

Quotations on writing

"I write for the same reason I breathe - because if I didn't, I would die."

- Isaac Asimov

"Good work doesn't happen with inspiration. It comes with constant, often tedious and deliberate effort. If your vision of a writer involves sitting in a cafe, sipping an aperitif with one's fellow geniuses, become a drunk. It's easier and far less exhausting."

- William Hefferman

"Being a writer is like having homework every night for the rest of your life."

- Lawrence Kasdan

"On the whole, audiences prefer that art be not a mirror held up to life, but a Disneyland of the soul, containing Romanceland, Spyland, Pornoland and all the other escapelands which are so much more agreeable than the complex truth."

- Geoffrey Wiseman

"Books aren't written - they're rewritten. Including your own. It is one of the hardest things to accept, especially after the seventh rewrite hasn't quite done it."

- Michael Crichton

"I think of an author as somebody who goes into the marketplace and puts down his rug and says, "I will tell you a story," and then he passes the hat."

- Robertson Davies (1913-1995),
Canadian novelist, journalist.

"Art is the manipulation of someone else's imagination."

- Sol Saks, *Funny Business*

"The writer is always tricking the reader into listening to their dream."

- Joan Didion

"No tears in the writer, no tears in the reader."

- Robert Frost

"Success comes to a writer as a rule, so gradually that it is always something of a shock to him to look back and realize the heights to which he has climbed."

- P.G. Wodehouse

"Writing is like prostitution. First you do it for love, and then for a few close friends, and then for money."

- Moliere

"To imagine yourself inside another person...is what a story writer does in every piece of work; it is his first step, and his last too, I suppose."

- Eudora Welty

"Writing is a form of therapy; sometimes I wonder how all those who do not write, compose or paint can manage to escape the madness, melancholia, the panic fear which is inherent in a human situation."

- Graham Greene

"Art is the most intense mode of individualism that the world has known."

- Oscar Wilde

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"When you are developing your writing skills, the first step is to be aware. Identify the part that is holding you back. Concentrate on it. Do something about it."

- Stephen Wilbers

"Good writing is supposed to evoke sensation in the reader - not the fact that it is raining, but the feeling of being rained upon."

- E.L. Doctorow

"A writer is somebody for whom writing is more difficult than it is for other people."

- Thomas Mann, novelist, Nobel laureate (1875-1955)

"Imagination grows by exercise, and contrary to common belief, is more powerful in the mature than in the young."

- W. Somerset Maugham

"Anyone who has a choice and doesn't choose to write is a fool. The work is hard, the perks are few, the pay is terrible, and the product, when it's finally finished, is pure joy".

- Mary Lee Settle

"The solitude of writing is also quite frightening. It's quite close to madness; one just disappears for a day and loses touch."

- Nadine Gordimer

"I learned that the only way you are going to get anywhere in life is to work hard at it. Whether you're a musician, a writer, an athlete or a businessman, there is no getting around it. If you do, you'll win - if you don't, you won't."

- Bruce Jenner

"Writing is the only thing that, when I do it, I don't feel I should be doing something else."

- Gloria Steinem

"The worst thing you write is better than the best thing you didn't write."

- Unknown

"When this question comes up... and it will... 'When are you going to get a real job?' Just say 'my job is not reaching my death bed with regrets about dreams I was too scared to pursue. You should look into it.' That generally shuts people right up."

- Stephen King