in reverse; booster rockets corkscrewing into a deep blue sky in the blind trajectories of madness; the universe of a human brain blasted into mist.

—Tim Kreider

Hey Men...If you want to know what a woman's mind feels like, imagine a browser with 2,500 tabs open all the freakin' time.

—Ged Backland

Those who corrupt the public mind are just as evil as those who steal from the public.

—Theodor Wieselgrund
Adorno

Aristotle taught that the brain exists merely to cool the blood and is not involved in the process of thinking. This is true only of certain persons.

—Will Cuppy

I have a prodigious quantity of mind; it takes me as much as a week sometimes to make it up.

—Mark Twain

Men will not believe because they will not broaden their minds

—C. Chesterfield

I do not understand the capricious lewdness of the sleeping mind.

—John Cheever

Where does the violet tint end and the orange tint begins? Distinctly we see the difference of the colors, but where exactly does the one first blending enter into the other. So with sanity and insanity.

—Herman Melville

Memory is a net: one that finds it full of fish when he takes it from the brook, but a dozen miles of water have run through it without sticking.

—Oliver Wendell Holmes

Minds are like flowers. If you let it sit there without soaking anything up, it will dry up.

—Ken Hill

A life of pleasure makes even the strongest mind frivolous at last.

—Edward Bulwer-Lytton

It is better to think too much, than to think too little

—Eric Koprass

A man may dwell so long upon a thought that it may take him prisoner.

—George Savile

Offensiveness is a necessary consequence of opinions strongly held and openly expressed, and free societies should treasure and protect it. An idea that offends no one is not worth entertaining.

—Unknown

It is better to have a fair intellect that is well used than a powerful one that is idle.

—Bryant H. McGill

Ideas are easy. It's the execution of ideas that really separates the sheep from the goats.

—Sue Grafton

Great men are they who see that spiritual is stronger than any material force, that thoughts rule the world.

—Ralph Waldo Emerson

Kant holds that the mind possesses mental 'categories.' These categories organize our perceptions into the orderly world we experience. The world as we experience it results in part from the sensations provided by our senses, and in part from the workings of the mind. The senses provide the content or stuff of experience; the mind provides its form or orderly structure.

—Marcel Duchamp

If a man will begin with certainties, he shall end in doubts. But if he will be content to begin with doubts, he shall end in certainties.

—Francis Bacon

Brain researchers estimate that your unconscious database outweighs the conscious on an order exceeding ten million to one. This database is the source of your hidden, natural genius. In other words, a part of you is much smarter than you are. The wise people regularly consult that smarter part.

—Michael J. Gelb

Nature has placed mankind under the governance of two sovereign masters, *pain* and *pleasure*. They govern us in all we do, in all we say, in all we think.

—Jeremy Bentham

An intellectual is a person who's found one thing that's more interesting than sex.

—Aldous Huxley

Ideas are more powerful than guns. We would not let our enemies have guns, so why would we let them have ideas?

—Joseph Stalin

But words are things; and a small drop of ink,
Falling, like dew, upon a thought, produces
That which makes thousands, perhaps millions, think.

—Lord Byron

Psychologists often assume that there is a special cognitive ability—a psychological secret sauce—that makes humans different from other animals. The list of candidates is long: tool use, cultural transmission, the ability to imagine the future or to understand other minds, and so on. But every one of these abilities shows up in at least some other species in at least some form. [Frans] De Waal points out various examples, and there are many more. New Caledonian crows make elaborate tools, shaping branches into pointed, barbed termite-extraction devices. A few Japanese macaques learned to wash sweet potatoes and even to dip them in the sea to make them more salty, and passed that technique on to subsequent generations. Western scrub jays 'cache'—they hide food for later use—and studies have shown that they anticipate what they will need in the future, rather than acting on what they need now.

—Alison Gopnik

Genius is the ability to put into effect what is on your mind.

—F. Scott Fitzgerald

Never, never rest contented with any circle of ideas, but always be certain that a wider one is still possible.

—Pearl Bailey

Noise is the most impertinent of all forms of interruption. It is not only an interruption, but a disruption of thought. Of course, where there is nothing to interrupt, noise will not be so particularly painful.

—Schopenhauer

So long as a man likes the splashing of a fish, he is a poet; but when he knows that the splashing is nothing but the chase of the weak by the strong, he is a thinker; but when he does not understand what sense there is in the chase, or what use the equilibrium which results from destruction, he is becoming silly and dull, as he was when he was a child.

—Anton Chekov

All beauty comes from beautiful blood and a beautiful brain.

—Walt Whitman

There are people who appear to think only with the brain, or with whatever may be the specific thinking organ; while others think with all the body and all the soul, with the blood, with the marrow of the bones, with the heart, with the belly, with the lungs, with the life.

—Miguel de Unamuno

Each of us has within us an intricate stress-response network that links together the brain, the immune system, and the endocrine system (the glands that produce and release stress hormones). In childhood, and especially in early childhood, this network is highly sensitive to environmental cues; it is constantly looking for signals from a child's surroundings that might tell it what to expect in the days and years ahead. When those signals suggest that life is going to be hard, the network reacts by preparing for trouble: raising blood pressure, increasing the production of adrenaline, heightening vigilance. Neuroscientists have shown that children living in poverty experience more toxic stress than middle-class children, and that additional stress expresses itself in higher blood pressure and higher levels of certain stress hormones.

—Paul Tough

On a cognitive level, chronically elevated stress can disrupt the development of what are known as executive functions: higher-order mental abilities that some researchers compare to a team of air-traffic controllers overseeing the workings of the brain. Executive functions, which include working memory, attentional control, and cognitive flexibility, are exceptionally helpful in navigating unfamiliar situations and processing new information, which is exactly what we ask children to do at school every day. When a child's executive functions *aren't* fully developed, school days, with their complicated directions and constant distractions, can become a never-ending exercise in frustration.

—Paul Tough

No one can be as intellectually slothful as a really smart person; give smart people half a chance and they will ship their oars and drift.

—Stephen King

Research on the inner workings of the brain has helped to resolve the nature-nurture debate—and has dealt a further blow to the idea of free will. Brain scanners have enabled us to peer inside a living person's skull, revealing intricate networks of neurons and allowing scientist to reach broad agreement that these networks are shaped by both genes and environment. But there is also agreement in the scientific community that the firing of neurons determines not just some or most but *all* of our thoughts, hopes, memories, and dreams.

—Stephen Cave

There is no less wit nor invention in applying rightly a thought one finds in a book than in being the first author of that thought.

—Pierre Bayle

I always have a quotation for everything—it saves original thinking.

—Dorothy L. Sayers

I didn't think about whether I was writing poems. I was thinking. And the more I was thinking, the more there was I didn't understand.

—David Antin

Our heritage and ideals, our code and standards the things we live by and teach our children are preserved or diminished by how freely we exchange ideas and feelings.

—Walt Disney

Judge a man by his questions rather than by his answers.

—Voltaire

The great end of education is to discipline rather than to furnish the mind; to train it to the use of its own powers, rather than fill it with the accumulation of others.

—Tryon Edwards

Thoughts and ideas are the source of all wealth, success, material gain, all great discoveries, inventions and achievement.

—Mark Victor Hansen

Any man who afflicts the human race with ideas must be prepared to see them misunderstood.

—Henry Mencken

The shrewd guess, the fertile hypothesis, the courageous leap to a tentative conclusion these are the most valuable coin of the thinker at work. But in most schools guessing is heavily penalized and is associated somehow with laziness.

—Jerome S. Bruner

All learning begins when our comfortable ideas turn out to be inadequate.

—John Dewey

The purpose of learning is growth, and our minds, unlike our bodies, can continue growing as we continue to live.

—Morris Adler

A person who has good thoughts cannot ever be ugly. You can have a wonky nose and a crooked mouth and a double chin and stickout teeth, but if you have good thoughts they will shine out of your face like sunbeams and you will always look lovely.

—Roald Dahl

I see the mind of the five-year-old as a volcano with two vents: destructiveness and creativeness.

—Sylvia Ashton-Warner

Most thinkers write badly, because they communicate not only their thoughts, but also the thinking of them.

--Nietzsche

Incessant scribbling is death to thought.

--Thomas Carlyle

Writing well is the same thing as thinking well.

--Charles Johnson

Writing is the litmus paper of thought...the very center of schooling.

--Ted Sizer

Writing aids in cognitive development to such an extent that the upper reaches of Bloom's taxonomy could not be reached without the use of some form of writing.

--Bonnie Kuhrt
and Pamela
Farris

Put aside what you've been taught and ignore all filters. Only the crazy ideas are worth chasing.

--*On Twitter@RACINE*

I write to discover what I think. After all, the bars aren't open that early.

—Daniel J.
Boorstin

Clear writing leads to clear thinking; clear thinking is the basis of clear writing. Perhaps more than any other form of communication, writing holds us responsible for our words and ultimately makes us more thoughtful human beings.

—Ernest Boyer

Ideas are like rabbits. You get a couple and learn how to handle them, and pretty soon you have a dozen.

—John Steinbeck

To understand the true quality of people, you must look into their minds, and examine their pursuits and aversions.

—Marcus Aurelius
Antoninus

The freethinking of one age is the common sense of the next.

--Matthew Arnold

Less than 15 percent of the people do any original thinking on any subject...The greatest torture in the world for most people is to think.

--Luther Burbank

A quiet mind is essential to a rational approach to a problem. One cannot think effectively when the mind is in a tumult. The first principle of clear thinking is quiet thinking.

--Norman Vincent
Peale

The most powerful factors in the world are clear ideas in the minds of energetic men of good will.

--J. Arthur Thomson

If you realized how powerful your thoughts are, you would never think a negative thought.

—Peace Pilgrim

Train your mind to see something good in everything.

—Unknown

These words dropped into my childish mind as if you should accidentally drop a ring into a deep well. I did not think of them much at the time, but there came a day in my life when the ring was fished up out of the well, good as new.

—John Steinbeck

You must first clearly see a thing in your mind before you can do it.

—Alex Morrison

No problem can stand the assault of sustained thinking.

—Voltaire

To swear off making mistakes is very easy. All you have to do is swear off having ideas.

—Leo Burnett

Those who know how to think need no teachers.

—Mohandas Gandhi

Real wealth equals ideas plus energy.

—Buckminster Fuller

Few men think, yet all will have opinions.

—George Berkeley

Most of one's life ... is one prolonged effort to prevent oneself thinking.

—Aldous Huxley

The great thinkers are there not for us to respect unquestioningly, but rather for us to question respectfully.

—Thanh T. Nguyen

The more journalism I read and do, the more convinced I am not merely that ideas have consequences, but that only ideas have large and lasting consequences—behind every war there lurks an idea—and that books are still the primary carriers of ideas, including books of poetry and fiction. News gatherers, like news makers, might be agreeably humble by the definition of literature as news that makes news.

--George Will

Our greatest natural resource is the minds of our children.

—Walt Disney

A word is not a crystal, transparent and unchanged; it is the skin of a living thought and may vary greatly in color and content according to the circumstances and time in which it is used.

--Oliver Wendell
Holmes, Jr.

All words are pegs to hang ideas on.

--Henry Ward Beecher

Language is the dress of thought.

--Samuel Johnson

High thoughts must have high language.

—Aristophanes

Some people use language to express thought, some to conceal thought, and others instead of thought.

--E. C. McKenzie

One great use of words is to hide our thoughts.

—Voltaire

Words ought to be a little wild for they are the assault of thoughts on the unthinking.

--John Maynard Keynes

As language is the instrument of our thought, so a horse is the instrument of a soldier, and as the best horses are suited to the best soldiers, so the best language will, as has been said, be suited to the best thoughts.

—Dante

Beautiful words are, in a real and special sense, the light of thought.

—Longinus

Though we may never fully learn
to use them as we ought,
words are nets in which to catch
the falling stars of thought.

--John D. Engle

A definition is the enclosing a wilderness of idea within a wall of words.

--Samuel Butler

Profanity is a means of escape for the person who runs out of ideas.

—Unknown

The limits of my language are the limits of my mind. All I know is what I have words for.

--Ludwig Wittgenstein

Words are the small change of thought.

--Jules Renard

Language is to the mind more than light is to the eye.

--William Gibson

Language is only the instrument of science, and words are but the signs of ideas.

--Samuel Johnson

Language is the blood of the soul into which thoughts run and out of which they grow.

--Oliver Wendell Holmes

I never taught language for the purpose of teaching it; but invariably used language as a medium for the communication of thought; thus the learning of language was coincident with the acquisition of knowledge.

--Annie Sullivan

Words should be only the clothes, carefully custom-made to fit the thought.

--Jules Renard

People who cannot distinguish between good and bad language, or who regard the distinction as unimportant, are unlikely to think carefully about anything else.

--B. R. Meyers

Mechanical difficulties with language are the outcome of internal difficulties with thought.

—Elizabeth Bowen

Language is not only the vehicle of thought, it is a great and efficient instrument in thinking.

—Humphry Davy

The quality of our thoughts is bordered on all sides by our facility with language.

—J. Michael Straczynski

Men die but an idea does not.

—Alan Jay Lerner

You can lead a man to the university, but you can't make him think.

--Finley Peter Dunne

The greatest unexplored territory in the world is the space between the ears.

—Bill O'Brien

Intellectual activity anywhere is the same whether at the frontier of knowledge or in a third grade classroom.

—Jerome Bruner

College isn't the place to go for ideas.

--Helen Keller

Civilization doesn't really lean on inventions: The most necessary task of civilization is to teach man to think.

—Thomas Edison

When you work hard all day with your head and know you must work again the next day, what else can change your ideas and make them run on a different plane like whiskey?

—Ernest Hemingway

Fixed ideas are like a cramp in the foot - the best remedy against it is to tread on it.

—Søren Kierkegaard

There is no reasoning, no process of inference or comparison; there is no thinking about things, no putting two and two together; there are no ideas—the animal does not think of the box or of the food or of the act he is to perform.

—Edward Thorndike

Not to engage in the pursuit of ideas is to live like ants instead of like men.

—Mortimer Adler

Science is a way of thinking, a way of understanding the world. The term 'scientific method' has fallen into disfavor among educators, perhaps because it conjures up images of a white-coated man hunched over a Petri dish. It ought to be restored. The scientific method is the method of thought, of reasoning, which applies not only to explorations of the physical universe but to all the realms of intellectual inquiry that require hypothesis, inference, and other tools of brainwork. As Bertrand Russell has explained: 'A fact, in science, is not a mere fact, but an instance.'

—William J. Bennett

MacDonald has the gift of compressing the largest amount of words into the smallest amount of thoughts.

—Sir Winston Churchill

Man consists of two parts, his mind and his body, only the body has more fun.

—Woody Allen

The goal of education is to help people use their minds better.

—Howard Gardner

Never did I think so much, exist so much, be myself so much as in the journeys I have made alone and on foot. Walking has something about it which animates and enlivens my ideas. I can hardly think while I am still; my body must be in motion to move my mind.

—Jean-Jacques
Rousseau

We can never put ourselves in the shoes of children; we cannot fathom their thoughts, we lend them ours; and always following our own reasoning, we stuff their heads with extravagance and error.

—Jean-Jacques
Rousseau

One scarcely needs to emphasize the importance of critical thinking as a desirable ingredient in human beings in a democratic society. No matter what views people hold of the chief function of education, they at least agree that people need to learn to think. In a society in which changes come fast, individuals cannot depend on routinized behavior or tradition in making decisions, whether on practical everyday or professional matters, moral values, or political issues. In such a society, there is a natural concern that individuals be capable of intelligent and independent thought.

—Hilda Taba

Most people (by the time they have become adults) can't change their minds because their neural pathways have become set...the longer neural pathways have been running one way the harder it is to rewire them.

—Howard Gardner

Amongst the minds of animals that of man leads, not as a demigod from another planet, but as a king from the same race.

—Edward Thorndike

There is only one Education, and it has only one goal: the freedom of the mind. Anything that needs an adjective, be it civics education, or socialist education, or Christian education, or whatever-you-like education, is not education, and it has some different goal. The very existence of modified 'educations' is testimony to the fact that their proponents cannot bring about what they want in a mind that is free. An 'education' that cannot do its work in a free mind, and so must 'teach' by homily and precept in the service of these feelings and attitudes and beliefs rather than those, is pure and unmistakable tyranny.

—Richard Mitchell

I suppose it is because nearly all children go to school nowadays, and have things arranged for them, that they seem so forlornly unable to produce their own ideas.

—Agatha Christie

It has always seemed strange to me that in our endless discussions about education so little stress is laid on the pleasure of becoming an educated person, the enormous interest it adds to life. To be able to be caught up into the world of thought—that is to be educated.

—Edith Hamilton

Many highly intelligent people are poor thinkers. Many people of average intelligence are skilled thinkers. The power of the car is separate from the way the car is driven.

—Edward De Bono

A well-educated mind will always have more questions than answers.

—Helen Keller

Imagination... its limits are only those of the mind itself.

—Rod Serling

The more a man thinks, the better adapted he becomes to thinking, and education is nothing if it is not the methodical creation of the habit of thinking.

--Ernest Dimnet

An educated person is one who voluntarily does more thinking than is necessary for his own survival.

--Mildred H. McAfee

Two kinds of people:...those who think and those who don't; the difference comes almost entirely from education.

--Rousseau

The real process of education should be the process of learning to think through the application of real problems.

—John Dewey

Thinking precedes literacy and numeracy but nowhere in the curriculum is that recognized.

—John Mc Gavin

When we speak of mind, we speak of something that is not a thing in itself. In its most fundamental sense, mind is not something we can limit. We cannot say it has a particular shape, size or location, color or form, or any other limiting characteristic.

—Kalu Rinpoche

The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character - that is the goal of true education.

--Martin Luther King, Jr.

Greater financial and educational resources allow some parents to embed their children in neighborhoods and social settings in which they meet many college-educated adults with interesting careers. Upper-middle-class kids aren't just *told* a good education will help them succeed in life. They are surrounded by family and friends who work as doctors, lawyers, and engineers and who reminisce about their college years around the dinner table. Asian parents are an interesting exception: even when they are poor and unable to provide these types of social settings, they seem to be able to communicate the value and appeal of education in a similarly effective manner.

--Dana Goldstein

Results from the *Torrance Tests of Creative Thinking* in 2011 found that American children's scores have declined steadily across the past decade or more. The data show that children have become: less emotionally expressive, less energetic, less talkative and verbally expressive, less humorous, less imaginative, less unconventional, less lively and passionate, less perceptive, less apt to connect seemingly irrelevant things, less synthesizing, and less likely to see things from a different angle. The largest drop has been in the measure of 'elaboration,' or the ability to take an idea and expand on it in a novel way.

--Kyung-Hee Kim

Nothing in all the world is more dangerous than sincere ignorance and conscientious stupidity.

--Martin Luther King, Jr.

The educated do not share a common body of information, but a common state of mind.

—Mason Cooley

The aim of education is precisely to develop intelligence of this independent and effective type—a *disciplined mind*.

—John Dewey

We state emphatically that, upon its intellectual side, education consists in the formation of wide-awake, careful, thorough habits of thinking.

—John Dewey

The discipline of education is thus inquiry into the development of the power of thought and the study of ways of nurturing it.

—W. R. Wees

To improve the teaching of writing, particularly in the context of academic tasks, is also to improve the quality of thinking of school children.

—Judith A. Langer and
Arthur N.
Applebee

Libraries were full of ideas—perhaps the most dangerous and powerful of all weapons.

—Sarah J. Maas

Real intelligence is a creative use of knowledge, not merely an accumulation of facts. The slow thinker who can finally come up with an idea of his own is more important to the world than a walking encyclopedia, who hasn't learned how to use the information productively.

--D. Kenneth
Winebrenner

The mind of man is capable of anything—because everything is in it, all the past as well as the future.

—Joseph Conrad

A woman with a beautiful body is good for a night, but a woman with a beautiful mind is good for a lifetime.

—Unknown

They who have read about everything are thought to understand everything, too, but it is not always so; reading furnishes the mind only with materials of knowledge; it is thinking that makes what we read ours. We are of the ruminating kind, and it is not enough to cram ourselves with a great load of collections—we must chew them over again.

—John Locke

I keep very weird hours. I never know when I'm going to get an idea.

—Sergio Aragones

Men are apt to mistake the strength of their feeling for the strength of their argument. The heated mind resents the chill touch and relentless scrutiny of logic.

—William E Gladstone

The skill of writing is to create a context in which other people can think.

—Edwin Schlossberg

It is essential that men start being interested in and excited by how women think.

—Holly Near

You can do anything you think you can. This knowledge is literally the gift of the gods, for through it you can solve every human problem. It should make of you an incurable optimist. It is the open door.

—Robert Collier

What the country needs is dirtier fingernails and cleaner minds.

—Will Rogers

If you never change your mind, why have one?

—Edward De Bono

The truest greatness lies in being kind, the truest wisdom in a happy mind.

—Ella Wheeler Wilcox

The brain doesn't need to be motivated to learn any more than the heart needs to be motivated to pump blood.

—Leslie Hart

Prejudice is a great time saver. You can form opinions without having to get the facts.

—E. B. White

The glow of one warm thought is to me worth more than money.

—Thomas Jefferson

Sanity is a valuable possession; I hoard it the way people once hoarded money. I save it, so I will have enough, when the time comes.

—Margaret Atwood

We become what we think about.

—Earl Nightingale

Thinking is a complex process. To describe and assess it, therefore, is different from assessing information. A student may be able to demonstrate a bank of information about a given subject, but measuring how that student thinks about that information is another matter. The reasoning, problem-solving behavior a student does while thinking requires an environment in which he can consider a problem from more than one perspective and allow an idea to incubate, form, and take shape over time. The typical testing environment in which the student works within a limited time frame, pressured to find the ‘correct’ answer, does not support this.

Students must be motivated to think, but tests as they are usually designed don’t provide this. Tests provide examples that are removed from the student’s daily life; they are, at best, simulations of situations students may have encountered at one time. They typically do not ask the student to generate thinking, but, to react to the few choices presented by the test.

The best way to assess thinking is within the context of the ongoing classroom, over time, in which the student demonstrates the ability to incubate, originate, reflect upon, and reason about ideas in a given subject area. We need to allow the student to think in the same way it takes place—over time—not during a rushed testing period. The best measures for thinking processes are learning logs and journals, in which students reflect on their work over time, close observation of students in discussions, and narrative test questions.

—Bena Kallick

The overuse and misuse of standardized tests in schools tends to diminish education in general, and the teaching of good writing skills in particular, increasing numbers of educators as well as test publishers, are beginning to see this. However, legislators and some test coordinators need to understand the long-term ramifications of overusing standardized testing of students.

When standardized tests, particularly criterion-referenced ones, are used selectively and sparingly in conjunction with essay tests, they can be useful tools in assisting the education of students and determining areas of instruction that need more emphasis.

I know of no current testing program that does an adequate job of measuring thinking skills. Progress in this direction can only be made when talented practitioners define the elusive concept of thinking skills and create instruments to measure them.

—William Corbett

Current testing programs do not do an adequate job of assessing student thinking. Thinking is a process that is not very adaptable to the multiple-choice questions found on most standardized tests. The current testing programs best serve to provide information to those removed from the setting to which, learning occurs—to screen, sort, and categorize individuals or institutions.

There is very little progress being made to improve this. Some professional educators are trying to influence decisions already made about testing by business and politicians. However, they are doing this in an arena to which, rules and definitions have already been set. With the tendency for tests to heavily influence what is taught, there may be little attention given to textbooks and curriculums focusing on thinking skills if these skills are not tested by the program.

There is a core of dedicated researchers and educators, usually labeled ‘progressive,’ that has been critical of testing programs for some time. This group insists that the tests do not measure important areas of child growth, including thinking. They have suggested alternatives to standardized testing such as observation and documentation which can be fed back into the learning/thinking process. The group is not very powerful politically at this time. They are, however, helping shape the debate about the use and value of current testing programs.

—Kenneth Haskins

We find it hard to believe that other people’s thoughts are as silly as our own, but they probably are.

—James Harvey
Robinson

Solitude is the best nurse of wisdom.

—Laurence Sterne

Economists who have studied the relationship between education and economic growth confirm what common sense suggests: The number of college degrees is not nearly as important as how well students develop cognitive skills, such as critical thinking and problem-solving ability.

—Derek Bok

It’s important that what thoughts you are feeding into your mind because your thoughts create your belief and experiences. You have positive thoughts and you have negative ones too. Nurture your mind with positive thoughts: kindness, empathy, compassion, peace, love, joy, humility, generosity, etc. The more you feed your mind with positive thoughts, the more you can attract great things into your life.

—Roy T. Bennett

Students need to learn how to think critically, how to argue opposing ideas. It is important for them to learn how to think. You can always cook.

—Charlie Trotter

Open your mind before your mouth.

—Aristophanes

The biggest wall you have to climb is the one you build in your mind: Never let your mind talk you out of your dreams, trick you into giving up. Never let your mind become the greatest obstacle to success. To get your mind on the right track, the rest will follow.

—Roy T. Bennett

A student's greatest thinking will come from his or her ability to break away—not to conform.

—Unknown

Education is not to reform students or amuse them or to make them expert technicians. It is to unsettle their minds, widen their horizons, inflame their intellects, teach them to think straight, if possible.

—Robert M. Hutchins

This is at the heart of all good education, where the teacher asks students to think and engages them in encouraging dialogues, constantly checking for understanding and growth.

—William Glasser

Generally students are the best vehicles for passing on ideas, for their thoughts are plastic and can be molded and they can adjust the ideas of old men to the shape of reality as they find it in villages and hills of China or in ghettos and suburbs of America.

—Theodore White

Our students wanted to know everything: but only the newest theory seemed to them worth bothering with. Knowing nothing of the intellectual achievements of the past, they kept fresh and intact their enthusiasm for 'the latest thing.' Fashion dominated their interest: they valued ideas not for themselves but for the prestige that they could wring from them.

—Claude Lévi-Strauss

I have learned over the years that when one's mind is made up, this diminishes fear.

—Rosa Parks

The problem with most people is that they think with their hopes or fears or wishes rather than their minds.

—Walter Duranty

To be changed by ideas was pure pleasure. But to learn ideas that ran counter to values and beliefs learned at home was to place oneself at risk, to enter the danger zone. Home was the place where I was forced to conform to someone else's image of who and what I should be. School was the place where I could forget that self and, through ideas, reinvent myself.

—Bell Hooks

A true survivor is someone who, after 12+ years of being schooled, remains independent in their thinking.

—Mokokoma
Mokhonoana

Reading is merely a surrogate for thinking for yourself; it means letting someone else direct your thoughts. Many books, moreover, serve merely to show how many ways there are of being wrong, and how far astray you yourself would go if you followed their guidance. You should read only when your own thoughts dry up, which will of course happen frequently enough even to the best heads; but to banish your own thoughts so as to take up a book is a sin against the holy ghost; it is like deserting untrammelled nature to look at a herbarium or engravings of landscapes.

—Arthur Schopenhauer

I love to lose myself in other men's minds.... Books think for me.

—Charles Lamb

There's no better way to inform and expand your mind on a regular basis than to get into the habit of reading good literature.

—Stephen R. Covey

By reading the writings of the most interesting minds in history, we meditate with our own minds and theirs as well. This is to me is a miracle.

—Kurt Vonnegut

The real purpose of books is to trap the mind into doing its own thinking.

—Christopher Morley

Young minds—young brains—need stories and ideas like the ones in those [censored and banned] books in order to grow. They need ideas that you disagree with. They need ideas that I disagree with. Or they'll never be able to figure out what ideas they believe in.

—Lev Grossman

Tyrants have not yet discovered any chains that can fetter the mind.

—Charles Caleb Colton

It is the mind which creates the world around us, and even though we stand side by side in the same meadow, my eyes will never see what is beheld by yours, my heart will never stir to the emotions with which yours is touched.

—George Gissing

The smallest bookstore still contains more ideas of worth than have been presented in the entire history of television.

—Andrew Ross

A book is the only place in which you can examine a fragile thought without breaking it, or explore an explosive idea without fear it will go off in your face...It is one of the few havens remaining where a man's mind can get both provocation and privacy.

--Edward P. Morgan

A man is known by the company his mind keeps.

--Thomas Bailey Aldrich

Since we know that many books have in many different ways changed the thinking of the world, we can easily believe that many an individual can and does have his life changed directly through the experience of reading a book.

--K. A. Menninger

A book is a machine to think with.

--I. A. Richards

Books serve to show a man that those original thoughts of his aren't very new after all.

--Abraham Lincoln

Formal education applies its patterns to the mind; but only through books does the mind itself enrich, deepen, apply, modify, and develop those patterns in individual life fulfillment.

--Helen E. Haines

The best of a book is not the thought which it contains, but the thought which it suggests; just as the charm of music dwells not in the tones but in the echoes of our hearts.

--Oliver Wendell Holmes

Ideas, when vended in a book, carry with them a kind of dignity and certainty which awe many into implicit belief.

--Bronson Alcott

Ideas rule the world and books are the best carriers of ideas.

--George F. Will

Books are...funny little portable pieces of thought.

--Susan Sontag

Books, the children of the brain.

--Jonathan Swift

The publishing industry functions as gatekeepers of ideas insofar as they make decisions about what to 'let in' and what to 'keep out.'

--Lewis Coser, Charles
Kadushin and
Walter Powell

Books are weapons in the war of ideas.

--Motto of the *Council on
Books in Wartime*

Books are but waste paper unless we spend in action the wisdom we get from thought.

--Edward G.
Bulwer-Lytton

Life-transforming ideas have always come to me through books.

--Bell Hooks

A house is not a home unless it contains food and fire for the mind as well as the body.

--Margaret Fuller

It is no more necessary that a man should remember the different dinners and suppers which have made him healthy, than the different books which have made him wise. Let us see the result of good food in a strong body, and the result of great reading in a full and powerful mind.

--Sydney Smith

Of all the inanimate objects, of all men's creations, books are the nearest to us, for they contain our very thought, our ambitions, our indignations, our illusions, our fidelity to truth and our persistent leaning toward error.

--Joseph Conrad

The books that help you most are those which make you think the most. The hardest way of learning is that of easy reading; but a great book that comes from a great thinker is a ship of thought, deep freighted with truth and beauty.

—Pablo Neruda

A bookstore is one of the only pieces of evidence we have that people are still thinking.

--Jerry Seinfeld

The day Johannes Gutenberg finished his wooden printing press in 1440, Western civilization turned onto a path toward more efficient, accessible communication of knowledge. The ensuing democratization of ideas had a profound impact on societies in the second half of the second millennium.

--Christina H. Paxson

A book is simply the container of an idea—like a bottle; what is inside the book is what matters.

--Angela Carter

Books open your mind, broaden your mind, and strengthen you as nothing else can.

—William Feather

Books serve to show a man that those original thoughts of his aren't very new at all.

—Abraham Lincoln

If you are reading in order to become a better reader, you cannot read just any book or article. You will not improve as a reader if all you read are books that are well within your capacity. You must tackle books that are beyond you, or, as we have said, books that are over your head. Only books of that sort will make you stretch your mind. And unless you stretch, you will not learn.

—Mortimer J. Adler

Experience is the child of Thought, and Thought is the child of Action. We cannot learn men from books.

--Benjamin Disraeli

If you only read the books that everyone else is reading, you can only think what everyone else is thinking.

—Haruki Murakami

A mind needs books as a sword needs a whetstone, if it is to keep its edge.

—George R.R. Martin

When I am attacked by gloomy thoughts, nothing helps me so much as running to my books. They quickly absorb me and banish the clouds from my mind.

—Michel de Montaigne

When I am king they shall not have bread and shelter only, but also teachings out of books, for a full belly is little worth where the mind is starved.

—Mark Twain

One might call habit a moral friction: something that prevents the mind from gliding over things but connects it with them and makes it hard for it to free itself from them.

—Georg C. Lichtenberg

Garbo had something behind the eyes that you couldn't see until you photographed it in close-up. You could see thought. If she had to look at one person with jealousy, and another with love, she didn't have to change her expression. You could see it in her eyes as she looked from one to the other. And nobody else has been able to do that on the screen. Garbo did it without the command of the English language.

--Clarence Brown

By reading the writings of the most interesting minds in history, we meditate with our own minds and theirs as well. This is to me is a miracle.

—Kurt Vonnegut

Many books require no thought from those who read them, and for a very simple reason; they made no such demand upon those who wrote them.

—Charles Caleb Colton

A great memory does not make a mind, any more than a dictionary is a piece of literature.

—John Henry Newman

Two or three generations of literature may do more to change thought than two or three thousand years of traditional life.

--Sir James Frazer

Literature is the thought of thinking souls.

--Thomas Carlyle

Novels can pull off a trick that nonfiction cannot replicate; they allow us not only to consider an idea in elaborate detail, but to inhabit an idea, to follow it through to its most extreme conclusions. To live it.

--Nathaniel Rich

Men sometimes speak as if the study of the classics would at length make way for more modern and practical studies; but the adventurous student will always study classics, in whatever language they may be written and however ancient they may be. For what are the classics but the noblest recorded thoughts of man? They are the only oracles which are not decayed, and there are such answers to the most modern inquiry in them as Delphi and Dodona never gave. We might as well omit to study Nature because she is old. To read well, that is, to read true books in a true spirit, is a noble exercise, and one that will task the reader more than any exercise which the customs of the day esteem.

—Henry David Thoreau

The purpose of literature is to teach you how to THINK, not how to be practical. Learning to discover the connective tissue between seemingly unrelated events is the only way we are equipped to understand patterns in the real world.

—Catherine Lowell

Some people read because they are too lazy to think.

--G. C. Lichtenberg

Reading is sometimes an ingenious device for avoiding thought.

--Sir Arthur Helps

It is curious how tyrannical the habit of reading is, and what shifts we make to escape thinking. There is no bore we dread being left alone with so much as our own minds.

--James Russell Lowell

Reading for pleasure is an exercise which enables us to live with our whole bodies as well as our minds.

--Dayton Kohler

The book to read is not the one which thinks for you, but the one which makes you think.

--James McCosh

Let us read with method, and propose to ourselves an end to which our studies may point. The use of reading is to aid us in thinking.

--Edward Gibbon

They who have read about everything are thought to understand everything, too, but it is not always so; reading furnishes the mind only with materials of knowledge; it is thinking that makes what we read ours. We are of the ruminating kind, and it is not enough to cram ourselves with a great load of collections—we must chew them over again.

—John Locke

Do you want to get at new ideas? Read old books; do you want to find old ideas? Read new ones.

--Edward Bulwer-Lytton

Reading is sometimes an ingenious device for drugging thought.

--Sir Arthur Helps

Somebody who reads only newspapers and at best books of contemporary authors looks to me like an extremely near-sighted person who scorns eyeglasses. He is completely dependent on the prejudices and fashions of his times, since he never gets to see or hear anything else. And what a person thinks on his own without being stimulated by the thoughts and experience of other people is even in the best case rather paltry and monotonous.

--Albert Einstein

No two readers get exactly the same thoughts and feelings from something they read, because their past experiences have been different.

--Edward H. Jones, Jr.

As a rule reading fiction is as hard to me as trying to hit a target by hurling feathers at it. I need resistance, to cerebrate!

--William James

Reading furnishes the mind only with the materials of knowledge; it is thinking makes what we read ours.

--John Locke

Quiet people have the loudest minds.

--Stephen King

The kind of deep reading that a sequence of printed pages promotes is valuable not just for the knowledge we acquire from the author's words but for the intellectual vibrations those words set off within our own minds. In the quiet spaces opened up by the sustained, undistracted reading of a book, or by any other act of contemplation, for that matter, we make our own associations, draw our own inferences and analogies, foster our own ideas. Deep reading is indistinguishable from deep thinking.

--Nicholas Carr

A list of the vices of reading should put first, as worst and most disabling, the expectation that everything should be easily understood. Things worth thought and reflection cannot be taken in at a glance.

—I. A. Richards

Readers are plentiful: thinkers are rare.

—Anthony Burgess

A child who reads will be an adult who thinks.

—Unknown

Reading is equivalent to thinking with someone else's head instead of with one's own.

—Arthur Schopenhauer

Think before you speak. Read before you think.

—Fran Lebowitz

I used to take out seven books at a time from the library and sit in the kitchen, with my feet in the oven, eating cookies and reading trash. I think trash is a very important part of youth reading. It acts like mulch and helps fertilize the brain and allows creative ideas to germinate and grow.

--S. J. Perelman

Great thinkers are there not for us to respect unquestioningly, but rather for us to question respectfully.

—Thanh T. Nguyen

A poem...begins as a lump in the throat, a sense of wrong, a homesickness, a lovesickness....It finds the thought and the thought finds the words.

--Robert Frost

Poetry, therefore, we will call Musical Thought. The Poet is he who thinks in that Manner.

--Thomas Carlyle

Poetry is the record of the best and happiest moments of the happiest and best minds.

--Percy Bysshe Shelley

IMMORTALITY

Nothing dies;
it changes
form.

This poem
was once
a human
thought.

--Betty Lowry

It takes most men five years to recover from a college education, and to learn that poetry is as vital to thinking as knowledge.

--Brooks Atkinson

Poetry is the music of thought, conveyed to us in the music of language.

--Paul Chatfield

To know how to say what others only know how to think is what makes men poets.

--Elizabeth Charles

A library is thought in cold storage.

--Herbert Samuel

Consider what you have in the smallest chosen library. A company of the wisest and wittiest men that could be picked out of all civil countries, in a 1000 years, have set in best order the results of their learning and wisdom. The men themselves were hid and inaccessible, solitary, impatient of interruption, fenced by etiquette; but the thought which they did not uncover to their bosom friend is here written out in transparent words to us, the strangers of another age.

—Ralph Waldo
Emerson

The library is not a shrine for the worship of books. It is not a temple where literary incense must be burned or where one's devotion to the bound book is expressed in ritual. A library, to modify the famous metaphor of Socrates, should be the delivery room for the birth of ideas - a place where history comes to life.

—Norman Cousins

In some respects the life of a censor is more exhilarating than that of an emperor. The best the emperor can do is to snip off the heads of men and women, who are mere mortals. The censor can decapitate ideas which but for him might have lived forever.

--Heywood Broun

The problem of freedom in America is that of maintaining a competition of ideas, and you do not achieve that by silencing one brand of idea.

--Max Lerner

It is a common heresy and its graves are to be found all over the earth. It is the heresy that says you can kill an idea by killing a man, defeat a principle by defeating a person, bury truth by burying its vehicle.

--Adlai E. Stevenson

It is our attitude toward free thought and free expression that will determine our fate. There must be no limit on the range of temperate discussion, no limits on thought. No subject must be taboo. No censor must preside at our assemblies.

--William O. Douglas

Too often we... enjoy the comfort of opinion without the discomfort of thought.

—John F. Kennedy

The most immutable barrier in nature is between one man's thoughts and another's.

--William James

The less men think, the more they talk.

--Charles de Montesquieu

My observation is that, generally speaking, poverty of speech is the outward evidence of poverty of mind.

--Bruce Barton

For good or ill, your conversation is your advertisement. For every time you open your mouth you let men look into your mind.

--Bruce Barton

They think too little who talk too much.

—John Dryden

The most fruitful and natural exercise of our mind, in my opinion, is discussion. I find it sweeter than any other action of our life; and that is the reason why, if I were now forced to choose, I believe I would rather consent to lose my sight than my hearing or speech.

--Michel de Montaigne

Speaking without thinking is shooting without taking aim.

--Spanish Proverb

Stop talking so much. You never see a heavy thinker with his mouth open.

--George Washington
Carver

Where the speech is corrupted, the mind is also.

—Seneca

Remember, every time you open your mouth to talk, your mind walks out and parades up and down the words.

--Edwin H. Stuart

Like water which can clearly mirror the sky and the trees only so long as its surface is undisturbed, the mind can only reflect the true image of the Self when it is tranquil and wholly relaxed.

—Indra Devi

Where the mind is past hope, the heart is past shame.

—John Lyly

When we talk about understanding, surely it takes place only when the mind listens completely—the mind being your heart, your nerves, your ears—when you give your whole attention to it.

--J. Krishnamurti

People are rendered passive as truth is drowned in a sea of amusing irrelevance. People become entertained slaves of technologies that destroy their ability to think.

--Neil Postman

In an automobile civilization, which was one of constant motion and activity, there was almost no time to think; in a television one, there is small desire.

--Louis Kronenberger

In the long course of history, having people who understand your thought is much greater security than another submarine.

—J. William Fulbright

Television retards the development of the brain, blunts the senses and encourages mental laziness. It impairs children's sense of their own identity, their linguistic abilities and their attention span. Furthermore, because of their addiction to television, children are deprived of play and of the opportunity to participate in the interpersonal rituals of family life.

--Neil Postman

People want TV to be a visual Muzak, a mind deadener. More of the masses are in search of an opiate than in search of a stimulant.

--Dick Cavett

Commercial TV teaches people to scorn complexity and to feel, not think. It has come to present society as a pagan circus of freaks, pseudo heroes and wild morons. It helps immeasurably to worsen the defects of American public education and of tabloid news in print.

--Robert Hughes

Television rots the senses in the head!
It kills imagination dead!
It clogs and clutters up the mind!
It makes a child so dull and blind
He can no longer understand
A fantasy, a fairyland!
His brain becomes as soft as cheese!
His powers of thinking rust and freeze!
He cannot think—he only sees!

--Roald Dahl

What bothers me about TV is that it tends to take our minds off our minds.

--Robert Orben

Whoever controls the media, controls the mind.

--Jim Morrison

Every television program must be a complete package in itself. No previous knowledge is to be required. There must not be even a hint that learning is hierarchical, that it is an edifice constructed on a foundation. The learner must be allowed to enter at any point without prejudice. This is why you shall never hear or see a television program begin with the caution that if the viewer has not seen the previous programs, this one will be meaningless. Television is a nongraded curriculum and excludes no viewer for any reason, at any time. In other words, in doing away with the idea of sequence and continuity in education, television undermines the idea that sequence and continuity have anything to do with thought itself.

—Neil Postman

The flowering moments of the mind drop half their petals in our speech.

--Oliver Wendell Holmes

Rhetoric is the art of ruling the minds of men.

—Plato

Speech is the index of the mind.

—Seneca

Speech is a faculty given to man to conceal his thoughts.

—Talleyrand

The ability to charm, to amuse, to inform a crowd of ten thousand...with voice and gesture does not necessarily carry with it the ability to think sensibly.

--Laurence Peter

To speak without thinking is to shoot without first taking aim.

--Spanish Proverb

To be a good speaker in public, you must be a good thinker in private.

--Scott Berkun

A fool uttereth all his mind.

--*Proverbs* 29.11

Some experience of popular lecturing had convinced me that the necessity of making things plain to uninstructed people was one of the very best means of clearing up the obscure corners in one's own mind.

--T. H. Huxley

The man who can make others laugh obtains more votes for a bill than the man who forces them to think.

--Malcolm de Chazal

The capacity of the female mind for studies of the highest order cannot be doubted, having been sufficiently illustrated by its works of genius, of erudition, and of science.

—James Madison

However pernicious an opinion may seem, we depend for its correction not on the consciences of judges and juries but on the competition of other ideas.

--Justice Lewis F. Powell

Speech is the body part of thinking, the voice of the mind.

—Lenora Champagne

Will our brains start shrinking now that machines do our thinking?

—Unknown

A cheap but top-rate computer is the one between your ears.

—Unknown

It's really clear to me that you can't hang onto something longer than its time. Ideas lose certain freshness, ideas have a shelf life, and sometimes they have to be replaced by other ideas.

—Alan Alda

Common sense is not so common.

—Voltaire

A word processor is only a fancy combination of a pencil, an eraser, and a scissors with a pot of paste; it's the mind with its creativity that does the real work.

--Dan L. Miller

Information is a kind of commodity, a utilitarian resource that can be mined and processed with industrial efficiency. The more pieces of information we can access and the faster we can extract their gist, the more productive we become as thinkers.

--Nicholas Carr

Learning anything new past the age of 30 is an upward climb: Researchers have found that some of your cognitive abilities (in particular, processing speed) begin to decline in your 20s and 30s. In a cruel act of betrayal, the middle-aged brain even turns its singular advantage—our experience—against us. Through a phenomenon known as interference, the expertise we have accumulated can slow further learning. As Sherry L. Willis, a behavioral scientist at the University of Washington, puts it, 'Your store of knowledge—the number of file drawers you have to go through to retrieve and to get the relevant information and refile the information—increases with age.' This explains, for example, why switching from a PC to a Mac makes people homicidal: The fact that your brain and fingers remember the old key-command system makes mastering the new one more of a struggle.

—Barbara Bradley
Hagerty

Music is the effort we make to explain to ourselves how our brains work. We listen to Bach transfixed because this is listening to a human mind.

—Lewis Thomas

...comparing the capacity of computers to the capacity of the human brain, I've often wondered, where does our success come from? The answer is synthesis, the ability to combine creativity and calculation, art and science, into whole that is much greater than the sum of its parts.

—Garry Kasparov

Just because I don't do bad things doesn't mean I don't have bad thoughts.

—Kristin Kreuk

Music...is the best mind-trainer on the list.

--Charles W. Eliot

Music produces like effects on the mind as good medicine on the body.

--Mirandola

Music is to the mind as air to the body.

—Plato

It will be in and through music that human thought will be carried beyond the point it has hitherto reached.

--J. H. Shorthouse

Music is the art of thinking with sounds.

--Jules Combarieu

If I had my life to live over again, I would have made a rule to read some poetry and listen to some music at least once a week; for perhaps the parts of my brain now atrophied would have thus been kept active through use. The loss of these tastes is a loss of happiness, and may possibly be injurious to the intellect, and more probably to the moral character, by enfeebling the emotional part of our nature.

—Charles Darwin

The mathematician has reached the highest rung on the ladder of human thought.

--Havelock Ellis

There is no more a math mind, than there is a history or an English mind.

--Gloria Steinem

A room hung with pictures is a room hung with thoughts.

--Joshua Reynolds

Besides opening up a world of better-paying careers, doing math is excellent for building confidence and strengthening the mind. Math is a language, and we can talk about anything in the language of math; taxes, shoe sales and even the chemical formula in your favorite lip gloss.

--Danica McKellar

Mathematics for me touches on all the joys of the human mind. It has rules, patterns, and structure, yet leaves so much room for creativity and invention.

—Rebecca Goldin

A mathematician, like a poet or painter, is a maker of patterns. If his patterns are more permanent than theirs it is because they are made with ideas....A mathematician...has no material to work with but ideas, and so his patterns are likely to last longer.

--Godfrey Harold Hardy

Art is idea. It is not enough to draw, paint, and sculpt. An artist should be able to think.

--Gordon Woods

Painting is only a bridge linking the painter's mind with that of the viewer.

--Eugene Delacroix

The art of a people is a true mirror of their minds.

--Jawaharlal Nehru

Real art is illumination. It gives a man an idea he never had before or lights up ideas that were formless or only lurking in the shadows of his mind. It adds stature to life.

--Brooks Atkinson

Art is an idea. It is not enough to draw, paint, and sculpt. An artist should be able to think.

--Gurdon Woods

Anyone who says you can't see a thought simply doesn't know art.

--Wynetka Ann Reynolds

Ideas shape the course of history.

--John Maynard Keynes

Human history is, in essence, a history of ideas.

--H. G. Wells

The average man's judgment is so poor, he runs a risk every time he uses it.

—Edgar Watson Howe

Skeptical scrutiny is the means, in both science and religion, by which deep thoughts can be winnowed from deep nonsense.

--Carl Sagan

Discovery consists of seeing what everybody has seen and thinking what nobody has thought.

--Albert Szent-Gyorgyi

The human mind is not capable of grasping the Universe. We are like a little child entering a huge library. The walls are covered to the ceilings with books in many different tongues. The child knows that someone must have written these books. It does not know who or how. It does not understand the languages in which they are written. But the child notes a definite plan in the arrangement of the books—a mysterious order which it does not comprehend, but only dimly suspects.

--Albert Einstein

We do not ask for what useful purpose the birds do sing, for song is their pleasure since they were created for singing. Similarly, we ought not to ask why the human mind troubles to fathom the secrets of the heavens....The diversity of the phenomena of Nature is so great, and the treasures hidden in the heavens so rich, precisely in order that the human mind shall never be lacking in fresh nourishment.

--Johannes Kepler

Don't hold a meeting after lunch--full bellies hate thinking as well as acting.

--Benjamin Franklin

It is proof of a base and low mind for one to think with the masses or majority, merely because the majority is the majority. Truth does not change because it is, or is not, believed by a majority of people.

--Giordano Bruno

The first people totalitarians destroy or silence are men of ideas and free minds.

--Isaiah Berlin

I blame the women: they stay home all day, they set the tone. Many look back with regret to the days when they worked in an office. Their work kept them alert. Home and child-minding can have a blunting effect on a woman's mind. But only she can sharpen it.

--Betty Jerman

Now he disliked talking business with her as much as he had enjoyed it before they were married. Now he saw that she understood entirely too well and he felt the usual masculine indignation at the duplicity of women. Added to it was the usual masculine disillusionment in discovering that a woman has a brain.

--Margaret Mitchell

Women observe subconsciously a thousand little details, without knowing they are doing so. Their subconscious mind adds these little things together—and they call the result intuition.

--Agatha Christie

A woman's mind is cleaner than a man's; she changes it more often.

--Oliver Herford

To be black and female, in a society which is both racist and sexist, is to be in a unique position of having nowhere to go but up.

--Rosemary Brown

Women don't want to hear what you think. Women want to hear what they think—in a deeper voice.

--Bill Cosby

Guys are simple... women are not simple and they always assume that men must be just as complicated as they are, only way more mysterious. The whole point is guys are not thinking much. They are just what they appear to be. Tragically.

—Dave Barry

Now they've actually measured this. The University of Pennsylvania a couple of years ago did a study and discovered that men have the ability to think about absolutely nothing, and still breathe. Women can't do it. Their mind has never stopped. And they don't understand the 'nothing box', and it drives them CRAZY because nothing drives a woman more crazy and makes them feel more irritated than to watch a man doing nothing.

—*theChive*

Women are much more complicated than men. Men are very simple. And you know why? It's because their brains are so different. First, I want to start with men. Men's brains are very unique. Most women don't realize that whether we are having sex or watching sports, our brains are made up of little boxes. We've got a box for everything. We've got a box for the car. We've got a box for the money. We've got a box for the job. We've got a box for you. We've got a box for the kids. We've got a box for your mother somewhere in the basement.

We've got boxes everywhere. And the rule is the boxes don't touch. When a man discusses a particular subject, we go to that particular box, we pull that box out, we open the box, and we discuss only what is in THAT BOX. And then we close the box and put it away being very, very careful not to touch other boxes.

Now women's brains are very, very different from men's brains. Women's brains are made up of a big ball of wire. And everything is connected to everything. The money is connected to the car and the car is connected to your job and your kids are connected to your mother and everything is connected. It's like the internet superhighway, and it's all driven by energy that we call emotion. It's one of the reasons why women tend to remember...everything.

Because if you take an event and you connect it to an emotion and it burns in your memory and you can remember it forever. The same thing happens for men. It just doesn't happen very often, because quite frankly...we don't care. Women tend to care about everything. And she just loves it.

Now men, we have a box in our brain that most women are not aware of. This particular box has nothing in it. In fact, we call it the 'nothing box.' And of all the boxes a man has in his brain, the 'nothing box' is our favorite box. If a man has a chance, he'll go to his nothing box every time. That's why a man can do something seemingly completely brain dead for hours on end. You know, like fishing.

—Mark Gungor

I pray to God I get inside a girl's head one day and see what in the WORLD they are thinking.

--A. J. McLean

The Rubicons which women must cross, the sex barriers which they must breach, are ultimately those that exist in their own minds.

—Freda Adler

Sedentary people are apt to have sluggish minds. A sluggish mind is apt to be reflected in flabbiness of body and in a dullness of expression that invites no interest and gets none.

--Rose Fitzgerald
Kennedy

Mental toughness is to physical as four is to one.

—Bobby Knight

Isn't it strange that we talk least about the things we think about most?

—Charles Lindbergh

Games lubricate the body and the mind.

—Benjamin Franklin

What if the cure for cancer is trapped inside the mind of someone who can't afford an education?

—Unknown

A great many people mistake opinions for thought.

—Herbert V. Prochnow

It is pure illusion to think that an opinion which passes down from century to century, from generation to generation, may not be entirely false.

--Pierre Bayle

Many openly show discontentment with their looks, but few with their intelligence. I, however, assure you there are many more plain minds than faces.

—Bryant H. McGill

A good mind possesses a kingdom: a great fortune is a great slavery.

—Seneca

Wealth is the product of man's capacity to think.

--Ayn Rand

Economists are economical, among other things, of ideas. They make those they acquire as graduate students do for a lifetime.

--John Kenneth
Galbraith

Some of the greatest thinking has been done by those who cared little for riches—Pasteur, Edison, Jane Addams—and who shall say that theirs was not the richer life? Today, the world knows the poetry of Shakespeare, the music of Wagner, the art of Rembrandt; but who knows even the names of the money barons of their day—or cares to know? If you want your name to live after you, you'll not give all your thought to money. But, whether you want to make money, or write a book, or build a bridge, or run a streetcar—or do anything else successfully—you'll do well to remember that in all the world there is no word more important than—"Think!"

--Edwin Baird

Philosophy is the microscope of thought.

--Victor Hugo

He who influences the thought of his times, influences all the times that follow. He has made his impress on eternity.

--Hypatia

Dreaming is an act of pure imagination, attesting in all men a creative power, which if it were available in waking, would make every man a Dante or Shakespeare.

—Frederick Henry Hedge

Whenever I think of something but can't think of what it was I was thinking of, I can't stop thinking until I think I'm thinking of it again. I think I think too much.

—Criss Jami

The mind thinks thoughts that we don't plan. It's not as if we say, 'At 9:10 I'm going to be filled with self-hatred.'

—Sharon Salzberg

The world makes much less sense than you think. The coherence comes mostly from the way your mind works.

—Daniel Kahneman

We live in a world where it is completely the norm to worry about what we put in our bodies but worry very little about what we throw in our minds. We think a hamburger is bad but a celebrity gossip magazine is completely harmless. As children you never hear 'don't put that garbage in your mind,' but for our body counterpart it is common thread. There is something very wrong with this scenario.

—Evan Sutter

Being healthy is a way of life. It's not just about what you feed your body; it's about what you feed your mind and the social environment you keep. Make healthy food choices, exercise your body and brain, and choose your friends wisely.

—Steve Maraboli

A feeble body makes a feeble mind. I do not know what doctors cure us of, but I know this: they infect us with very deadly diseases, cowardice, timidity, credulity, the fear of death. What matter if they make the dead walk, we have no need of corpses; they fail to give us men, and it is men we need.

—Jean-Jacques Rousseau

The mind has great influence over the body, and maladies often have their origin there.

—Jean Baptiste Molière

The relationship between the soundness of the body and the activities of the mind is subtle and complex. Much is yet to be understood. But we know what the Greeks knew: That intelligence and skill can only function at the peak of their capacity when the body is healthy and strong; that hardy spirits and tough minds usually inhabit sound bodies.

--John F. Kennedy

How lucky for those in power that people don't think.

—Adolf Hitler

It is a predisposition of human nature to consider an unpleasant idea untrue, and then it is easy to find arguments against it.

—Sigmund Freud

Thinking is computation, I claim, but that does not mean that the computer is a good metaphor for the mind. The mind is a set of modules, but the modules are not encapsulated boxes or circumscribed swatches on the surface of the brain. The organization of our mental modules comes from our genetic program, but that does not mean that there is a gene for every trait or that learning is less important than we used to think. The mind is an adaptation designed by natural selection, but that does not mean that everything we think, feel, and do is biologically adaptive. We evolved from apes, but that does not mean we have the same minds as apes. And the ultimate goal of natural selection is to propagate genes, but that does not mean that the ultimate goal of people is to propagate genes.

—Steven Pinker

The man who does not know other languages, unless he is a man of genius, necessarily has deficiencies in his ideas.

—Victor Hugo

If the violin is the most perfect musical instrument, the Greek language is the violin of the human thought.

—Helen Keller

The mind is the root from which all things grow if you can understand the mind, everything else is included.

—Bodhidharma

Crime begins in the mind. A man has to think wrong before he acts wrong.

--William Cooke

Ideas came with explosive immediacy, like an instant birth. Human thought is like a monstrous pendulum; it keeps swinging from one extreme to the other.

—Eugene Field

Though the dungeon, the scourge, and the executioner be absent, the guilty mind can apply the goad and scorch with blows.

—Lucretius

Every man, at the bottom of his heart, wants to do right. But only he can do right who knows right; only he knows right who thinks right; only he thinks right who believes right.

—Tiorio

Right discipline consists, not in external compulsion, but in the habits of mind which lead spontaneously to desirable rather than undesirable activities.

—Bertrand Russell

To gain an understanding of the mind leads on to an appreciation of what it means to be human.

—Steven Mithen

To the intelligent man with an interest in human nature it must often appear strange that so much of the energy of the scientific world has been spent on the study of the body and so little on the study of the mind.

—Edward Thorndike

The mind is at every stage a theater of simultaneous possibilities. Consciousness consists in the comparison of these with each other, the selection of some, and the suppression of the rest by the reinforcing and inhibiting agency of attention. The highest and most elaborated mental products are filtered from the data chosen by the faculty next beneath, out of the mass offered by the faculty below that, which mass in turn was sifted from a still larger amount of yet simpler material, and so on. The mind, in short, works on the data it receives very much as a sculptor works on his block of stone. In a sense the statue stood there from eternity. But there were a thousand different ones beside it, and the sculptor alone is to thank for having extricated this one from the rest. Just so the world of each of us, how so ever different our several views of it may be, all lay embedded in the primordial chaos of sensations, which gave the mere matter to the thought of all of us indifferently. We may, if we like, by our reasonings unwind things back to that black and jointless continuity of space and moving clouds of swarming atoms which science calls the only real world. But all the while the world we feel and live in will be that which our ancestors and we, by slowly cumulative strokes of choice, have extricated out of this, like sculptors, by simply removing portions of the given stuff. Other sculptors, other statues from the same stone! Other minds, other worlds from the same monotonous and inexpressive chaos! Your world is but one in a million alike embedded, alike real to those who may abstract them. How different must be the worlds in the consciousness of ant, cuttlefish, or crab!

—William James

As a society, our understanding of teenagers has not caught up to the science. In the past 15 years, neuroscientists have discovered that a teenager's brain is different in important ways from an adult's brain. It is more receptive to rewards than to punishment, and the parts that control impulses and judgement are still under construction. Which means that back talk and fake burps are predictable teenage acts—to be corrected, not prosecuted.

—Amanda Ripley

The happiness of of your life depends upon the quality of your thoughts.

—Marcus Aurelius

Perception is a clash of mind and eye, the eye believing what it sees, the mind seeing what it believes.

—Robert Brault

Nothing is so dangerous to the progress of the human mind than to assume that our views of science are ultimate, that there are no mysteries in nature, that our triumphs are complete and that there are no new worlds to conquer.

—Humphry Davy

When the mind is thinking it is talking to itself.

—Plato

Much drinking, little thinking.

--Jonathan Swift

What's drinking?

A mere pause from thinking!

--Lord Byron

Drugs are a bet with your mind.

--Jim Morrison

When you're drinkin', you're not thinkin'.

--Unknown

If you're rational you don't get to believe whatever you want to believe.

—Michael Huemer

I treat my thoughts like an old person treats their valuables: I cannot for the life of me proceed to throwing them out.

—Criss Jami

Clear thinking requires courage rather than intelligence.

—Thomas Szasz

Don't worry about people stealing an idea. If it's original, you will have to ram it down their throats.

—Howard Aiken

How often—I continue reflecting – is it that we see what we want to see, rather than what is really before our eyes. In the trade we call this confirmation bias, and our brains are riddled with it. We take a position on something and thereafter only see whatever confirms that position, ignoring all evidence to the contrary.

—John Dolan

It is nonsense to say there is not enough time to be fully informed. Time given to thought is the greatest timesaver of all.

--Norman Cousins

Those that think must govern those that toil.

--Oliver Goldsmith

Who you affect is more powerful than who you are at any given moment. Nothing is as enduring as a great memory. In the end, its only intangible ideas, concepts, beliefs, and feelings that last. Stone cracks. Wood rots. Skin dies. But great thoughts, beautiful experiences, and inspiring legends... they live forever. If you can change the way people think and feel, the way they see themselves, and the way they interpret the world, it means you can change the way they live their lives, and how they affect others. That is, by far, the longest lasting thing you can create.

—John Geiger

What luck for rulers that men do not think.

--Adolf Hitler

Spending longer thinking about the problem before you dive in is likely to lead to higher levels of creativity in the final product.

—Jeremy Dean

It hinders the creative work of the mind if the intellect examines too closely the ideas as they pour in.

—Friedrich Schiller

Analysis kills spontaneity. The grain once ground into flour springs and germinates no more.

—Henri-Frederic Amiel

Why should I tolerate a perfect stranger at the bedside of my mind?

--Vladimir Nabokov

Man is a plant which bears thoughts, just as a rose-tree bears roses and an apple-tree bears apples.

—Antoine Fabre D'Olivet

In the crowd, herd, or gang, it is a mass-mind that operates—which is to say, a mind without subtlety, a mind without compassion, a mind, finally, uncivilized.

--Robert Lindner

Anxiety is a thin stream of fear trickling through the mind. If encouraged, it cuts a channel into which all other thoughts are drained.

--Arthur Somers Roche

Happiness, or misery, is in the mind. It is the mind that lives.

--William Cobbett

Anybody who is 25 or 30 years old has physical scars from all sorts of things, from tuberculosis to polio. It's the same with the mind.

--Moses R. Kaufman

Perhaps the greatest faculty our minds possess is the ability to cope with pain. Classic thinking teaches us of the four doors of the mind, which everyone moves through according to their need.

First is the door of sleep. Sleep offers us a retreat from the world and all its pain. Sleep marks passing time, giving us distance from the things that have hurt us. When a person is wounded they will often fall unconscious. Similarly, someone who hears traumatic news will often swoon or faint. This is the mind's way of protecting itself from pain by stepping through the first door.

Second is the door of forgetting. Some wounds are too deep to heal, or too deep to heal quickly. In addition, many memories are simply painful, and there is no healing to be done. The saying 'time heals all wounds' is false. Time heals most wounds. The rest are hidden behind this door.

Third is the door of madness. There are times when the mind is dealt such a blow it hides itself in insanity. While this may not seem beneficial, it is. There are times when reality is nothing but pain, and to escape that pain the mind must leave reality behind.

Last is the door of death. The final resort. Nothing can hurt us after we are dead, or so we have been told.

—Patrick Rothfuss

Sometimes people hold a core belief that is very strong. When they are presented with evidence that works against that belief, the new evidence cannot be accepted. It would create a feeling that is extremely uncomfortable, called cognitive dissonance. And because it is so important to protect the core belief, they will rationalize, ignore and even deny anything that doesn't fit in with the core belief.

—Frantz Fanon

The human mind is not a terribly logical or consistent place.

—Jim Butcher

The pendulum of the mind oscillates between sense and nonsense, not between right and wrong.

--Carl G. Jung

The conscious and intelligent manipulation of the organized habits and opinions of the masses is an important element in democratic society. Those who manipulate this unseen mechanism of society constitute an invisible government which is the true ruling power of our country. ...We are governed, our minds are molded, our tastes formed, our ideas suggested, largely by men we have never heard of. This is a logical result of the way in which our democratic society is organized. Vast numbers of human beings must cooperate in this manner if they are to live together as a smoothly functioning society. ...In almost every act of our daily lives, whether in the sphere of politics or business, in our social conduct or our ethical thinking, we are dominated by the relatively small number of persons...who understand the mental processes and social patterns of the masses. It is they who pull the wires which control the public mind.

—Edward L. Bernays

Most people throughout the world, not just in Newport Beach, care more about their faces, their boobs, their bellies, their butts, and their abs than they do their brains. But it is your brain that is the key to having the face, the breasts, the belly, the butt, the abs, and the overall health you have always wanted; and it is brain dysfunction, in large part, that ruins our bodies and causes premature aging.

—Daniel G. Amen

It is your brain that decides to get you out of bed in the morning to exercise, to give you a stronger, leaner body, or to cause you to hit the snooze button and procrastinate your workout. It is your brain that pushes you away from the table telling you that you have had enough, or that gives you permission to have the second bowl of Rocky Road ice cream, making you look and feel like a blob. It is your brain that manages the stress in your life and relaxes you so that you look vibrant, or, when left unchecked, sends stress signals to the rest of your body and wrinkles your skin. And it is your brain that turns away cigarettes, too much caffeine, and alcohol, helping you look and feel healthy, or that gives you permission to smoke, to have that third cup of coffee, or to drink that third glass of wine, thus making every system in your body look and feel older. Your brain is the command and control center of your body. If you want a better body, the first place to ALWAYS start is by having a better brain.

—Daniel G. Amen

Child psychologists have demonstrated that our minds are actually constructed by these thousands of tiny interactions during the first few years of life. We aren't just what we're taught. It's what we experience during those early years—a smile here, a jarring sound there—that creates the pathways and connections of the brain. We put our kids through fifteen years of quick-cut advertising, passive television watching, and sadistic video games, and we expect to see emerge a new generation of calm, compassionate, and engaged human beings?

—Sidney Poitier

What we believe is heavily influenced by what we think others believe.

—Thomas Gilovich

Exercise alone provides psychological and physical benefits. However, if you also adopt a strategy that engages your mind while you exercise, you can get a whole host of psychological benefits fairly quickly.

—James Rippe

We raise our children, especially girls, to ignore their spontaneous reactions—we teach them not to rock the societal boat...By the time she is thirty, the valiant little girl's 'Ick!'—her tendency to respond, to rock the boat, when someone's actions are really mean, may have been excised from her behavior, and perhaps from her very mind.

—Martha Stout

The female brain is engineered to avoid conflicts at all cost, whereas the male brain pleasures conflicts in the purpose of being the boss.

—Abhijit Naskar

The numbers are stark: One in four U.S. students will witness or experience a traumatic event before the age of 4, and more than two-thirds by age 16. These children do not—they cannot—simply close their eyes to what they've seen or experienced. With each forced eviction, each arrest of an adult in their home, each abuse to their own bodies, an instinctive trigger to 'fight or flee' is pulled over and again. Over time, a child's developing brain is changed by these repeated traumatic experiences. Areas that govern the retention of memory, the regulation of emotion, and the development of language skills are affected. The result is a brain that has structurally adapted for survival under the most stressful circumstances,—but not for success in school.

—Mary Ellen Flannery

Who can understand the covert world of the emotions, the secret life of the mind?

—Roberta Parry

So the paradox goes: No man who is really ignorant is ever aware that he is ignorant. That is its finest, most faulty manifestation; there can be no true ignorance without first some claim of intelligence or consciousness, or superiority or enlightenment.

—Criss Jami

Three things make up who we are as individuals: what we think, what we feel, and what we do. If we manage to change any one of these three aspects of ourselves, the other two will follow.

—Rick Cormier

Great spirits have always encountered opposition from mediocre minds. The mediocre mind is incapable of understanding the man who refuses to bow blindly to conventional prejudices and chooses instead to express his opinions courageously and honestly.

—Albert Einstein

Cognitive psychology tells us that the unaided human mind is vulnerable to many fallacies and illusions because of its reliance on its memory for vivid anecdotes rather than systematic statistics.

—Steven Pinker

When you're a kid, you don't think about big stuff that could change your life. You think about small things that might terrify you –like a bad report card or missing a goal in front of all your friends or your friends no longer wanting to play with you. Because that's the biggest stuff you know. The biggest disappointments are all tied to this small little universe of yours, because bigger things cannot fit into a small universe. If you wanted bigger things in there you needed to have more room –or make more room. Perhaps you thought about your parents or your pets dying, which was rare. But all you knew was you would be terribly sad and lonely. And on those occasions when people or pets actually died, someone usually came along and distracted you from feeling too much of your actual feelings. Grownups did that—they never left you alone to feel alone or think alone too much. They tended to think you are too small to know how to think and feel in big heaps, so they took parts of your heap onto themselves. To help—but in the long run—it doesn't help at all. Because if you do not see, or feel or think, or taste the bitter things in life, you don't know they exist. You have not seen enough of the world to know how terrible it could be.

—Adelheid Manefeldt

Nothing gets transformed in your life until your mind is transformed.

—Ifeanyi Enoch Onuoha

We are a biological species arising from Earth's biosphere as one adapted species among many; and however splendid our languages and cultures, however rich and subtle our minds, however vast our creative powers, the mental process is the product of a brain shaped by the hammer of natural selection upon the anvil of nature.

—Edward O. Wilson

You think you're losing your mind, but do keep in mind, as long as you may, that the ability to go on thinking such a thing means it's not all gone.

—Criss Jami

The more we explore, understand, and even come to appreciate our own self-destructive mental attitudes, the more control we gain over our minds.

—Karuna Cayton

Most people, when directly confronted by evidence that they are wrong, do not change their point of view or course of action but justify it even more tenaciously. Even irrefutable evidence is rarely enough to pierce the mental armor of self-justification. When we began working on this book, the poster boy for 'tenacious clinging to a discredited belief' was George W. Bush. Bush was wrong in his claim that Saddam Hussein had weapons of mass destruction, he was wrong in claiming that Saddam was linked with Al Qaeda, he was wrong in predicting that Iraqis would be dancing joyfully in the streets to receive the American soldiers, he was wrong in predicting that the conflict would be over quickly, he was wrong in his gross underestimate of the financial cost of the war, and he was most famously wrong in his photo-op speech six weeks after the invasion began, when he announced (under a banner reading MISSION ACCOMPLISHED) that 'major combat operations in Iraq have ended.'

—Carol Tavris

If you have one good idea, people will lend you twenty.

—Marie von
Ebner-Eschenbach

Nothing contributes so much to tranquilize the mind as a steady purpose—a point on which the soul may fix its intellectual eye.

—Mary Wollstonecraft
Shelley

Many Nobel Prizes are awaiting good research to understand and explain the many mysteries of our bodies, such as the basic mechanism of memory or imagination.

—John Cameron

Any mental activity is easy if it need not take reality into account.

—Marcel Proust

All ideas grow out of other ideas.

—Anish Kapoor

Congeaed thinking is the forerunner of failure... make sure you are always receptive to new ideas.

—George Crane

‘Mad’ is a term we use to describe a man who is obsessed with one idea and nothing else.

—Ugo Betti

The red man divided mind into two parts—the spiritual mind and the physical mind.

—Charles Eastman

If most of us are ashamed of shabby clothes and shoddy furniture let us be more ashamed of shabby ideas and shoddy philosophies.... It would be a sad situation if the wrapper were better than the meat wrapped inside it.

—Albert Einstein

Let me have men about me that are fat,
Sleek-headed men, and such as sleep o’ nights
Yond Cassius has a lean and hungry look
He thinks too much
such men are dangerous.

—William Shakespeare

Be less curious about people and more curious about ideas.

—Marie Curie

A nice old lady, well-bred and what is called well-educated, once remarked to me in passing that the giant waterbugs one often sees flying about street lights in southern cities were generated by the electric current, and when I expressed some skepticism concerning this novel theory of the origin of life she was ready with a proof. They had never been seen in her town until electricity was brought there.

--Joseph Wood Krutch

Facts, when combined with ideas, constitute the greatest force in the world.
--Carl W. Ackerman

No way of thinking or doing, however ancient, can be trusted without proof.
--Henry David Thoreau

The deepest sin against the human mind is to believe things without evidence.
--Thomas Henry Huxley

Make it a point to keep on the lookout for novel and interesting ideas that others have used successfully. Your idea has to be original only in its adaptation to the problem you are currently working on.
--Thomas Edison

Don't worry about people stealing your ideas. If your ideas are any good, you'll have to ram them down people's throats.
--Howard Aitken

For the great enemy of the truth is very often not the lie—deliberate, contrived, and dishonest—but the myth—persistent, persuasive, and unrealistic. Too often we hold fast to the clichés of our forebears. We subject all facts to a prefabricated set of interpretations. We enjoy the comfort of opinions without the discomfort of thought.
--John F. Kennedy

The feeling of 'aha, that's it,' which accompanies the clothing of a situation with meaning, is emotionally very satisfying, and is the major charm of scientific research, of artistic creation, and of the solution of crossword puzzles. It is why the intellectual life is fun.
--Hudson Hoagland

Nothing saddens me so much as witnessing brilliant young intellects addressing enormous efforts to trivial problems.
--Solomon Snyder

I feel very angry when I think of brilliant, or even interesting women whose minds are wasted on a home.
--John Kenneth Galbraith

Intellectual brilliance is no guarantee against being dead wrong.
—David Fasold

More than 90 percent of mid-career professionals recently cited the ‘need to write effectively’ as a skill ‘of great importance’ in their day-to-day work....The reward of disciplined writing is the most valuable job attribute of all: a mind equipped to think.

--Bob Kerrey

Language is the mirror of the mind.

—James A. Brussel

Today the world is the victim of propaganda because people are not intellectually competent. More than anything the United States needs effective citizens competent to do their own thinking.

--William Mather Lewis

Many of us have been trained not to respect our own thinking, but to feel that we have to depend on the thinking of others. This leads us to acceptance of authority, whether what the authority says makes sense or not.

--Earl Kelley

Unthinking respect for authority is the greatest enemy of truth.

—Albert Einstein

The atmosphere of the home is prolonged in the school, where the students soon discover that (as in the home) in order to achieve some satisfaction they must adapt to the precepts which have been set from above. One of these precepts is not to think.

— Paulo Freire

No statement should be believed because it is made by an authority.

—Robert A. Heinlein

Do not believe in anything simply because you have heard it. Do not believe in anything simply because it is spoken and rumored by many. Do not believe in anything simply because it is found written in your religious books. Do not believe in anything merely on the authority of your teachers and elders. Do not believe in traditions because they have been handed down for many generations. But after observation and analysis, when you find that anything agrees with reason and is conducive to the good and benefit of one and all, then accept it and live up to it.

—The Buddha

Like all weak men he laid an exaggerated stress on not changing one’s mind.

--W. Somerset Maugham

New ideas hurt some minds the same as new shoes hurt some feet.

--Herbert Casson

The sequence in the acceptance of a new idea:

1. It's a foolish idea and won't work.
2. It's not a bad idea, but the time isn't ripe.
3. The time is ripe, but we couldn't finance it.
4. I was always in favor of this idea.

--Edgar Dale

Thoughts, even more than overt acts, reveal character.

--William S. Plumer

The forming of the minds of children in that early stage of their existence which, in nine cases out of every ten, determines their quality, character, and usefulness, through the whole period of life, is the most sacred duty which devolves upon the sex, and if they neglect this, or perform it in an improper manner, the character of the whole of society is lowered to the same extent.

--*The Magazine of
Domestic
Economy* (1835)

Logic is a way to go wrong with confidence.

--Charles F. Kettering

People will always prefer black-and-white over shades of grey, and so there will always be the temptation to hold overly-simplified beliefs and to hold them with excessive confidence.

—Thomas Gilovich

Whether you be man or woman you will never do anything in this world without courage. It is the greatest quality of the mind next to honor.

--James Allen

To go against the dominant thinking of your friends, of most of the people you see every day, is perhaps the most difficult act of heroism you can have.

--Theodore H. White

The most courageous act is still to think for yourself. Aloud.

—Coco Chanel

Thinking always ahead, thinking always of trying to do more, brings a state of mind in which nothing seems impossible.

--Henry Ford

No one can be a great thinker who does not recognize that as a thinker it is his first duty to follow his intellect to whatever conclusions it may lead. Truth gains more even by the errors of one who, with due study, and preparation, thinks for himself, than by the true opinions of those who only hold them because they do not suffer themselves to think.

—John Stuart Mill

Experts in ancient Greek culture say that people back then didn't see their thoughts as belonging to them. When ancient Greeks had a thought, it occurred to them as a god or goddess giving an order. Apollo was telling them to be brave. Athena was telling them to fall in love.

Now people hear a commercial for sour cream potato chips and rush out to buy, but now they call this free will.

At least the ancient Greeks were being honest.

—Chuck Palahniuk

Clothes are inevitable. They are nothing less than the furniture of the mind made visible.

—James Laver

We cannot be said to be aware of our minds save under responsibility.

--Thornton Niven Wilder

Great minds think independently, not alike.

—Unknown

Overthinking is the biggest cause of our unhappiness. Keep yourself occupied. Keep your mind off things that don't help you. Think positively.

—*SimpleReminders.com*

To follow foolish precedents, and wink
With both our eyes is easier than to think.

--William Cowper

Every real thought on every real subject knocks the wind out of somebody or other.

—Oliver Wendell Holmes

A purely objective viewpoint does not exist in the cosmos or in politics.

—Howard Fineman

The tools of conquest do not necessarily come with bombs and explosions and fallout. There are weapons that are simply thoughts, attitudes, prejudices—to be found in the minds of men. For the record, prejudices can kill and suspicion can destroy, and a thoughtless, frightened search for a scapegoat has a fallout all its own—for the children and the children yet unborn.

—Rod Serling

When a hundred men stand together, each of them loses his mind and gets another one.

—Friedrich Nietzsche

Nothing comes merely by thinking about it.

—John Wanamaker

There is a value to shock. You can open someone's mind with something shocking.

—Richard Spencer

It is astonishing what an effort it seems to be for many people to put their brains definitely and systematically to work.

—Thomas Edison

The need to be right is the sign of a vulgar mind.

—Albert Camus

Recreational development is a job not of building roads into the lovely country, but of building receptivity into the still unlovely human mind.

—Aldo Leopold

There are no original ideas. There are only original people.

—Barbara Grizzuti
Harrison

I consider that a man's brain originally is like a little empty attic, and you have to stock it with such furniture as you choose.

—Arthur Conan Doyle

Many people think of creativity as an elusive thing. They believe you either have it, like a talent inherent at birth, or you don't. I think this is nonsense. Creativity is more like a muscle: If you practice regularly, flexing and training your mind to absorb inspiration from various sources, that muscle will get stronger. Eventually you'll be able to come up with ideas on demand, almost like turning on a faucet.

—Gabriela Pereira

Forget what you've been told about left-and right-brain functions. Current neuroscience suggests the long-held assumption that creativity is relegated to a specific hemisphere is a gross oversimplification. In fact, more scientists are mapping creativity as a whole-brain function that employs different regions at different times. The creative process requires dynamic and varied interaction across these networks. For instance, daydreaming takes place in a different network or region of your brain than solving a logistic plot point does.

—Catherine J. Campbell

Where does a thought go when it's forgotten?

—Sigmund Freud

The world is coming to understand that armies and navies, however numerous and strong, are impotent to stop thought.

--William Jennings Bryan

The noblest exercise of the mind within doors, and most befitting a person of quality, is study.

—William Ramsay

There are but two powers in the world, the sword and the mind. In the long run the sword is always beaten by the mind.

--Napoleon

Ideas are the great warriors of the world, and a war that has no idea behind it, is simply a brutality.

—James A. Garfield

To be often in love shows a frivolous mind, but to be never in love shows a stupid one.

--Eleonora Duse

Put love first. Entertain thoughts that give life. And when a thought of resentment, or hurt, or fear comes your way, have another thought that is more powerful—a thought that is love.

--Mary Manin Morrissey

Love looks not with the eyes, but with the mind.

—William Shakespeare

Got one mind for white folk to see
'Nother for what I know is me.

--African-American Folk
Saying

If you want to know if your brain is flabby, feel your legs.

--Bruce Barton

Striving for perfection in mind, body and spirit is a Korean way of life, and the cult of endless self-improvement begins as early as the hagwons, cram schools that keep the nation's children miserable and sleep-deprived, and sends a sizable portion of the population under the plastic surgeon's knife.

—Gary Shyteyngart

The man who gets the most satisfactory results is not always the man with the most brilliant single mind, but rather the man who can best coordinate the brains and talents of his associates.

—Sir William Alton
Jones

Earthly minds, like mud walls, resist the strongest batteries; and though, perhaps, sometimes the force of a clear argument may make some impression, yet they nevertheless stand firm, keep out the enemy, truth, that would captivate or disturb them.

—John Locke

A mind which really lays hold of a subject is not easily detached from it.

—Ida Tarbell

The mind of a bigot is like the pupil of the eye; the more light you pour upon it, the more it will contract.

--Oliver Wendell
Holmes, Jr.

Clasp the hands and know the thoughts of men in other lands.

--John Masefield

The tendency of the casual mind is to pick out or stumble upon a sample which supports or defies its prejudices, and then to make it the representative of a whole class.

--Walter Lippmann

A bigot is a person who slams his mind in your face.

--Unknown

In whatever mind prejudice dwells, it acts, in relation to truth, as alkali does in relation to acids, neutralizing its power. Arguments the most cogent, discourse the most powerful, can be neutralized at once by some prejudice in the mind.

--David Thomas

The closed mind, if closed long enough, can be opened by nothing short of dynamite.

--Gerald W. Johnson

Prejudice is merely a lazy man's substitute for thinking.

--Evan Esar

There are two ways of ending a dispute—discussion and force; the latter manner is simply that of the rude beasts; the former is proper to beings gifted with reason.

--Cicero

I am truly horrified by modern man. Such absence of feeling, such narrowness of outlook, such lack of passion and information, such feebleness of thought.

—Alexander Herzen

Change has a considerable psychological impact on the human mind. To the fearful it is threatening because it means that things may get worse. To the hopeful it is encouraging because things may get better. To the confident it is inspiring because the challenge exists to make things better.

—King Jr. Whitney

One of my favorite philosophical tenets is that people will agree with you only if they already agree with you. You do not change people's minds.

—Frank Zappa

The quality of life is in the mind, not in material.

--Malcolm S. Forbes

Our life is the creation of our mind.

—Buddha

The world we experience is not the real world. It's a mental construction, filtered through our physical senses.

—Matthew Hutson

The true triumph of reason is that it enables us to get along with those who do not possess it.

—Voltaire

The world is a tragedy to those who feel, but a comedy to those who think.

—Horace Walpole

The ego is willing but the machine cannot go on. It's the last thing a man will admit, that his mind ages.

—Will Durant

The average girl would rather have beauty than brains because she knows the average man can see much better than he can think.

--*Ladies' Home Journal*

God made men stronger but not necessarily more intelligent. He gave women intuition and femininity. And, used properly, that combination easily jumbles the brain of any man I've ever met.

--Farrah Fawcett-Majors

The higher the mental development of woman, the less possible it is for her to meet a congenial mate who will see in her, not only sex, but also the human being, the friend, the comrade and strong individuality, who cannot and ought not lose a single trait of her character.

--Emma Goldman

Don't ever think I fell for you, or fell over you. I didn't fall in love, I rose in it. I saw you and made up my mind. My mind.

—Toni Morrison

I think...therefore I'm single.

--Liz Winstead

Smart girls are the over-thinkers, the insecure ones, the different ones. They know what the real world is like. They analyze every little thing in life. Why? To avoid getting hurt. To find happiness. They stay up at night trying to think about every possible situation to get through all the problems. They think too much. They trust less people. Their insecurity proves their respect towards themselves. Of course they try to live away from a drama-filled life. Smart girls know their worth, now that's the ones worth keeping by your side.

—Drake

Women spend more time thinking about what men think than men actually spend thinking.

—*someecards.com*

Mind, not body, makes marriage lasting.

--Publilius Syrus

The face is the index of the mind.

--Latin Proverb

There's no art to find the mind's construction in the face.

--William Shakespeare

Recent psychology research has found that dressing more formally actually makes people think differently. When people dress up they feel more powerful, and this allows them to make better decisions....Dressing in what you perceive to be the clothing of the most well-regarded and competent person for a role will have a psychological effect on you, allowing you to actually perform as a more competent person in that role.

—Peter Harris

We dress the way we think.

—Stella Adler

I regard the brain as a computer which will stop working when its components fail. There is no heaven or afterlife for broken down computers; that is a fairy story for people afraid of the dark.

—Stephen Hawking

Truthiness: Now, I'm sure some of the word police, the 'wordinistas' over at Webster's, are gonna say, 'Hey, that's not a word!' Well, anybody who knows me knows that I am no fan of dictionaries or reference books. They're elitist. Constantly telling us what is or isn't true. Or what did or didn't happen. Who's Britannica to tell me the Panama Canal was finished in 1914? If I wanna say it happened in 1941, that's my right. I don't trust books—they're all fact, no heart... Face it, folks, we are a divided nation... divided between those who think with their head and those who know with their heart... Because that's where the truth comes from, ladies and gentlemen—the gut.

—Stephen Colbert

Each of us is on a spectrum somewhere between the poles of rational and irrational. We all have hunches we can't prove and superstitions that make no sense. Some of my best friends are very religious, and others believe in dubious conspiracy theories. What's problematic is going overboard—letting the subjective entirely override the objective; thinking and acting as if opinions and feelings are just as true as facts.

—Kurt Andersen

Much more than the other billion or so people in the developed world, we Americans believe—really believe—in the supernatural and the miraculous, and Satan on Earth, in reports of recent trips to and from heaven, and in a story of life's instantaneous creation several thousand years ago.

We believe that the government and its co-conspirators are hiding all sorts of monstrous and shocking truths from us, concerning assassinations, extraterrestrials, the genesis of AIDS, the 9/11 attacks, the dangers of vaccines, and so much more.

—Kurt Andersen

Being American means we can believe anything we want; that our beliefs are equal or superior to anyone else's, experts be damned. Once people commit to that approach, the world turns inside out, and no cause-and-effect connection is fixed. The credible becomes incredible in the incredible credible.

—Kurt Andersen

It is not the place, nor the condition, but the mind alone that can make any one happy or miserable.

—Sir Roger L'Estrange

True enjoyment comes from activity of the mind and exercise of the body; the two are ever united.

--Wilhelm von Humboldt

America was created by true believers and passionate dreamers, and by hucksters and their suckers, which made America successful—but also by a people uniquely susceptible to fantasy, as epitomized by everything from Salem’s hunting witches to Joseph Smith’s creating Mormonism, from P. T. Barnum to speaking in tongues, from Hollywood to Scientology to conspiracy theories, from Walt Disney to Billy Graham to Ronald Reagan to Oprah Winfrey to Trump. In other words: Mix epic individualism with extreme religion; mix show business with everything else; let all that ferment for a few centuries; then run it through the anything-goes ’60s and the internet age. The result is the America we inhabit today, with the reality and fantasy weirdly and dangerously blurred and commingled.

—Kurt Andersen

After the ’60s and the ’70s happened as they happened, the internet may have broken America’s dynamic balance between rational thinking and magical thinking for good.

—Kurt Andersen

Before the web, it really wasn’t easy to stumble across false or crazy information convincingly passing itself off as true. Today, however... such subject specific areas as crank science, conspiracist politics, and occultism are not isolated from one another.

—Kurt Andersen

It will require a struggle to make America reality-based again. Fight the good fight in your private life. You needn’t get into an argument with the stranger at Chipotle who claims that George Soros and Uber are plotting to make his muscle car illegal—but do not give acquaintances and friends and family members free passes. If you have children or grandchildren, teach them to distinguish between true and untrue as fiercely as you do between right and wrong and between wise and foolish.

—Kurt Andersen

Creativity involves breaking out of established patterns in order to look at things in a different way.

—Edward de Bono

Happiness doesn’t depend upon who you are or what you have; it depends solely upon what you think.

--Dale Carnegie

Happiness is not a matter of events; it depends upon the tides of the mind.

--Alice Meynell

Real happiness is not dependent on external things. The pond is fed from within. The kind of happiness that stays with you is the happiness that springs from inward thoughts and emotions. You must cultivate your mind if you wish to achieve enduring happiness. You must furnish your mind with interesting thoughts and ideas. For an empty mind seeks pleasure as a substitute for happiness.

--Lillian Eichler

Amusement is the happiness of those who cannot think.

--Alexander Pope

A sound mind in a sound body, is a short but full description of a happy state in this world.

--John Locke

If a man examine carefully his thoughts he will be surprised to find how much he lives in the future. His well-being is always ahead.

—Ralph Waldo Emerson

You can think best when you're happiest.

--Peter Thomson

Happiness does not depend on good health or money or fame....It depends, however, principally on one thing only: your thoughts. If you can't have what you want, be grateful for what you have. Keep thinking constantly of all the big things you have to be thankful for instead of complaining about the little things that annoy you.

--Dale Carnegie

It's obvious, but perhaps worth saying, that happiness has virtually nothing to do with the state of your intellect.

--Daniel K. Moran

Most people are searching for happiness. They're looking for it. They're trying to find it in someone or something outside of themselves. That's a fundamental mistake. Happiness is something that you are, and it comes from the way you think.

—Wayne W. Dyer

The primary cause of unhappiness is never the situation, but your thoughts about it. Be aware of the thoughts you are thinking.

—Eckhart Tolle

Happily we are learning that the mind has to do with the misdeeds of the body, and that there are no more valuable therapeutic agents than cheerfulness, happiness, and hope.

—Olive Thorne
Miller (1889)

A mind always employed is always happy. This is the true secret, the grand recipe, for felicity.

—Thomas Jefferson

A house is no home unless it contains food and fire for the mind as well as for the body.

--Margaret Fuller

We're all so clogged with dead ideas passed from generation to generation that even the best of us don't know the way out.

Peter Weiss

The mind is like a circuit of Christmas tree lights. When the brain works well, all of the lights twinkle brilliantly, and it's adaptable enough that, often, even if one bulb goes out, the rest will still shine on. But depending on where the damage is, sometimes that one blown bulb can make the whole strand go dark.

--Susannah Cahalan

The inconsistencies that haunt our relationships with animals also result from the quirks of human cognition. We like to think of ourselves as the rational species. But research in cognitive psychology and behavioral economics shows that our thinking and behavior are often completely illogical. In one study, for example, groups of people were independently asked how much they would give to prevent waterfowl from being killed in polluted oil ponds. On average, the subjects said they would pay \$80 to save 2,000 birds, \$78 to save 20,000 birds, and \$88 to save 200,000 birds. Sometimes animals act more logically than people do; a recent study found that when picking a new home, the decisions of ant colonies were more rational than those of human house-hunters.

What is it about human psychology that makes it so difficult for us to think consistently about animals? The paradoxes that plague our interactions with other species are due to the fact that much of our thinking is a mire of instinct, learning, language, culture, intuition, and our reliance on mental shortcuts.

—Hal Herzog

I have never had so many good ideas day after day as when I worked in the garden.
--John Erskine

All of our ideas come from the natural world: trees equal umbrellas.
--Wallace Stevens

Ideas are powerful things, requiring not a studious contemplation but an action,
even if it is only an inner action.
—Midge Dector

Whoever it was who searched the heavens with a telescope and found no God would
not have found the human mind if he had searched the brain with a microscope.
—George Santayana

A good idea is about ten percent and implementation and hard work, and luck is 90
percent.
—Guy Kawasaki

The hope that our labors shall at last lead us to rest and the tranquil enjoyment of
life, is an incentive to effort, and therefore good, though delusive, since active minds
are incapable of repose and the tranquil enjoyment of life.
--John Lancaster
Spalding

Absence of occupation is not rest,
A mind quite vacant is a mind distressed.
--William Cowper

I have enjoyed greatly the second blooming that comes when you finish the life of
the emotions and of personal relations; and suddenly find—at the age of fifty, say—
that a whole new life has opened before you, filled with things you can think about,
study, or read about....It is as if a fresh sap of ideas and thoughts was rising in you.
--Agatha Christie

Even if we aren't demented, our mental functioning deteriorates as we grow
older. Age-associated declines in mental-processing speed, working and long-term
memory, and problem-solving are well established. Conversely, distractibility
increases. We cannot focus and stay with a project as well as we could when
we were young. As we move slower with age, we also think slower.
—Ezekiel J. Emanuel

When no new thoughts fill the mind—when no horizons beckon—when life is in the past, not in the future—you are on the way to uselessness.

--Dr. Frederick K. Stamm

By 75, creativity, originality, and productivity are pretty much gone for the vast, vast majority of us. Einstein famously said, 'A person who has not made his great contribution to science before the age of 30 will never do so.'

—Ezekiel J. Emanuel

Einstein famously said, 'A person who has not made his great contribution to science before the age of 30 will never do so.' He was extreme in his assessment. And wrong. Dean Keith Simonton, at the University of California at Davis, a luminary among researchers on age and creativity, synthesized numerous studies to demonstrate a typical age-creativity curve: creativity rises rapidly as a career commences, peaks about 20 years into the career, at about age 40 or 45, and then enters a slow, age-related decline.

—Ezekiel J. Emanuel

We accommodate our physical and mental limitations. Our expectations shrink. Aware of our diminishing capacities, we choose ever more restricted activities and projects, to ensure we can fulfill them. Indeed, this constriction happens almost imperceptibly. Over time, and without our conscious choice, we transform our lives. We don't notice that we are aspiring to and doing less and less. And so we remain content, but the canvas is now tiny. The American immortal, once a vital figure in his or her profession and community, is happy to cultivate avocational interests, to take up bird watching, bicycle riding, pottery, and the like. And then, as walking becomes harder and the pain of arthritis limits the fingers' mobility, life comes to center around sitting in the den reading or listening to books on tape and doing crossword puzzles. And then...

—Ezekiel J. Emanuel

Don't worry about getting old....worry about thinking old.

—Unknown

Think old & you'll be old. Think young, and you'll be a delusional old fart.

—Coffee Mug Slogan

When I was younger, I could remember anything, whether it had happened or not; but my faculties are decaying now and soon I shall be so I cannot remember any but the things that never happened. It is sad to go to pieces like this but we all have to do it.

—Mark Twain

The answer to old age is to keep one's mind busy and to go on with one's life as if it were interminable. I always admired Chekhov for building a new house when he was dying of tuberculosis.

—Leon Edel

Brains of older people are slow because they know so much. People do not decline mentally with age, it just takes them longer to recall facts because they have more information in their brains, scientists believe. Much like a computer struggles as the hard drive gets full, so too, do humans take longer to access information when their brains are full. Researchers say this slowing down process is not the same as cognitive decline. The human brain works slower in old age, said Dr. Michael Ramscar, but only because we have stored more information over time. The brains of older people do not get weak. On the contrary, they simply know more.

—*seniorresource.com*

My forgetter's getting better
But my rememberer is broke
To you that may seem funny
But, to me, that is no joke
For when I'm 'here' I'm wondering
If I really should be 'there'
And, when I try to think it through,
I haven't got a prayer!
Oft times I walk into a room,
Say 'what am I here for?'
I wrack my brain, but all in vain
A zero, is my score.
At times I put something away
Where it is safe, but, Gee!
The person it is safest from
Is, generally, just me!
When shopping I may see someone,
Say 'Hi' and have a chat,
Then, when the person walks away
I ask myself, 'who was that?'
Yes, my forgetter's getting better
While my rememberer is broke,
And it's driving me plumb crazy
And that isn't any joke.

—Arnold Klinkenburg

One of the prerogatives by which man is eminently distinguished from all other living beings inhabiting this globe of earth, consists in the gift of reason.

—William Godwin

My words in her mind: cold polished stones sinking through a quagmire.

—James Joyce

In one century, we've added 28 years to our average life span—a change so rapid that our brains couldn't possibly have evolved to accommodate it.

—Martha Beck

All my life, as down an abyss without a bottom. I have been pouring van loads of information into that vacancy of oblivion I call my mind.

—Logan P. Smith

To begin with, you must realize that any idea accepted by the brain is automatically transformed into an action of some sort. It may take seconds or minutes or longer—but ideas always produce a reaction of some sort.

—Scott Reed

Good ideas are not adopted automatically. They must be driven into practice with courageous patience.

—Hyman Rickover

Literature destabilizes thought by breaking open language and smuggling in sound, rhythm, and image—an invasion of aesthetics. More easily than analytic writing, poetry can emancipate itself from the standard definitions of words, enabling a breakthrough to new (and perhaps wayward or even nonsensical) meaning, which can then develop after the fact—different at each new reading. Literary language is presumptuous. It dips into the unknown in order to get nearer to a truth different from that of the superficially visible. As the poet Franz Josef Czernin described it, it is as though one step after another into emptiness could become a ladder. Literary writing can take the writers themselves by surprise; it can disturb and disappoint them—for stirring up turmoil is inherent in metaphor. Thus with every flash of understanding that comes from hearing or reading a poem, the fundamental work of thinking is taken up anew.

--Marie Luise Knott

Already an accomplished inventor, John Goodenough made headlines earlier this year when he led a team that achieved a big breakthrough: a low-cost, all solid-state battery that could power the next generation of electric cars. Also getting attention is Goodenough's age. He's 94 years old, which belies the assumption that inventive people do their greatest work in their youth.

—*AARP Bulletin*

The history of literature is the history of the human mind.

—William Hickling
Prescott

People who love literature have at least part of their minds immune from indoctrination. If you read, you can learn to think for yourself.

—Doris Lessing

All of our reasoning ends in surrender to feeling.

—Blaise Pascal

Second thoughts are ever wiser.

—Euripides

To have a great idea, have a lot of them.

—Thomas A. Edison

Shallow understanding from people of good will is more frustrating than absolute misunderstanding from people of ill will.

—Martin Luther
King, Jr.

All perception is the result of electrical impulses in the brain—the world of the individual is tantamount to a highly advanced computer running and analyzing programs in its working memory.

--Kevin Michel

Throw an idea into the world and its impact will ripple and reverberate beyond your side of the shore.

—A. E. Samaan

Logic is nothing more than a knowledge of words.

--Charles Lamb

There is great treasure there behind our skull and this is true about all of us. This little treasure has great, great powers, and I would say we only have learnt a very, very small part of what it can do.

—Isaac Bashevis Singer

You can judge your age by the amount of pain you feel when you come in contact with a new idea.

—Pearl S. Buck

Beauty is only temporary, but your mind lasts you a lifetime.

—Alicia Machado

Think for yourselves and let others enjoy the privilege to do so, too.

—Voltaire

In the history of ideas, it's repeatedly happened that an idea, developed in one area for one purpose, finds an unexpected application elsewhere. Concepts developed purely for philosophy of mathematics turned out to be just what you needed to build a computer. Statistical formulae for understanding genetic change in biology are now applied in both economics and in programming.

--Patrick Grim

I think, however, the current fascination with the computer and its principal product, information, deserves a more critical response. This is because the computer does so ingeniously mimic human intelligence that it may significantly shake our confidence in the uses of the mind. And it is the mind that must think about all things, including the computer.

--Theodore Roszak

The human brain has about 100 billion neurons. With an estimated average of one thousand connections between each neuron and its neighbors, we have about 100 trillion connections, each capable of a simultaneous calculation ... (but) only 200 calculations per second.... With 100 trillion connections, each computing at 200 calculations per second, we get 20 million billion calculations per second. This is a conservatively high estimate.... In 1997, \$2,000 of neural computer chips using only modest parallel processing could perform around 2 billion calculations per second.... This capacity will double every twelve months. Thus by the year 2020, it will have doubled about twenty-three times, resulting in a speed of about 20 million billion neural connection calculations per second, which is equal to the human brain.

—Ray Kurzweil

It is one thing to use computers as a tool, quite another to let them do your thinking for you.

—Tom Clancy

Computers are in essence millions of tiny simple machines coordinated and connected together to accomplish a useful purpose. Comparing a computer with the human brain puts the computer at a disadvantage. The brain is so complex it's not even fully understood! By contrast all the technology involved in computers is obviously understood and harnessed by humans. Both computers and the human brain are very different in the way they handle instructions. For instance the brain handles millions of bits of information simultaneously. Most computers though, can handle just 64 bits of information at the same time; it just does it in millionths of a second. The computer then is able to handle the few instructions it receives much faster.

—Dean Ormandy

I sometimes wonder about people who wake up and spend almost their whole day online. When they go to bed at night, they'll have almost no organic memories of their own. If they do this for a long time, you can begin to say that their intelligence is, in a true sense, artificial.

--Douglas Coupland

The most dangerous man, to any government, is the man who is able to think things out for himself, without regard to the prevailing superstitions and taboos. Almost invariably he comes to the conclusion that the government he lives under is dishonest, insane and intolerable, and so, if he is romantic, he tries to change it. And if he is not romantic personally, he is apt to spread discontent among those who are.

—Henry Louis Mencken

The human mind is capable of excitement without the application of gross and violent stimulants; and he must have a very faint perception of its beauty and dignity who does not know this.

—William Wordsworth

The faculty of attention has utterly vanished from the Anglo-Saxon mind, extinguished at its source by the big bayadère of journalism, of the newspaper and the picture magazine which keeps screaming, 'Look at me.' Illustrations, loud simplifications... bill poster advertising—only these stand a chance.

—Henry James

Thought in a child is like a network of tangled threads, which may break at any moment if one tries to disentangle them.

—M. Cramaussel

Think left and think right and think low and think high. Oh, the thinks you can think up if only you try!

—Theodor Geisel

What we really have to do is take a day and sit down and think. The world is not going to end or fall apart. Jobs won't be lost. Kids will not run crazy in one day. Lovers won't stop speaking to you. Husbands and wives are not going to disappear. Just take that one day and think. Don't read. Don't write. No television, no radio, no distractions. Sit down and think. . . . Go sit in a church, or in the park, or take a long walk and think. Call it a healing day.

--Maya Angelou

...the mind is more powerful than any imaginable particle accelerator, more sensitive than any radio receiver or the largest optical telescope, more complete in its grasp of information than any computer: the human body- its organs, its voice, its powers of locomotion, and its imagination- is a more-than-sufficient means for the exploration of any place, time or energy level in the universe.

--Terence McKenna

No matter what it is, if you don't move your eyes and set the pace yourself, your intellect is sentenced to death. The mind, you see, is like a muscle. For it to remain agile and strong, it must work. Television rules that out.

--Mark Helprin

Yes, I am a dreamer. For a dreamer is one who can find his way by moonlight, and see the dawn before the rest of the world.

—Oscar Wilde

The chief problem with television is that, for those who watch it consistently, it undermines and eventually destroys the ability to think. This is because it communicates primarily images, not by words, and words are necessary if we are to perceive logical connections and make judgments as to what is right and wrong.

—James Montgomery
Boice

Reading should be a major way to teach thinking. I have taken another step to suggest that television be used to teach thinking skills. Television is an excellent medium for this purpose, for several reasons. Television holds children's attention: they are interested. They want to understand the greater meaning of what they watch. Television often provides more substance to work with. Children's literature is limited to a child's reading level, not his thinking level.

Here is a list of comprehension and thinking skills I have taught through the use of television programs. These are skills that can be found in any book on the teaching of thinking and are also among the major comprehension skills mentioned in reading textbooks:

- Logical predictions.
- Interpreting characters' feelings.
- Empathizing with characters.
- Drawing conclusions.
- Making generalizations.
- Solving problems.
- Interpreting reactions, motives, moods.
- Recalling information to prove a point.
- Categorizing.
- Determining cause and effect.
- Distinguishing between fact and opinion.
- Judging the validity and importance of ideas.
- Contrasting and evaluating various points of view.
- Understanding relationships between characters' actions and social adjustment.
- Creating new interests.
- Understanding of other cultures and values.
- Solving mysteries.
- Determining the settings of stories.
- Interpreting emotions.
- Understanding implied meanings.
- Speculating about future events.
- Predicting the actions of characters.
- Making comparisons.
- Identifying changes in characters' behavior and attitudes.
- Identifying exaggerations.
- Recognizing incongruities and faulty assumptions.
- Using and understanding figurative language.

—Marilyn Droz

Negative thoughts are like fat, it takes a long time to get rid of it and only a short time to gain it back.

—*theChive*

News works like a drug. As stories develop, we want to know how they continue. With hundreds of arbitrary storylines in our heads, this craving is increasingly compelling and hard to ignore. Scientists used to think that the dense connections formed among the 100 billion neurons inside our skulls were largely fixed by the time we reached adulthood. Today we know that this is not the case. Nerve cells routinely break old connections and form new ones. The more news we consume, the more we exercise the neural circuits devoted to skimming and multitasking while ignoring those used for reading deeply and thinking with profound focus. Most news consumers—even if they used to be avid book readers—have lost the ability to absorb lengthy articles or books. After four, five pages they get tired, their concentration vanishes, they become restless. It's not because they got older or their schedules became more onerous. It's because the physical structure of their brains has changed.

—Rolf Dobelli

Depression is basically your mind bullying you 24/7.

—*theChive*

Read, every day, something no one else is reading. Think, every day, something no one else is thinking. Do, every day, something no one else would be silly enough to do. It is bad for the mind to be always part of unanimity.

—Christopher Morley

Boredom is a sign of satisfied ignorance, blunted apprehension, crass sympathies, dull understanding, feeble powers of attention, and irreclaimable weakness of character.

—James Bridie

The technological advance that most altered the course of modern history was the invention of the printing press in the 15th century, which allowed the search for empirical knowledge to supplant liturgical doctrine, and the Age of Reason to gradually supersede the Age of Religion. Individual insight and scientific knowledge replaced faith as the principal criterion of human consciousness. Information was stored and systematized in expanding libraries. The Age of Reason originated the thoughts and actions that shaped the contemporary world order.

—Henry A. Kissinger

What we are today comes from our thoughts of yesterday and our present thoughts build our life tomorrow. Our life is the creation of our mind.

—Siddhartha Buddha

Whether you are the C.E.O. of a company or you are working your first retail job, knowing how to think on your feet and tackle unforeseen circumstances is an important skill for any leader. As an adult, we have all been in situations where we have had to come up with an idea on the spot, offer up a quick solution to a problem or change the entire workday plan because of unforeseen circumstances.

For some people, thinking on their feet comes naturally, but for the majority of us, it is a skill that has to be developed. Fortunately, it can be developed at a very young age. Improvisation is about creating spontaneously without preparation. The ability to think on one's feet is a basic skill needed for all improvisation. While participating in theatre improvisation exercises, children continually have to come up with new ideas on the spot and offer them to their scene partner(s). This provides practice thinking on one's feet in a fun safe environment.

—Lisa Phillips

When we read, another person thinks for us: we merely repeat his mental process. In learning to write, the pupil goes over with his pen what the teacher has outlined in pencil: so in reading; the greater part of the work of thought is already done for us. This is why it relieves us to take up a book after being occupied with our own thoughts. And in reading, the mind is, in fact, only the playground of another's thoughts. So it comes about that if anyone spends almost the whole day in reading, and by way of relaxation devotes the intervals to some thoughtless pastime, he gradually loses the capacity for thinking; just as the man who always rides, at last forgets how to walk. This is the case with many learned persons: they have read themselves stupid.

--Arthur Schopenhauer

There is no gate, no lock, no bolt that you can set upon the freedom of my mind.

—Virginia Woolf

Reading is equivalent to thinking with someone else's head instead of with one's own.

—Arthur Schopenhauer

Enthusiasm is that temper of the mind in which the imagination has got the better of the judgment.

—William Warburton

We cannot control the way people interpret our ideas or thoughts, but we can control the words and tones we choose to convey them. Peace is built on understanding, and wars are built on misunderstandings. Never underestimate the power of a single word, and never recklessly throw around words. One wrong word, or misinterpreted word, can change the meaning of an entire sentence and start a war. And one right word, or one kind word, can grant you the heavens and open doors.

--Suzy Kassem

There is nothing easier than lopping off heads and nothing harder than developing ideas.

—Fyodor Dostoevsky

Books whose topics I thoroughly despise are acceptable because they often force the reader to think and to examine his own beliefs. In an age where most people are either blindly obedient or radical, exposing oneself to the ideas contained in even the most controversial of books is a good thing.

—Tiffini Johnson

In the hectic pace of the world today, there is no time for meditation, or for deep thought. A prisoner has time that he can put to good use. I'd put prison second to college as the best place for a man to go if he needs to do some thinking. If he's motivated, in prison he can change his life.

—Malcolm X

Don't be amazed if you see my eyes always wandering. In fact, this is my way of reading, and it is only in this way that reading proves fruitful to me. If a book truly interests me, I cannot follow it for more than a few lines before my mind, having seized on a thought that the text suggests to it, or a feeling, or a question, or an image, goes off on a tangent and springs from thought to thought, from image to image, in an itinerary of reasonings and fantasies that I feel the need to pursue to the end, moving away from the book until I have lost sight of it. The stimulus of reading is indispensable to me, and of meaty reading, even if, of every book, I manage to read no more than a few pages. But those few pages already enclose for me whole universes, which I can never exhaust.

--Italo Calvino

May I suggest that you all read? And often. Believe me, it's nice to have something to talk about other than the weather and the Queen's health. Your mind is not a cage. It's a garden. And it requires cultivating.

--Libba Bray

Reading is an intelligent way of not having to think.

--Walter Moers

I insist on a lot of time being spent, almost every day, to just sit and think. That is very uncommon in American business. I read and think. So I do more reading and thinking, and make less impulse decisions than most people in business. I do it because I like this kind of life.

--Warren Buffett

Nothing, it appears to me is of greater value in a man than the power of judgement and the man who has it may be compared to a chest filled with books, for he is the son of nature and the father of art.

—Pietro Aretino

What a distressing contrast there is between the radiant intelligence of the child and the feeble mentality of the average adult.

—Sigmund Freud

Bodily exercise, when compulsory, does no harm to the body; but knowledge which is acquired under compulsion obtains no hold on the mind.

—Plato

'Tis the good reader that makes the good book; in every book he finds passages which seem confidences or asides hidden from all else and unmistakably meant for his ear; the profit of books is according to the sensibility of the reader; the profoundest thought or passion sleeps as in a mine, until it is discovered by an equal mind and heart.

—Ralph Waldo Emerson

I must judge for myself, but how can I judge, how can any man judge, unless his mind has been opened and enlarged by reading.

--John Adams

Since we are destined to live out our lives in the prison of our minds, it is our duty to furnish it well.

--Peter Ustinov

One of the best things about reading is that you'll always have something to think about when you're not reading.

--James Patterson

Many a man fails as an original thinker simply because his memory is too good.
—Friedrich Nietzsche

When the mind withdraws into itself and dispenses with facts it makes only chaos.
—Edith Hamilton

Read books that are thought-provoking and challenge your current beliefs. Entertain all kinds of possibilities and ideas before coming up with any conclusions.
—Chris Erzfeld

A program of active reading and writing might be the hardest form of thinking, but it is also the most organized methodology of self-education. Reading exposes the mind to a world of ideas heretofore unimaginable and encourages the novice learner to write. Reading is a form a joint mediation and writing represents the product of several authors' collective and collaborative minds at work.
—Kilroy J. Oldster

The more you use your brain, the more brain you will have to use.
—George A. Dorsey

The IKEA effect...is defined as 'the tendency for people to place a disproportionately high value on objects that they partially assembled themselves.'
—Ben Yagoda

Sunk-cost thinking tells us to stick with a bad investment because of the money we have already lost on it; to finish an unappetizing restaurant meal because, after all, we're paying for it; to prosecute an unwinnable war because of the investment of blood and treasure. In all cases, this way of thinking is rubbish.
—Ben Yagoda

Lady Harman had acquired the habit of reading and the habit of thinking over what she read, and from that it is an easy step to thinking over oneself and the circumstances of one's own life. The one thing trains for the other.
—H. G. Wells

Ideas have unhinged the gates of empires.
—Paul Harris

I call him free who is led solely by reason.
—Baruch Spinoza

I have no riches but my thoughts,
Yet these are wealth enough for me.

—Sara Teasdale

Ideas must work through the brains and arms of men, or they are no better than dreams.

—Ralph Waldo Emerson

How could poetry and literature have arisen from something as plebian as the cuneiform equivalent of grocery-store bar codes? I prefer the version in which Prometheus brought writing to man from the gods. But then I remind myself that... we should not be too fastidious about where great ideas come from. Ultimately, they all come from a wrinkled organ that at its healthiest has the color and consistency of toothpaste, and in the end only withers and dies.

—Alice Weaver Flaherty

The oldest, shortest words—‘yes’ and ‘no’—are those which require the most thought.

—Pythagoras

It’s easy to come up with new ideas; the hard part is letting go of what worked for you two years ago, but will soon be out-of-date.

—Roger von Oech

The true purpose of arts education is not necessarily to create more professional dancers or artists. [It’s] to create more complete human beings who are critical thinkers, who have curious minds, who can lead productive lives.

—Kelly Pollock

The secret of success when it comes to solving problems is to attack them directly and to cut down on wasted motion. In other words, instead of jumping from one solution to another trying to find the answer, think through each solution to its possible outcome before you do anything about it. This is a kind of mental trial and error process. You think about the solutions before you try them. In this way you can eliminate some of the solutions that won’t work without wasting time actually trying them out. You can then put all your effort into the solution you finally do select and give yourself a better chance of reaching your goal.

—Dan L. Miller

The mind can travel everywhere. Why use the body to travel somewhere?

—Hans Taeger

Ideas not coupled with action never become bigger than the brain cells they occupied.

—Arnold H. Glasgow

Thinking is like loving and dying. Each of us must do it for himself.

—Josiah Royce

That awkward moment when a zombie is looking for brains and walks right by you.

—Internet Meme

Academic and aristocratic people live in such an uncommon atmosphere that common sense can rarely reach them.

—Samuel Butler

Mathematicians may flatter themselves that they possess new ideas which mere human language is as yet unable to express.

—James C. Maxwell

Just because you went to college doesn't make you smarter than anyone else....Common sense doesn't come with a degree.

—*facebook.com/auntyacid*

There can be no two opinions as to what a highbrow is. He is the man or woman of thoroughbred intelligence who rides his mind at a gallop across country in pursuit of an idea.

—Virginia Woolf

Large numbers of persons move from childhood into adult years with a burden of emotional distress... whatever might be the origins, students' emotional difficulties infect their minds when they are at school and after they leave. This fact... should be a challenge to educators, especially those who say that a major aim of education is to help students to use their minds effectively. Nothing could demonstrate the sincerity of this aim better than an effort to help a student use his resources to cope with conditions that encumber his mind.

—Arthur T. Jersild, Eve
Allina Lazar, &
Adele M. Brodtkin

Writing is the act of finding out what I think.

—Stephen King

The mind I love most must have wild places, a tangled orchard where dark damsons drop in the heavy grass, an overgrown little wood, the chance of a snake or two, a pool that nobody fathomed the depth of, and paths threaded with flowers planted by the mind.

—Katherine Mansfield

I am a compost heap, and everything I interact with, every experience I've had, gets shoveled onto the heap where it eventually mulches down, is digested and excreted by worms, and rots. It's from that rich, dark humus, the combination of what you encountered, what you know and what you've forgotten, that ideas start to grow.

—Anne Patchett

Writing is a form of intense thinking that takes a person on a journey into previously uncharted territory of the writer's mind.

—Kilroy J. Oldster

When I write a novel it is like I am taking a thought for a walk.

—Aminatta Forna

Writing crystallizes thought and thought produces action.

--Paul J. Meyer

Every child is born blessed with a vivid imagination. But just as a muscle grows flabby with disuse, so the bright imagination of a child pales in later years if he ceases to exercise it.

—Walt Disney

No one means all he says, and yet very few say all they mean, for words are slippery and thought is viscous.

—Henry Brooks Adams

Imagine the people who believe such things and who are not ashamed to ignore, totally, all the patient findings of thinking minds through all the centuries since the Bible was written. And it is these ignorant people, the most uneducated, the most unimaginative, the most unthinking among us, who would make themselves the guides and leaders of us all; who would force their feeble and childish beliefs on us; who would invade our schools and libraries and homes. I personally resent it bitterly.

—Isaac Asimov

Lists are the butterfly nets that catch my fleeting thoughts.

—Betsy Cañas Garmon

Writing is a concentrated form of thinking. I don't know what I think about certain subjects, even today, until I sit down and try to write about them. Maybe I wanted to find more rigorous ways of thinking. We're talking now about the earliest writing I did and about the power of language to counteract the wallow of late adolescence, to define things, define muddled experience in economical ways. Let's not forget that writing is convenient. It requires the simplest tools. A young writer sees that with words and sentences on a piece of paper that costs less than a penny he can place himself more clearly in the world. Words on a page, that's all it takes to help him separate himself from the forces around him, streets and people and pressures and feelings. He learns to think about these things, to ride his own sentences into new perceptions.

—Don DeLillo

The worst bullies you will ever encounter in your life are your own thoughts.

—Internet Meme

There are a thousand thoughts lying within a man that he does not know till he takes up the pen to write.

—William Makepeace
Thackeray

Writing is an intense form of thought.

—Don DeLillo

I could not think without writing.

—Jean Piaget

Good writing is the hardest form of thinking. It involves the agony of turning profoundly difficult thoughts into lucid form, then forcing them into the tight-fitting uniform of language, making them visible and clear. If the writing is good, then the result seems effortless and inevitable. But when you want to say something life-changing or ineffable in a single sentence, you face both the limitations of the sentence itself and the extent of your own talent.

—Pat Conroy

There are very few professions in which people just sit down and think hard for five or six hours a day all by themselves. Of course it's why you want to become a writer—because you have the liberty to do that, but once you have the liberty you also have the obligation to do it.

—Tobias Wolff

Have you ever pondered the miracle of popcorn? It starts out as a tiny, little, compact kernel with magic trapped inside that when agitated, bursts to create something marvelously desirable. It's sort of like those tiny, little thoughts trapped inside an author's head that—in an excited explosion of words—suddenly become a captivating fairy tale!

—Richelle E. Goodrich

How could poetry and literature have arisen from something as plebian as the cuneiform equivalent of grocery-store bar codes? I prefer the version in which Prometheus brought writing to man from the gods. But then I remind myself that... we should not be too fastidious about where great ideas come from. Ultimately, they all come from a wrinkled organ that at its healthiest has the color and consistency of toothpaste, and in the end only withers and dies.

—Alice Weaver Flaherty

If you can't write clearly, you probably don't think nearly as well as you think you do.

—Kurt Vonnegut

Nothing so sharpens the thought process as writing down one's arguments. Weaknesses overlooked in oral discussion become painfully obvious on the written page.

—Hyman G. Rickover

The female brain itself is a highly intuitive emotion-processing machine, which when put to practice in the progress of society, would do much more than any man can with all his analytical perspectives.

—Abhijit Naskar

In the field of psychology, the Dunning–Kruger effect is a cognitive bias in which people mistakenly assess their cognitive ability as greater than it is. It is related to the cognitive bias of illusory superiority and comes from the inability of people to recognize their lack of ability. Without the self-awareness of metacognition, people cannot objectively evaluate their competence or incompetence.

—Justin Kruger and
David Dunning

Don't be so quick to count out the teenagers. Some of the world's greatest changes, brilliant poetry, and innovations have come from the teenage mind.

—Steve Maraboli

I do not expect old heads on young shoulders.

—C. S. Lewis

Most of the time, we see only what we want to see, or what others tell us to see, instead of really investigate to see what is really there. We embrace illusions only because we are presented with the illusion that they are embraced by the majority. When in truth, they only become popular because they are pounded at us by the media with such an intensity and high level of repetition that its mere force disguises lies and truths. And like obedient schoolchildren, we do not question their validity and swallow everything up like medicine. Why? Because since the earliest days of our youth, we have been conditioned to accept that the direction of the herd, and authority anywhere—is always right.

—Suzy Kassem

When one is young one must see things, gather experience, ideas; enlarge the mind.

—Joseph Conrad

A deadline—the galloping clock, the smell of the editor—is a particular concentration of mortal tension. The brain on deadline does whatever it can: It improvises, it compresses, it contrives, it uses the language and the ideas that are at hand. Inspiration comes or it doesn't. Here the writer is an athlete—performing under pressure and, if he or she is good, delivering on demand.

—James Parker

Want to improve your students' thinking skills? The information literacy skills we [librarians] go on and on about are really skills that support the transferable skills of critical thinking, analysis, reading, writing, and effective communication. Teacher-librarians instruct and support students as they define problems, frame good questions, search for and evaluate information for quality, authority, and relevance. We teach about effectively and ethically synthesizing information from a variety of sources to create original knowledge products, and we teach about communicating information effectively. We will even help you [teachers] design assessments that value these critical skills.

—Joyce Kasman Valenza

I love the sound of people thinking.

—Will Bly

You can't learn to write in college. It's a very bad place for writers because the teachers always think they know more than you do—and they don't. They have prejudices. They may like Henry James, but what if you don't want to write like Henry James? They may like John Irving, for instance, who's the bore of all time. A lot of the people whose work they've taught in the schools for the last thirty years, I can't understand why people read them and why they are taught. The library, on the other hand, has no biases. The information is all there for you to interpret. You don't have someone telling you what to think. You discover it for yourself.

—Ray Bradbury

If we understood the power of our thoughts, we would guard them more closely. If we understood the awesome power of our words, we would prefer silence to almost anything negative. In our thoughts and words, we create our own weaknesses and our own strengths. Our limitations and joys begin in our hearts. We can always replace negative with positive.

—Betty Eadie

Humans have not one but two cognitive systems....System 1 is intuitive, automatic, and impulsive. It makes snap judgments about dangers such as predators or opportunities such as food, and it delivers them to our awareness without conscious thought. It is also often wrong. It is biased and emotional. It overreacts and underreacts. System2, by contrast, is slower and involves wearying cognitive labor. It gathers facts, consults evidence, weighs arguments, and makes reasoned judgments. It protects us from the errors and impulsivity of System 1.

—Daniel Kahneman

All truly great thoughts are conceived while walking.

—Friedrich Nietzsche

Thinking is generally thought of as doing nothing in a production-orientated culture.

—Rebecca Solnit