



What the Dormouse Said: Lessons for Grown-ups from Children's Books

Amy Gash , Judith Viorst

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This one-of-a-kind collection reminds weary adults not to lose sight of the values and virtues they learned as kids. Here are over three hundred quotations from over two hundred well-loved children's books, such as *Charlotte's Web*, *Peter Pan*, *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*, *Eloise*, *Sounder*, *Number the Stars*, and *Goodnight Moon*, organized by topic, among them Acceptance, Goodness, Family Woes, and Growing Old. On Silence: "I assure you that you can pick up more information when you are listening than when you are talking."--E. B. White, *The Trumpet of the Swan*. On Reverence: "Dying's part of the wheel, right there next to being born. . . . Being part of the whole thing, that's the blessing."--Natalie Babbitt, *Tuck Everlasting*.

With clever illustrations from Pierre Le-Tan, here is a book to share with a friend or keep by your own bedside. It's the perfect gift for your sister, your mother, your brother, your nephew, your kid's teacher, your daughter away at college, your son in the Navy, your mailman, your priest, for the old lady next door, or for the baby just born. Most importantly, give it to yourself. It will help you remember why you loved reading in the first place.

What the Dormouse Said: Lessons for Grown-ups from Children's Books Details

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From Reader Review What the Dormouse Said: Lessons for Grown-ups from Children's Books for online ebook

Shellina Borgman says

This should be titled "A collection of quotes from children's books"
Not really lessons.

Jennifer says

Often it is stated "out of the mouth of babes". We forget the profound wisdom that is found in the pages of children's literature. After picking up this little book I am inspired to go out and pick up some of those classics again.

Maryanne says

Words of wisdom from children's books containing witty and inspirational quotes. It's a good resource for my classroom because the reading program I use is based on themes such as kindness and courage, and I can use the quotations from these books for my concept board.

Heather says

This is a quick read and reminded me of so many great books I have read and add to my list of books I want to read. I would have loved to see more quotes-one favorite from Ella Enchanted "It is helpful to know the proper way to behave, so one can decide whether or not to be proper."

Monica says

For the quoteaphile that I am! With quotes from some of my favorites including...

"So many things are possible just as long as you don't know they're impossible!" The Phantom Tollbooth by Norton Juster, 1961

"Thou hast only to follow the wall far enough and there will be a door in it." The Door in the Wall, Marguerite de Angeli 1949

"Nothing ever seems interesting when it belongs to you - only when it doesn't." Tuck Everlasting, Natalie Babbitt, 1975

"What you can do is often simply a matter of what you will do." *The Phantom Tollbooth* by Norton Juster, 1961

"War ain't nothing but wickedness, and them that live to come home will have the mark of the beast upon them." *The Perilous Road*, William Steele, 1958

"When you have done a great many things, you forget to speak of them...It is those who do very little who must talk of it." *Miracles on Maple Hill*, Virginia Sorensen, 1956

Just a few of my favs...an excellent book to own and revisit regularly!!

Susan says

Great gift for a children's librarian, writer, teacher, and the like. Infuriating for those of us who are life long quote collectors and lovers of children's books that we didn't think of it first.

Petrea says

A cute little book with a catchy title. I found the illustrations a little disappointing---though some are spot on--they are all black and white line drawings. It's fun to read little quotes from favorite children's books--and some I didn't know but now want to read. Good for a little read on an afternoon.

Ruth says

Children's books are often dismissed as a lesser form of literature when compared to books aimed at adult audiences. However, children's literature often contains universal truths that can benefit readers of all ages.

What the Dormouse Said: Lessons for Grown-ups from Children's Books, is a charming collection of literary quotations. Amy Gash first became interested in children's books after the birth of her son. She began to seek out good children's books after her son was old enough to request the same story over and over again. This was an act of self-preservation, one to which many parents can relate. Ms. Gash soon found that not only was she reading children's books to her son; she was also reading them for her own enjoyment. Along the way, she was able to glean wisdom for adult living from these tales intended for children.

The book covers subjects such as love and friendship, imagination, wisdom, courage, acceptance, nature, character and individuality, growing old and hidden truths. The quotations are from a wide variety of sources: *Charlotte's Web*, *Mary Poppins*, *The Water-Babies*, *Ella Enchanted*, *The Little Prince*, *Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm*, *Goodnight Moon*, *The Velveteen Rabbit*, *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* and *Sarah, Plain and Tall*; just to name a few. There are wonderful illustrations by Pierre Le-Tan interspersed throughout the book.

I read many of the books quoted in *What the Dormouse Said* as a child, more of them as an adult, and have

discovered many titles that were new to me that I will seek out in the future. It's a delightful book for anyone who enjoys children's literature.

I'd like to close my review by sharing some of my favorite quotations from *What the Dormouse Said* with you:

"Each thing she learned became part of herself, to be used over and over in new adventures." –*Gypsy*, Kate Seredy

"Grownups sure do a lot of pretending and call it politeness." –*Miss Charity Comes to Stay*, Alberta Wilson Constant

"You saved me once, and what is given is always returned. We are in this world to help one another." –*The Adventures of Pinocchio*, C. Collodi

"The Dormouse sulkily remarked, 'If you can't be civil, you'd better finish the story for yourself.'" –*Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, Lewis Carroll

Marzia says

Non posso dare un voto più alto.

Si tratta sostanzialmente di un breve libro di citazioni tratte da libri per ragazzi.

Mi aspettavo qualcosa di più nonostante sia comunque una raccolta molto carina-

Camie says

"The time has come "the walrus said, " to talk of many things of shoes and ships, and sealing wax....of cabbages and kings. " From *Through the Looking Glass* Lewis Carroll . A cute book of sayings and quotes from children's books. I still say the above quote to my grown kids when we need a serious private chat ! A great idea, but I already knew most of them.

Hui Fang says

Very cute and fun book and occasional wise words.

Lynn Bingaman says

Any adult who loves children's books would like this book. I have read many of the books, but a few were new to me. I recognized some of the passages quoted, but some I will need to find again. Excellent bibliography with page numbers cited.

Kellie says

I have not read the majority of the books that were quoted, however, this is a nice collection of quotes. There were a few familiar ones, some good and bad ones, but overall an interesting book to read. It made me wish I had kept a notebook of quotes I have liked over the years from the books I have read. I may start doing that now.

Anne says

What's not to love here? As someone who has read most of the books Gash has quoted from, it was the literary equivalent of being gifted with milky cocoa and homemade oatmeal cookies. So satisfying to be reminded epigrammatically about what's really important in the world, both then and now. A lovely comforting collection of almost truths! A little gem.

Kathy says

Loved reading this as it reminded me of so many books from my childhood . The quotes helped to trigger fond memories of a “ kinder, gentler time.”
