

# 43 Cross-Cultural Quotes for the Classroom

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## 4 ways to use cross-cultural quotes with your students

- : Post quotes in your classroom, on your syllabus or on your class website.
  - :: Discuss one quote each week with your students.
  - ::: Ask students to interpret a quote in picture, song, skit or other creative form.
  - ::: Ask students to write their own cross-cultural quotes.
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## # 1-5

We don't see things as they are, we see them as we are.  
– *Anais Nin*

It is not the answer that enlightens, but the question.  
– *Eugene Ionesco*

I soon realized that no journey carries one far unless, as it extends into the world around us, it goes an equal distance into the world within.  
– *Lillian Smith*

The whole object of travel is not to set foot on foreign land; it is at last to set foot on one's own country as a foreign land.  
– *G.K. Chesterton*

The limits of my language mean the limits of my world.  
– *Ludwig Wittgenstein*

## # 6-10

What is hardest of all? That which seems most simple: to see with your eyes what is before your eyes.

– *Johann Wolfgang von Goethe*

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

– *William James*

Language shapes the way we think, and determines what we can think about.

– *Benjamin Lee Whorf*

Travelers never think that *they* are the foreigners.

– *Mason Cooley*

Culture is a framework in which we communicate.

– *Stephen Roberts*

## # 11-15 .....

Like all great travellers, I have seen more than I remember, and remember more than I have seen.

– *Benjamin Disraeli*

The most important trip you may take in life is meeting people halfway.

– *Henry Boye*

Those who know nothing of foreign languages know nothing of their own.

– *Johann Wolfgang von Goethe*

No culture can live, if it attempts to be exclusive.

– *Mahatma Ghandi*

Not all those who wander are lost.

– *JRR Tolkien*

## # 16-20 .....

I speak two languages, Body and English.

– *Mae West*

The traveler sees what he sees. The tourist sees what he has come to see.

– *G.K. Chesterton*

Culture is a little like dropping an Alka-Seltzer into a glass -- you don't see it, but somehow it does something.

– *Hans Magnus Enzensberger*

Everything is simpler than you think and at the same time more complex than you imagine.

– *Johann Wolfgang von Goethe*

I met a lot of people in Europe. I even encountered myself.

– *James Baldwin*

## # 21-25

We travel, some of us forever, to seek other states, other lives, other souls.

– *Anais Nin*

There is no more difficult art to acquire than the art of observation, and for some men it is quite as difficult to record an observation in brief and plain language.

– *William Osler*

Slang is a language that rolls up its sleeve, spits on its hands, and goes to work.

– *Carl Sandburg*

The world is a book, and those who do not travel read only a page.

– *Saint Augustine*

People can only live fully by helping others to live. When you give life to friends you truly live. Cultures can only realize further richness by honoring other traditions. And only by respecting natural life can humanity continue to exist.

– *Daisaku Ikeda*

## # 26-30

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I do not want my house to be walled in on all sides and my windows to be stuffed. I want the cultures of all the lands to be blown about my house as freely as possible. But I refuse to be blown off my feet by any.

– *Mahatma Gandhi*

Our senses don't deceive us: our judgment does.

– *Johann Wolfgang von Goethe*

Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry, and narrow-mindedness, and many of our people need it sorely on these accounts.

– *Mark Twain*

Follow your cultural and religious customs in your own home, but do not attempt to impose them on society. Rather than this, love each person as your own brother or sister, not seeing him or her as belonging to another creed, religion, or country.

– *Sri Sathya Sai Baba*

Our loyalties must transcend our race, our tribe, our class, and our nation; and this means we must develop a world perspective.

– *Martin Luther King, Jr.*

**# 31-35**

The greatest virtue of man is perhaps curiosity.  
– *Anatole France*

Curiosity killed the cat, but where human beings are concerned, the only thing a healthy curiosity can kill is ignorance.  
– *Harry Lorayne*

A man should be just cultured enough to be able to look with suspicion upon culture.  
– *Samuel Butler*

Every view of the world that becomes extinct, every culture that disappears, diminishes a possibility of life.  
– *Octavio Paz*

Landscape shapes culture.  
– *Terry Tempest Williams*

**# 36-40**

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Culture is the widening of the mind and of the spirit.  
– *Jawaharlal Nehru*

Preservation of one's own culture does not require contempt or disrespect for other cultures.  
– *Cesar Chavez*

The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new lands, but in seeing with new eyes.  
– *Marcel Proust*

Don't tell me how educated you are, tell me how much you have traveled.  
– *Mohammed*

The surest way to corrupt a youth is to instruct him to hold in higher esteem those who think alike than those who think differently.  
– *Friedrich Nietzsche*

**# 41-43**

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The opposite of a correct statement is a false statement. But the opposite of a profound truth may well be another profound truth.  
– *Niels Bohr*

Men build too many walls and not enough bridges.  
– *Isaac Newton*

You must be the change you wish to see in the world.  
– *Mohandas Gandhi*