

The Novelist as Teacher Quotations

Writer: Chinua Achebe | Generated: Jan 26, 2026

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"Your novels serve as advice to us young." (I. Buba Yero Mafindi, Northern Nigeria)

Explanation: The young reader tells Achebe that his novels work as guidance for the youth. This shows the teacher-like bond between the African writer and the reader.

"The writer cannot expect to be excused from the task of re-education and regeneration." (Achebe)

Explanation: Achebe believes that the African writer must help rebuild the people's minds after colonial damage. Art must support social healing.

"One long night of savagery." (Achebe)

Explanation: Achebe rejects the false belief that Africa's past was only darkness and cruelty. He wants to correct this wrong picture.

"Cleanliness was next to godliness." (Old European belief)

Explanation: Achebe uses this line to show how European culture once praised extreme cleanliness as a holy value. It helps him show how cultures change.

"I ain't gonna wash for a week." (English pop song)

Explanation: Achebe uses this song to show cultural reversal. The singer rejects the old European ideal of holiness through cleanliness.

