

# Essay on criticism (1728)

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I will not say the same of Mr.

**An Essay On Criticism Quotes by Alexander Pope**

Yet these Writers were Originals which raises their Merit much above all Sorts of Translators, and it ought to be a Lesson to all Poets and Historians, whether first Hand or second Hand, to pay the World for their Applause with Modesty, which is the surest Way to keep it in a good Humour; Since 'tis Posterity only, says Boileau, which sets a Value upon all Writings, you must not, as admirable as you take a modern Author to be, presently put him upon a Level with those Writers who have been admired for so many Ages, because one cannot be sure his Works will pass with Glory to the next.

**An Essay on Criticism, by Alexander Pope.**

He watched him as a Cat watches a Mouse, a singular Proof of his Perfection in Eloquence, which naturally leads us to Expression, and I doubt not the Historian thinks a finer Historical Stile than his own is not to be met with. To teach us good Language by Example, Dr.

**An Essay on Criticism, by Alexander Pope.**

It also represents many of the chief literary ideals of Pope's age. He represented it as a Study for a Man's Life, and I am confirm'd in this Judgement by what Menage tells us of himself, and others upon this Subject.

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