

Quotes about writing - 353

1. Many, when they're first learning about writing techniques, are stifled by all the choices to be made as they write. This is a temporary condition. The cure is to write through it. Soon the technical considerations will be second nature, close to the intuitive way we wrote before we knew anything about craft. ~ *Meg Files*.
2. If you want to be a writer, you must do two things above all others: read a lot and write a lot. There's no way around these two things that I'm aware of, no shortcut. ~ Stephen King
3. Contemporary life would keep us too busy for consciousness – poetry is an act of resistance. ~ *Marie Howe*.
4. Every writer I know has trouble writing. ~ *Joseph Heller*.
5. What I have found necessary, apart from talent, is the need to persevere with the actual task of writing as well as the beauty of what is being created. Just like pregnancy, a story or poem is conceived but needs time to incubate in the womb (your mind) and then grow and develop (birth and the rest). Don't be in too much of a hurry. The best works come when time is given for them to live, breathe, be. ~ *Tania Roxborough*.
6. The faster I write the better my output. If I'm going slow I'm in trouble. It means I'm pushing the words out instead of being pulled by them. ~ *Raymond Chandler*.
7. Poetry is my lie-detector test, the best way I have of detecting my own bullshit. It's better than therapy, than conversations with friends and is comparable in accuracy only to prayer. ~ Gwyneth Lewis.
8. What are the words you do not yet have? What do you need to say?.For it is not differences which immobilize us, but silence. And there are so many silences to be broken. ~ *Audre Lorde*.
9. The coroner will find ink in my veins and blood on my typewriter keys. ~ *C. Astrid Weber*.
10. Poetry is the one art that asks a person to tell, in words, in the first person, what it is for her or him to live here and now. ~ *Glaway Kinnell*.
11. I think I am starving for publication: I love to get published; it maddens me not to get published. I feel at times like getting every publisher in the world by the scruff of the neck, forcing his jaws open, and cramming the manuscript down his throat – 'God-damn you, here it is – I will and must be published.' ~ *Tom Wolfe*.
12. Asking a working writer what he thinks about critics is like asking a lamp-post how it feels about dogs. ~ *Christopher Hampton*.

13. Writing a book is a long, exhausting struggle, like a long bout of some painful illness. One would never undertake such a thing if one were not driven by some demon one can neither resist nor understand. ~ *George Orwell*.
14. Writers like teeth are divided into incisors and grinders. ~ *Walter Bagehot*.
15. An author spends months writing a book, and maybe puts his heart's blood into it, and then it lies about unread till the reader has nothing else in the world to do. ~ *W. Somerset Maugham*.
16. There couldn't be a society of people who didn't dream. They'd be dead in two weeks. ~ *William S. Burroughs*.
17. Brick walls are there for a reason. They give us a chance to show how badly we want something. ~ *Randy Pausch*.
18. Write while the heat is in you. The writer who postpones the recording of his thoughts uses an iron which has cooled to burn a hole with. He cannot inflame the minds of his audience. ~ *Henry David Thoreau*.
19. If a thing goes without saying, let it. ~ *Jacob M. Braude*.
20. Put it before them briefly so they will read it, clearly so they will appreciate it, picturesquely so they will remember it and, above all, accurately so they will be guided by its light. ~ *Joseph Pulitzer*.
21. A word is not the same with one writer as with another. One tears it from his guts. The other pulls it out of his overcoat pocket. ~ *Charles Peguy*.
22. Poetry is not a turning loose of emotion, but an escape from emotion; it is not the expression of personality, but an escape from personality. But, of course, only those who have personality and emotions know what it means to want to escape from these things. ~ *T.S. Eliot*.
23. What an author likes to write most is his signature on the back of a check." ~ *Brendan Francis*.
24. Write freely and as rapidly as possible and throw the whole thing on paper. Never correct or rewrite until the whole thing is down. Rewrite in process is usually found to be an excuse for not going on. ~ *John Steinbeck*
25. Creative thought, expressed in living poetry, is anathema to people who use the education system to perpetuate a social or political system. To them, education means everybody learning rules by heart and sticking to them. Because poetry can't be confined to rules, it's stamped on very hard when it steps out of line. It's remarkable what nastiness both teachers and literary commentators will resort to in order to quell independent

thought. ~ *Cilla McQueen*.

26. In learning a craft, or in mastering any activity, only when we arrive at a certain degree of accomplishment and knowledge of the necessary tools, techniques and movements, both inner and outer, can we freely express ourselves. ~ *David Ulrich*.

27. A good poem is a contribution to reality. The world is never the same once a good poem has been added to it. A good poem helps to change the shape of the universe, helps to extend everyone's knowledge of himself and the world around him. ~ *Dylan Thomas*.

28. A synonym is a word you use when you can't spell the word you first thought of. - *Burt Bacharach*.

29. I like the fiction writer's feeling of being able to confront an experience and resolve it as art, however imperfectly and briefly – to give it a form and try to embody it – to hold it and express it in a story's terms. You have more chance to try it in a novel. A short story is confined to one mood, to which everything in the story pertains. Characters, setting, time, events, are all subject to the mood. And you can try more ephemeral, more fleeting things in a story – you can work more by suggestion – than in a novel. Less is resolved, more is suggested, perhaps. ~ *Eudora Welty*.

30. What I like in a good author isn't what he says, but what he whispers. ~ *Logan Pearsall Smith*.

31. It is in our idleness, in our dreams, that the submerged truth sometimes comes to the top. ~ *Virginia Woolf*.

32. Poetry is an action of the mind towards the world. ~ *C.K. Stead*

33. Writing is no trouble: you just jot down ideas as they occur to you. The jotting is simplicity itself - it is the occurring which is difficult. ~ *Stephen Leacock*

34. My aim is to put down on paper what I see and what I feel in the best and simplest way. ~ *Ernest Hemingway*.

35. I suppose my effort has been a consistent one – I just keep trying to make something out of words that you'd think couldn't be made out of words. ~ *Deborah Eisenberg*.

36. Talent is helpful in writing, but guts are absolutely essential. ~ *Jessamyn West*.

37. Creativity is allowing yourself to make mistakes. Art is knowing which ones to keep. ~ *Scott Adams*.

38. The most beautiful things are those that madness prompts and reason writes. ~ *André Gide*.

39. Write while the heat is in you. The writer who postpones the recording of his thoughts

uses an iron which has cooled to burn a hole with. He cannot inflame the minds of his audience. ~ *Henry David Thoreau*.

40. I love writing. I love the swirl and swing of words as they tangle with human emotions. ~ *James Michener*.

41. One only succeeds in gaining an effect by cutting all exuberance. ~ *Gustave Flaubert*.

42. Our life is frittered away by detail. Simplify. Simplify. ~ *Thoreau*.

43. Almost anyone can become an author; the business is to collect money and fame from this state of being. ~ *A.A. Milne*.

44. Either write something worth reading or do something worth writing. ~ *Ben Franklin*.

45. Everybody walks past a thousand story ideas every day. The good writers are the ones who see five or six of them. Most people don't see any. ~ *Orson Scott Card*.

46. Write freely and as rapidly as possible and throw the whole thing on paper. Never correct or rewrite until the whole thing is down. Rewrite in process is usually found to be an excuse for not going on. ~ *John Steinbeck*.

47. Real writing has heart, buried under its layers of sleeve. ~ *Elizabeth Smither*.

48. Freedom to write is a very narrow freedom among the many personal imprisonments suffered by those who want to write, yet it is the master key, and if a writer has determination enough to turn the key (heedless of the desires and warnings of those who don't understand or fear (rightly) the consequences of this outrageous daylight robbery of the imagination) then he may be able to put his dreamed works into words. ~ *Janet Frame*.

49. Fiction is truth not bound by fact. ~ *Jenny Argante*.

50. The important thing is to take that first step. Bravely overcoming one small fear gives you the courage to take on the next. ~ *Daisaku Ikeda*.

51. How can you see clearly if your imagination is out of focus? ~ *Mark Twain*.

52. Bum glue – glue your bum to a chair and keep going, and never give up. Writing is about time spent with words until eventually they become your friends and begin to co-operate with your gifted storyteller's mind. Writing is about time and practice. ~ *Bryce Courtenay*.

53. Poetry is a complete and separate form of energy belonging to all time, of no century of the past, nor the present, and a possession of no one country. It has changed from time to time and is changing. It is different from what it was a hundred years ago, and it will probably show changes a hundred years hence. It does not develop with history or civilization, although the poet's expression should be contemporary with his time. ~ *E.S. Hardy*.

54. Good communication is as stimulating as black coffee, and just as hard to sleep after. ~ *Anne Morrow Lindbergh*.

55. To be concerned always. But that isn't possible. To be sensitive always, like film, to respond always – also impossible. ~ *Geoffrey Grigson*.

56. A principle of physics – the subject of an observation is altered by being observed. ~ *Margaret Beverland*.

57. There is no such thing as genuinely understanding the writings of another. If the writing is genuine enough to be fully understood, it has to be ordinary, it has to be closed like an eye is closed in the face of the boring clockwork of the sun. Writing that emits light is itself the sun looking at itself lightly. In other words, it isn't aware that someone is even looking at it let alone understanding it. ~ *Jill Chan*.

58. Effective organisation of ideas is important. The successful writer must be willing to cut, polish, check, rewrite and condense. ~ *Betty Garee*.

59. Editors want to know they are getting something from a writer they cannot get from anyone else. Good writing should be a given. After that, it's what you know. ~ *Karen Bischoff*.

60. Memoirs, autobiographical stories and personal essays let us enter an author's mind and follow it like a train on its track. If the author steams along at full power, we chug along deep into our own truths. Creative non-fiction welds real life to imagination and delivers stories with colour, sass and voice. Personal essays plunge us deep into our souls, uncovering and exposing our raw emotions, breathing new life into the ordinary telling of our tales. This explosive union employs dialogue, melody and narrative to bring readers to their knees. ~ Quoted in *Absolute Write* e-zine & acknowledged with thanks.

61. Write only if you cannot live without writing. Write only what you alone can write. ~ *Elie Wiesel*.

62. What is really the main goal of the creative non-fiction writer? To use research methods and literary techniques to re-create actual events and people on the page, you might say. And that's a good answer ... But sometimes it isn't the only answer. ~ *Laura Wexler*.

63. One demands two things of a poem. Firstly, it must be a well made verbal object that does honour to the language in which it is written. Secondly, it must say something significant about a reality common to us all, but perceived from a unique perspective. What the poet says has never been said before, but once he has said it, his readers recognize its validity for themselves. ~ *W.H. Auden*.

64. Style is a manifestation of a temperament. ~ *C.K. Stead*.

65. It is with words as with sunbeams, the more they are condensed, the deeper they burn.

~ *Robert Southey*.

66. Keeping a writing diary will remind you of the difficulties you encountered during the last time of writing, and will be proof of the way you found solutions to problems that might have seemed insurmountable. And so you'll be better equipped for your next expedition – and the next, and the next. ~ *Sarah Quigley*.

67. Poetry is the poem, or a part of it; nothing else, and nowhere else. ~ *Geoffrey Grigson*.

68. Pictures cannot be said, but only seen, in spite of the pathos, the attempted time-machine magic of the history of art! Poems can only be read. Criticism of pictures or poems is valid only if it extends someone's seeing or reading. ~ *Matthew Arnold*.

69. Try to write a piece that leaves the reader with one strong mental image to serve as a reminder of what you've written about. Be a real person talking to other real people about what it means to live in the midst of real-life situations. ~ *Mary Lou Redding*.

70. The poem is a starting point, rather than a complete or discrete product. It allows room for the accidental, for the vagaries of the subconscious and for the private vision to become public experience, and for public opinion to interact with private and personal belief. ~ *Alistair Paterson*.

71. Find a subject you care about and which in your heart you feel others should care about. It is the genuine caring, and not your games with language, that will be the most compelling and seductive element in your style. ~ *Kurt Vonnegut*.

72. I want to propose that creative non-fiction has three qualities. First, to be non-fiction, it must be 'true'. Second, it is artful. And third, it gives us a sense of the writer's presence. ~ *Dan Roche*.

73. One of the great rules of art: do not linger. ~ *André Gide*.

74. Throughout my formal education I spent many, many hours in public and school libraries. Libraries became courts of last resort, as it were. The current definitive answer to almost any question can be found within the four walls of most libraries. ~ *Arthur Ashe*.

75. The road to wisdom? ~ Well, it's plain/ and simple to express/ Err and err and err again/ but less and less and less. ~ *Piet Hein*, 'The Road to Wisdom' IN Grooms (1966)

76. Tell all the truth ~ but tell it slant. ~ *Emily Dickinson*.

77. We must be realistic in acknowledging that knowledge of the forms, techniques, fashions and traditions of the art of poetry may be put to good use by the practitioner. ~ *Owen Bullock*.

78. Poetry is when an emotion has found its thought and the thought has found words. ~ *Robert Frost*.

79. To get the right word in the right place is a rare achievement. To condense the diffused light of a page of thought into the luminous flash of a single sentence, is worthy to rank as a prize composition just by itself. ~ *Mark Twain*.

80. What do essays do best? They focus a passion and pursue a question. ~ *Justin Paton*.

81. Poetry is not about expertise, nor is it about exhibitionism. Poetry is about experience. ~ *Jenny Argante*.

82. Writing is an instrument, a tool that gets you to some goal: expression, clarification, vision and creation. ~ *Katherine Ramsland*.

83. Editing should be, especially in the case of old writers, a counselling rather than a collaborating task. The tendency of the writer-editor to collaborate is natural, but he should say to himself, How can I help this writer to say it better in his own style? and avoid How can I show him how I would write it, if it were my piece? ~ *James Thurber*.

84. Poetry is the poem, or a part of it; nothing else, and nowhere else. ~ *Geoffrey Grigson*.

85. A good essay picks up on the times when it was written; it is a form that tells us what it is to be contemporary. ~ *Vincent O'Sullivan*.

86. Words and sentences are subject to revision; paragraphs and whole compositions are subjects of prevision. ~ *Barrett Wendell*.

87. Poetry in general seems to have sprung from two causes, each of them lying deep in our nature. First, the instinct of imitation is implanted in man from childhood, one difference between him and other animals being that he is the most imitative of living creatures, and through imitation learns his earliest lessons; and no less universal is the pleasure felt in things imitated. We have evidence of this in the facts of experience. Objects which in themselves we view with pain, we delight to contemplate when reproduced with minute fidelity: such as the forms of the most ignoble animals and of dead bodies. ~ *Aristotle*.

88. Put the argument into a concrete shape, into an image, some hard phrase, round and solid as a ball, which they can see and handle and carry home with them, and the cause is half won. ~ *Ralph Waldo Emerson*.

89. Problems are not stop signs, they are guidelines. ~ *Robert Schuller*.

90. To me, the greatest pleasure of writing is not what it's about, but the inner music that words make. ~ *Truman Capote*.

91. I met, not long ago, a young man who aspired to become a novelist. Knowing that I was in the profession, he asked me to tell him how he should set to work to realize his ambition. I did my best to explain. 'The first thing,' I said, 'is to buy quite a lot of paper, a bottle of ink, and a pen. After that you merely have to write.' ~ *Aldous Huxley*.

92. If you don't know where you are going, you will probably end up somewhere else. ~ *Lawrence J. Peter.*
93. You must keep sending work out. You must never let a manuscript do nothing but eat its head off in a drawer. You send that work out again and again, while you're working on another one. If you have talent, you will receive some measure of success ~ but only if you persist. ~ *Isaac Asimov.*
94. A professional writer is an amateur who didn't quit. ~ *Richard Bach.*
95. A poem should not mean/ But be. ~ *Archibald MacLeish.*
96. Writing became such a process of discovery that I couldn't wait to get to work in the morning: I wanted to know what I was going to say. ~ *Sharon O'Brien.*
97. Every style that is not boring is good. ~ *Voltaire.*
98. Poetry becomes the under-life, the subtext of every human phrase and action. ~ *Gary Langford.*
99. A good style should show no signs of effort. What is written should seem a happy accident. ~ *W. Somerset Maugham.*
100. Anybody can have ideas ~ the difficulty is to express them without squandering a quire of paper on an idea that ought to be reduced to one glittering paragraph. ~ *Mark Twain.*
101. You will find poetry nowhere unless you bring some of it with you. ~ *Joseph Joubert.*
102. Writing comes more easily if you have something to say. ~ *Sholem Asch.*
103. Easy reading is damn hard writing. ~ *Nathaniel Hawthorne.*
104. Poetry is a deal of joy and pain and wonder, with a dash of the dictionary. ~ *Kahlil Gibran.*
105. The only true writer is a rewriter. ~ *Farrukh Dhondy.*
106. A deadline is negative inspiration. Still, it's better than no inspiration at all. ~ *Rita Mae Brown.*
107. Stop thinking what is good or bad. Start thinking what is true or false. ~ *Grace Paley.*
108. Where the word of the poet ceases, a great light begins. ~ *George Steiner.*

109. Do the thing and you'll have the power. ~ *Ralph Waldo Emerson*.
110. What must always be remembered is that no poet in his senses ever wrote for the examination syllabus or the academic dissecting-table. A poem is, in essence, a private communication between a poet and a single member of his or her audience. What the reader makes of it, just how it is interpreted, the secret nature of its 'meaning', is for the reader alone, and with perfect validity, to resolve in accordance with an individual experience of life and a personal imagination. ~ *Charles Causley* (from the preface of 'Poetry Please!')
111. In poetry you must love the words, the ideas and the images and rhythms with all your capacity to love at all. ~ *Wallace Stevens*.
112. I notice that you use plain, simple language, short words and brief sentences. That is the way to write English ~ it is the modern way and the best way. Stick to it; don't let fluff and flowers and verbosity creep in. ~ *Mark Twain*.
113. A poem is a verbal artefact which must be as skilfully and solidly constructed as a table or a motorcycle. ~ *W.H. Auden*.
114. One size doesn't fit all when it comes to creative writing. ~ *Laurie E. Rozakis*.
115. Poems come out of wonder, not out of knowing. ~ *Lucille Clifton*.
116. Poetry is the rhythmical creation of beauty in words. ~ *Edgar Allan Poe*.
117. If you do not get it from yourself, where will you go for it? ~ (from 'Zenrin~kushu', published 1688)
118. Poetry is not a hobby, or a pastime. ~ *Rhys Pasley*.
119. Writing is a socially acceptable form of schizophrenia. ~ *E.L. Doctorow*.
120. A good haiku has depth; it can be mined and explored and yield more each time it is read. ~ *Cyril Childs*.
121. You learn to write by writing. ~ *Marcelle d'Argy Smith*.
122. We tell stories. We live fully by constructing and ordering scenes - that is, people doing things for reasons, whether known or unknown to themselves - and thus come to understand the random details and chaotic experiences of our lives. ~ *Meg Files*.
123. Even if you're on the right track, you'll get run over if you just sit there. ~ *Will Rogers*.
124. The best biographies leave the readers with a sense of having all but entered a

second life and of having come to know another human being in some ways better than he knew himself. ~ *Mary Cable*.

125. All bad poetry springs from genuine feeling. ~ *Oscar Wilde*.

126. If you look deeply into the palm of your hand, you will see your parents and all generations of your ancestors. All of them are alive in this moment. Each is present in your body. You are the continuation of each of these people. ~ *Thich Nhat Hanh*.

127. In every conceivable manner, the family is a link to our past, a bridge to our future. ~ *Alex Haley*.

128. I write fiction and I'm told it's autobiography, I write autobiography and I'm told it's fiction, so since I'm so dim and they're so smart, let them decide what it is or it isn't. ~ *Philip Roth*.

129. Writer's block is partly a lack of courage to write badly. ~ *Ron Powers*.

130. Truth is in the specifics. ~ *Meg Files*.

131. The characters in a tale should be so clearly defined that the reader can tell beforehand what each will do in a given emergency. ~ *Mark Twain*.

132. A poem is energy is energy transferred from where the poet got it, by way of the poem itself, all the way over to the reader. ~ *Charles Olson*.

133. Writing only truly becomes writing in revision. A professional's first draft is often not much better than anyone else's. It is chiefly in revision that the professional's experience and craftsmanship show. ~ *Donald Graves*.

134. Writing is one of the few professions in which you can psychoanalyse yourself, get rid of hostilities and frustrations in public, and get paid for it. ~ *Octavia Butler*.

135. I yam what I yam. ~ *Popeye*.

136. There are only two ways to live your life. One is as though nothing is a miracle. The other is as though everything was a miracle. ~ *Albert Einstein*.

137. It begins with revelations. ~ *Revd. G. Smith*.

138. There is no such thing as poetry, only poems. ~ *Dylan Thomas*.

139. Why shouldn't truth be stranger than fiction? Fiction, after all, has to make sense. ~ *Mark Twain*.

140. The cornerstone of successful article writing is undoubtedly effective market research. Its advice is vital for your consistent success, yet far too many would-be writers

underestimate the importance of studying the market. In the opinion of all well-established writers, you can only ignore market research at great cost in time and money. ~ *John Hines*.

141. People have a special feeling about language, even though it's been so abused. It's a bit like being a minister or a teacher. They feel you are dealing with something so special you should do it for free. So the idea of commercialism in writing is a very sensitive area. ~ *Margaret Mahy*

142. Are the characters, then, to be constructed to formula – the formula pre-decided by the plot? Are they to be drawn, cut out, joined, wired, in order to be manipulated for the plot? No. There is no question as to whether this would be right or wrong. It would be impossible. One cannot 'make' characters, only marionettes....Characters pre-exist. They are found. They reveal themselves slowly to the novelist's perception – as might fellow-travellers seated opposite one in a very dimly lit railway carriage. The novelist's perceptions of his characters take place in the course of the actual writing of the novel. To an extent, the novelist is in the same position as his reader. But his perceptions should be always just in advance. ~ *Elizabeth Bowen*.

143. Any play that can't be done with two chairs and a light bulb has got something wrong with it. A play should be able to stand in its nakedness. ~ *Edward Albee*.

144. There's no money in poetry, but there's no poetry in money either. ~ *Robert Graves*.

145. It is better to present one image in a lifetime than to produce voluminous works. ~ *Ezra Pound*.

146. If a publisher declines your manuscript, remember it is merely the decision of one fallible human being, and try another. ~ *Sir Stanley Unwin*.

147. Vigorous writing is concise. A sentence should contain no unnecessary words, a paragraph no unnecessary sentences, for the same reason that a drawing should have no unnecessary lines and a machine no unnecessary parts. This requires not that the writer make all his sentences short, or that he avoid all detail and treat his subjects only in outline, but that every word tell. ~ from Strunk & White's 'The Elements of Style'.

148. Curiosity may have killed the cat. It is the lifeblood of the writer. ~ *Jenny Argante*.

149. A great book should leave you with many experiences, and slightly exhausted. You should live several lives while reading it. ~ *William Styron*.

150. What the imagination seizes as beauty must be truth – whether it existed before or not. ~ *John Keats*.

151. Every accomplishment large and small begins with the same decision: I'll try. ~ *Ted Key*.

152. More people have talent than discipline. That's why discipline pays better. – *Mike Price*.
153. There's a difference between writing for a living and writing for life. If you write for a living, you make enormous compromises and you might not be able to uncompromised yourself. If you write for life, you'll work hard; you'll do what's honest, not what pays. ~ *Toni Morrison*.
154. The fear of rejection is worse than rejection itself. ~ *Nora Profit*.
155. Have compassion for yourself when you write. There is no failure – just a big field to wander in. ~ *Natalie Goldberg*.
156. And the trouble is, if you don't risk anything, you risk even more. ~ *Erica Jong*.
157. The desire is always to be as clear and simple as possible which means that poems are often going to be obscure. This is not a contradiction. ~ *Ian Wedde*.
158. There is nothing to writing: all you do is sit down at a typewriter and open a vein. ~ *Red Smith*.
159. When I face the desolate impossibility of writing 500 pages, a sick sense of failure falls on me, and I know I can never do it. Then gradually I write one page, and then another. One day's work is all I can permit myself to contemplate. ~ *John Steinbeck*.
160. Talent is long patience. ~ *Gustave Flaubert*.
161. Opportunities are disguised as hard work, so many people don't recognise them. ~ *Anne Landers*.
162. Look out how you use proud words./When you let proud words go, it is not easy to call them back./They wear long boots, hard boots; they walk off proud; they can't hear you calling ~ /Look out how you use proud words. ~ *Carl Sandburg*.
163. The proper function of writing is to enlarge people. To give them their risk, if possible to give them their divinity, not to cut them down.' ~ *John Cheever*.
164. Poetry is a special way of saying special things, not just a special way of saying. ~ *Owen Leeming*.
165. Let the writer take up surgery or bricklaying if he is interested in technique. There is no mechanical way to get the writing done, no shortcut. The young writer would be a fool to follow a theory. Teach yourself by your own mistakes; people learn only by error. ~ *William Faulkner*.
166. Our life is frittered away by detail. Simplify. Simplify. ~ *Thoreau*.

167. Write when you feel spiteful. It's like having a good sneeze. ~ *D.H. Lawrence*.
168. If a sentence does not illuminate the subject in some new, useful way - scratch it out. ~ *Kurt Vonnegut*.
169. Our greatest glory consists not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall. ~ *Ralph Waldo Emerson*.
170. Poets are soldiers that liberate words from the steadfast possession of definition. ~ *Eli Khamarov*.
171. Dramatic structure consists of the creation and deferment of hope ...The reversals, the surprises, and the ultimate conclusion of the hero's quest are in direct proportion to the plausibility of the opponent forces. ~ *Mamet*.
172. That's where writing comes in. It is as necessary for the survival of my haughty sanity as bread is to my flesh. ~ *Sylvia Plath*.
173. After the high demands that Maupassant placed on his art, it would be difficult to write anything, but one must work just the same. We Russians must be particularly bold in our work. There are big dogs and little dogs, but little dogs must not fret over the existence of the big ones. Everyone is obliged to howl in the voice that the Lord God gave him. ~ *Anton Chekhov*.
174. Write hard. Write true. And write on! ~ *MacAllister Stone*.
175. Poetry is a complete and separate form of energy belonging to all time, of no century of the past, nor the present, and a possession of no one country. It has changed from time to time and is changing. It is different from what it was a hundred years ago, and it will probably show changes a hundred years hence. It does not develop with history or civilization, although the poet's expression should be contemporary with his time. ~ *E.S. Hardy*.
176. Good books are irrefutable, and bad books refute themselves. ~ *Remy de Gourmont*.
177. First cut is the deepest. ~ *Rod Stewart*.
178. Touch the true voice of feeling and it will create its own style and vocabulary. ~ *William Coleridge*.
179. We of the craft are all crazy. ~ *Byron*.
180. We are all being challenged, in one form or another, to recreate our lives. ~ *M. Williamson*.
181. It is a sobering experience for any poet to read the last page of the Books section of

the Sunday Times where correspondents seek to identify poems which have meant much to them. He is forced to realise that it is not his work, not even the work of Dante or Shakespeare, that most people treasure as magic talismans in time of trouble, but grotesquely bad verses written by maiden ladies in local newspapers; that millions in their bereavements, heartbreaks, agonies, depressions, have been comforted and perhaps saved from despair by appalling trash while poetry stood helplessly and incompetently by.' ~ A reality check from *W. H. Auden*, republished in 'The Times' to mark the centenary of his birth.

182. Success is not the key to happiness. Happiness is the key to success. If you love what you are doing, you will be successful. ~ *Herman Cain*.

183. Where you are headed is more important than how fast you are going. Rather than always focusing on what's urgent, learn to focus on what is really important. ~ *Stephen Covey*.

184. Literature was born not the day when a boy crying wolf, wolf came running out of the Neanderthal valley with a big grey wolf at his heels: literature was born on the day when a boy came crying wolf, wolf and there was no wolf behind him. That the poor little fellow because he lied too often was finally eaten up by a real beast is quite incidental. But here is what is important. Between the wolf in the tall grass and the wolf in the tall story there is a shimmering go-between. That go-between, that prism, is the art of literature. ~ *Vladimir Nabokov*.

185. It seems to me that one should only read books which bite and sting one. If the book we are reading does not wake us up with a blow to the head, what's the point of reading? ...A book ought to be an ice pick to break up the frozen sea within us. ~ *Franz Kafka*.

186. You write to communicate to the hearts and minds of others what's burning inside you! And we edit to let the fire show through the smoke. ~ *Arthur Polotnik*.

187. The courage of the poet is to keep ajar the door that leads into madness. ~ *Christopher Morley*.

188. The trouble with taking writing seriously, is that the more seriously you take it the harder it is to write. ~ *Tibor Fischer* (from his novel 'The Thought Gang'.)

189. Everything happens somewhere. ~ *Pieter Haag*.

190. We are told that talent creates its own opportunities. But it sometimes seems that intense desire creates not only its own opportunities, but its own talents. ~ *Eric Hoffer*.

191. Don't get wedded to a good line. ~ *Lynley Dodd*.

192. Put it before them briefly so they will read it, clearly so they will appreciate it, picturesquely so they will remember it and, above all, accurately so they will be guided by

its light. ~ *Joseph Pulitzer*.

193. What a heavy oar the pen is and what a strong current ideas are to row in.
~*Gustave Flaubert*.

194. Inspiration is wonderful when it happens, but the writer must develop an approach for the rest of the time ... The wait is simply too long. ~ *Leonard Bernstein*.

195. I love the swift leap of a good story, the excitement that often commences in the first sentence, the sense of beauty and mystery found in the best of them; and the fact ... that the story can be written and read in one sitting. ~ *Raymond Carver*.

196. And remember the three qualities every writer needs: talent, tenacity, and a tough skin. ~ *Sue Emms*.

197. A rule says, "You must do it this way." A principle says, "This works, and has through all remembered time." The difference is crucial. Your work needn't be modelled after the already successful; rather, it must be well made within the principles that shape our art. Anxious, inexperienced writers obey the rules. Rebellious, unschooled writers break rules. Artists master the form. ~ *Robert McKee*.

198. Writing is no trouble: you just jot down ideas as they occur to you. The jotting is simplicity itself ~ it is the occurring which is difficult. ~ *Stephen Leacock*.

199. We are cups, constantly and quietly being filled. The trick is, knowing how to tip ourselves over and let the beautiful stuff out. ~ *Ray Bradbury*.

200. Fiction is perhaps the purest form of storytelling. A tale is told with only words and the reader's imagination. From these things, a work of fiction can sail across the world in pursuit of a whale or zero in on a few minutes in line at the local bank, luring the reader into a story that feels true.

201. Style should be like a transparent varnish . . . it should spread completely over the colours, make them brighter, but not alter them. ~ *Stendhal*.

202. The word connects the visible trace with the invisible thing, the absent thing, the thing that is desired or feared – like a frail emergency bridge flung over an abyss. ~ *Italo Calvino*.

203. Good communication is as stimulating as black coffee, and just as hard to sleep after. ~ *Anne Morrow Lindbergh*.

204. What is written without effort is in general read without pleasure. ~ *Samuel Johnson*.

205. The role of a writer is not to say what we all can say, but what we are unable to say. ~ *Anaïs Nin*.

206. Only he is an emancipated thinker who is not afraid to write foolish things. ~ *Anton Chekhov*.
207. Poetry is man's rebellion against being what he is. ~ *James Branch Cabell*.
208. If you start to revise before you've reached the end, you're likely to begin dawdling with the revisions and putting off the difficult task of writing. ~ *Pearl S. Buck*.
209. My aim is to put down on paper what I see and what I feel in the best and simplest way. ~ *Ernest Hemingway*.
210. You must stay drunk on writing so reality cannot destroy you. ~ *Ray Bradbury*.
211. The drudgery of being a professional writer comes in trying to make good days out of bad days and in squeezing out the words when they won't just flow. ~ *Benjamin Cavell*.
212. Write while the heat is in you. The writer who postpones the recording of his thoughts uses an iron which has cooled to burn a hole with. He cannot inflame the minds of his audience. ~ *Henry David Thoreau*.
213. What I like in a good author isn't what he says, but what he whispers. ~ *Logan Pearsall Smith*.
214. Contrary to what most people assume, one's politics as a novelist have nothing to do with the societies, parties and groups to which one might belong, or even dedication to any political cause. A novelist's politics arise from his imagination – his ability to imagine himself as someone else.... [This] makes him a spokesperson for those who cannot speak for themselves, whose anger is never heard and whose words are suppressed. ~ *Orhan Pamuk*.
215. The pages are still blank, but there is a miraculous feeling of the words being there, written in invisible ink and clamouring to become visible. ~ *Vladimir Nabokov*.
216. I try to leave out the parts that people skip. ~ *Elmore Leonard*.
217. Poetry is a practical art. It is as good as a knife for cutting through the day's rubbish, and better than a folding umbrella for those sudden bouts of private rain that douse a body out of nowhere. ~ *Jeanette Winterson*.
218. The man who doesn't read good books has no advantage over the man who can't read them. ~ *Mark Twain*.
219. Like stones, words are laborious and unforgiving, and the fitting of them together, like the fitting of stones, demands great patience and strength of purpose and particular skill." ~ *Edmund Morrison*.
220. Writers have no real area of expertise. They are merely generalists with a highly

inflamed sense of punctuation. ~ *Lorrie Moore*.

221. What I tend to say at the beginning of the term to my students in poetry workshops is this: I am going to be involved with your capacities as writers, but your destinies as writers are your own business. ~ *Seamus Heaney*.

222. For a long time now I have tried simply to write the best I can. Sometimes I have good luck and write better than I can. ~ *Ernest Hemingway*

223. Like stones, words are laborious and unforgiving, and the fitting of them together, like the fitting of stones, demands great patience and strength of purpose and particular skill. ~ *Edmund Morrison*.

224. We read to escape ourselves and become someone else, at least for a little while. Fiction is one long sensuous derangement of familiarity through altered point of view. ~ *Richard Powers*.

225. The drudgery of being a professional writer comes in trying to make good days out of bad days and in squeezing out the words when they won't just flow. ~ *Benjamin Cavell*.

226. Put it before them briefly so they will read it, clearly so they will appreciate it, picturesquely so they will remember it and, above all, accurately so they will be guided by its light." ~ *Joseph Pulitzer*.

227. Every word was once a poem. ~ *Ralph Waldo Emerson*.

228. Poets are soldiers that liberate words from the steadfast possession of definition. ~ *Eli Khamarov*.

229. The free-lance writer is a man who is paid per piece or per word or perhaps. ~ *Robert Benchley*.

230. The most essential gift for a good writer is a built-in, shockproof shit detector. This is a writer's radar and all great writers have had it. ~ *Ernest Hemingway*.

231. Not ideas about the thing, but the thing itself. ~ *Wallace Stevens*.

232. Poetry is not a thing, but a way of saying it. ~ *A.E. Housman*.

233. The scariest moment is always just before you start. After that, things can only get better. ~ *Stephen King*.

234. Words need to be crafted, not sprayed. They need to be fitted together with infinite care. ~ *Norman Cousins*.

235. Writing is an adventure. To begin with, it is a toy and an amusement. Then it

becomes a mistress, then it becomes a master, then it becomes a tyrant. The last phase is that just as you are about to be reconciled to your servitude, you kill the monster and fling him to the public. ~ *Winston Churchill*.

236. I write because I would like to live forever. The fact of my future death offends me. Part of this derives from my sense of my own insignificance in the universe. My life and death are a barely momentary flicker. I would like to become more than that. That the people and things I love will die wounds me as well. I seek to immortalize the world I have found and made for myself, even knowing that I won't be there to witness that immortality, mine or my work's, that by definition I will never know whether my endeavour has been successful. But when has impossibility ever deterred anyone from a cherished goal? As the brilliant poet and teacher Alvin Feinstein once said to me, "Poetry is always close kin to the impossible, isn't it?" ~ *Reginald Shepherd*.

237. Our admiration of fine writing will always be in proportion to its real difficulty and its apparent ease." ~ *Charles Caleb Colton*.

238. The free-lance writer is a man who is paid per piece or per word or perhaps. ~ *Robert Benchley*.

239. Few of the stories one has it in one's self to speak get spoken, because the heart rarely confesses to intelligence its deeper needs; and few of the stories one has at the top of one's head get told, because the mind does not always possess the voice for them; and even when the voice is there, and the tongue is limber as if with liquor — loud, lilting and Irish, or soothing and French, liquid and Italian, sweet as the Spanish lisp — where is that second ear? No court commands our entertainments, requires our flattery, needs our loyal enlargements or memorialising lies. Literature once held families together better than quarrelling. It carved a common ancestry from mere air, peopling an often empty and forgotten past with gods, demons, worthy enemies and proper heroes, until it became largely responsible for that pride we sometimes feel in being Athenian or Basque, a follower or a fan. It's no small gift, this sense of worth which reaches us ahead of any action of our own, like hair at birth, and makes brilliant enterprises possible. ~ *William Gass*.

240. At various times in my life I've bought a little finely ornamented volume with a clasp, and written a couple of days' worth of reflections. And then I come back to it and I think, What an idiot.' ~ *Marilynne Robinson*.

241. Writers are the main landmarks of the past. ~ *Edward G. Bulwer-Lytton*.

242. Like stones, words are laborious and unforgiving, and the fitting of them together, like the fitting of stones, demands great patience and strength of purpose and particular skill. ~ *Edmund Morrison*.

243. What I like in a good author isn't what he says, but what he whispers. ~ Logan Pearsall Smith.

244. Memory is an unreliable narrator, over-fond of editing the truth and rewriting what

really happened. That is why some of us knock fearfully at Heaven's gate. ~ *Jenny Argante*.

245. The drudgery of being a professional writer comes in trying to make good days out of bad days and in squeezing out the words when they won't just flow. ~ *Benjamin Cavell*.

246. If you start to revise before you've reached the end, you're likely to begin dawdling with the revisions and putting off the difficult task of writing. ~ *Charles Caleb Colton*.

247. Everything we write is, in some way, autobiographical. ~ *Raymond Carver*.

248. What should a writer strive for? Characterisation. Living, vibrating human beings are still the secret and magic formula of great and enduring writing. ~ *Lajon Egri*.

249. Like stones, words are laborious and unforgiving, and the fitting of them together, like the fitting of stones, demands great patience and strength of purpose and particular skill. ~ *Edmund Morrison*

250. Words need to be crafted, not sprayed. They need to be fitted together with infinite care." ~ *Norman Cousins*

251. "Better to write down something one time than to read something ten times." ~ *Japanese Proverb*

252. Write freely and as rapidly as possible and throw the whole thing on paper. Never correct or rewrite until the whole thing is down. Rewrite in process is usually found to be an excuse for not going on. ~ *John Steinbeck*.

253. An old racetrack joke reminds you that your program contains all the winners' names. I stare at my typewriter keys with the same thought. ~ *Mignon McLaughlin*.

254. A bad novel is better than an unwritten novel, because a bad novel can be improved; an unwritten novel is defeat without a battle. ~ *Paul Johnson*.

255. There is a road from the eye to the heart that does not go through the intellect. ~ *G. K. Chesterton*.

256. I have never killed a man, but I have read many obituaries with great pleasure. ~ *Clarence Darrow*.

257. "He has never been known to use a word that might send a reader to the dictionary." ~ *William Faulkner* (about Ernest Hemingway). "Poor Faulkner. Does he really think big emotions come from big words?" ~ *Ernest Hemingway* (about William Faulkner.)

258. Thank you for sending me a copy of your book; I'll waste no time reading it. ~ *Moses Hadas*.

259. He can compress the most words into the smallest idea of any man I know. ~

Abraham Lincoln.

260. "I am enclosing two tickets to the first night of my new play, bring a friend... if you have one." ~ George Bernard Shaw to Winston Churchill. "Cannot possibly attend first night, will attend second... if there is one." ~ Winston Churchill, in response.

261. Some cause happiness wherever they go; others, whenever they go. ~ Oscar Wilde.

262. He uses statistics as a drunken man uses lamp-posts... for support rather than illumination. ~ *Andrew Lang*.

263. What literature can and should do is change the people who teach the people who don't buy the books. ~ *A.S Byatt*.

264. Writing the last page of the first draft is the most enjoyable moment in writing. It's one of the most enjoyable moments in life, period. ~ *Nicholas Sparks*.

265. The courage of the poet is to keep ajar the door that leads into madness. ~ *Christopher Morley*.

266. My old fashioned belief [is] that journalism involves telling people things they couldn't have found out for themselves - and that readers should be able to trust the essential accuracy of what I report. ~ Francis Wheen.

267. After all, we are in the entertainment business. ~ *Rupert Murdoch*.

268. Jesus, there is but one art: to omit! O if I knew how to omit, I would ask no other knowledge. A man who knew how to omit would make an Iliad out of a daily paper. ~ R.L. Stevenson.

269. The trouble with taking writing seriously, is that the more seriously you take it the harder it is to write. ~ *Tibor Fischer*.

270. All slang is metaphor, and all metaphor is poetry. *G.K. Chesterton*.

271. The first draft of anything is sh*t. ~ *Ernest Hemingway*.

272. The quality which makes man want to write and be read is essentially a desire for self-exposure and masochism. Like one of those guys who has a compulsion to take his thing out and show it on the street. ~ *James Jones*.

273. A writer is a person for whom writing is more difficult than it is for other people. ~ *Thomas Mann*.

274. I want to stay as close to the edge as I can without going over. Out on the edge you see all kinds of things you can't see from the centre. ~ *Kurt Vonnegut*.

275. Come on, people, this poetry isn't going to appreciate itself! ~ *Bart Simpson*.
276. Hippopotomonstrosesquippedaliophobia, *noun*. Definition: fear of long words.
277. One of my greatest pleasures in writing has come from the thought that perhaps my work might annoy someone of comfortably pretentious position. Then comes the saddening realization that such people rarely read. ~ *John Kenneth Galbraith*.
278. You write to communicate to the hearts and minds of others what's burning inside you. And we edit to let the fire show through the smoke. ~ *Arthur Polotnik*.
279. Writing is the hardest work in the world. ~ *Harlan Ellison*.
280. Ink is handicapped, in a way, because you can blow up a man with gunpowder in half a second, while it may take twenty years to blow him up with a book. But the gunpowder destroys itself along with its victim, while a book can keep on exploding for centuries. ~ *Christopher Morley*.
281. A word is not a crystal, transparent and unchanged, it is the skin of a living thought and may vary greatly in colour and content according to the circumstances and the time in which it is used. ~ *Oliver Wendell Holmes*.
282. The truly creative mind in any field is no more than this: A human creature born abnormally, inhumanly sensitive. To him... a touch is a blow, a sound is a noise, a misfortune is a tragedy, a joy is an ecstasy, a friend is a lover, a lover is a god, and failure is death. Add to this cruelly delicate organism the overpowering necessity to create, create, create – so that without the creating of music or poetry or books or buildings or something of meaning, his very breath is cut off from him. He must create, must pour out creation. By some strange, unknown, inward urgency he is not really alive unless he is creating. ~ *Pearl S. Buck*.
283. One must be drenched in words, literally soaked in them, to have the right ones form themselves into the proper patterns at the right moment. ~ *Hart Crane*.
284. It is with words as with sunbeams, the more they are condensed, the deeper they burn. ~ *Robert Southey*.
285. A designer knows he has achieved perfection not when there is nothing left to add, but when there is nothing left to take away. ~ *Antoine de Saint-Exupery*.
286. A word is not the same with one writer as with another. One tears it from his guts. The other pulls it out of his overcoat pocket. ~ *Charles Peguy*.
287. Over the years various journalists and other worthy folk have asked me, "Where do you get your ideas?" To which I usually reply, "I think of them." I permit myself this jolly facetiousness as the truth is, to me, more ghastly: (1) I have no idea; (2) I have so

very few of them. ~ *David Mamet*.

288. All high truth is poetry. Take the results of science: they glow with beauty, cold and hard as are the methods of reaching them. ~ *Charles Buxton*.

289. There is a road from the eye to the heart that does not go through the intellect. ~ *G. K. Chesterton*.

290. Poetry has acquired a fluffy image, which is totally at odds with its real nature. It's not pastel colours, but blood-red and black. If you don't obey it as a force in your life it will tear you to pieces. If you don't do what your poetry wants you to, it will be out to get you. Unwritten poems are a force to be feared. ~ *Gwyneth Lewis*.

291. 'What is a writer? Someone who writes. Planning to write is not writing. Researching is not writing. Talking to people about what you're doing, none of that is writing. Writing is writing. ~ *E L Doctorow*.

292. The pages are still blank, but there is a miraculous feeling of the words being there, written in invisible ink and clamouring to become visible. ~ *Vladimir Nabakov*.

293. Finishing a book is just like taking a child out into the garden and shooting it. ~ *Truman Capote*.

294. What no wife of a writer can ever understand is that he's working when he's staring out the window. ~ *Burton Roscoe*.

295. The principle of writing is to make your mother and father drop dead of shame. ~ *J.P. Donleavy*

296. No passion in the world, in love or hate, is equal to the passion to alter someone else's copy. ~ *H.G. Wells*.

297. I have made this letter longer than usual only because I have not had the time to make it shorter. ~ *Blaise Pascal*.

298. In youth, poems come to you out of the blue. They're delivered at your doorstep like the morning news. But when you get older you have to dig. ~ *Stanely Kunitz*.

299. I keep Friday as my poetry writing day, and I have to arrange for the muse to attend between 10 am and 4 pm. ~ *Alison Chisholm*.

300. With a lyric poem you look, meditate and put the rock back. With fiction you poke things with a stick to see what will happen. ~ *Margaret Atwood*.

301. I don't know anyone that regrets they wrote a book. But I have met plenty of people that regret they didn't do it sooner. ~ *Earma Brown*.

302. Every morning between 9 and 12 I go to my room and sit before a piece of paper. Many times, I just sit for three hours with no ideas coming to me. But I know one thing. If an idea does come between 9 and 12 I am there ready for it. ~ *Flannery O'Connor*.

303. All through my career I've written 1,000 words a day – even if I've got a hangover. You've got to discipline yourself if you're professional. There's no other way. ~ *J.G. Ballard*.

304. To live a creative life, we must lose our fear of being wrong. ~ *Claude M. Bristol*.

305. If I waited for perfection, I would never write a word. ~ *Margarete Atwood*.

306. Take out another notebook, pick up another pen, and just write, just write, just write. In the middle of the world, make one positive step. In the centre of chaos, make one definitive act. Just write. Say yes, stay alive, be awake. Just write. Just write. Just write. ~ *Natalie Goldberg*.

307. All that we now call 'literature' was once just writing, and all those writers we now call 'great' were once just people trying to write. ~ *Kate Grenville*.

308. People don't realise that when they work, conscious forces come to their aid ... Conscious forces are trying to help you. You are not alone. ~ *Christopher Fremantle*.

309. In discipline lies our real freedom. ~ *David Ulrich*.

310. I believe that, through the act of living, the discovery of oneself is made concurrently with the discovery of the world around us, which can mould us but which can also be affected by us. A balance must be established between these two worlds – the one inside us and the one outside. As the result of a constant reciprocal process, both these worlds come to form a single one. And it is this world that we must communicate. *Henri Cartier-Bresson*.

311. Who can confidently say what ignites a certain combination of words, causing them to explode in the mind? Who knows why certain notes in music are capable of stirring the listener deeply, though the same notes slightly rearranged are impotent? These are high mysteries... Writers will often find themselves steering by stars that are disturbingly in motion. ~ *E.B. White*.

312. No tears in the writer, no tears in the reader. No surprise in the writer, no surprise in the reader. *Robert Frost*.

313. A book should serve as an ice-axe to break the frozen sea within us. ~ *Franz Kafka*.

314. If being a published author is your goal, then you have to work at it. You have to keep at it and you have to be disciplined. ~ *Alexis Fleming*.

315. Be yourself. Above all, let who you are, what you are, what you believe, shine through every sentence you write, every piece you finish. ~ *John Jakes*.

316. The drudgery of being a professional writer comes in trying to make good days out of bad days and in squeezing out the words when they won't just flow. ~ *Benjamin Cavell*.
317. All good writing is swimming under water and holding your breath. ~ *F. Scott Fitzgerald*.
318. It is in our idleness, in our dreams, that the submerged truth sometimes comes to the top. ~ *Virginia Woolf*.
319. Words need to be crafted, not sprayed. They need to be fitted together with infinite care. ~ *Norman Cousins*.
320. You can't wait for inspiration. You have to go after it with a club. ~ *Jack London*.
321. You've got to love libraries. You've got to love books. You've got to love poetry. You've got to love everything about literature. Then, you can pick the one thing you love most and write about it. ~ *Ray Bradbury*.
322. Truth shines the brighter clad in verse. -Jonathan Swift, satirist (1667-1745)
323. Poetry is more philosophical and more serious than history, for its statements are in the nature of universals, whereas those of history are singulars. ~ *Aristotle*.
324. Most people say that the purpose of poetry is communication; that sounds as if one could be contented simply by telling somebody whatever it is one has noticed, felt or perceived. I feel it is a kind of permanent communication better called preservation, since one's deepest impulse in writing (or, I must admit, painting or composing) is to my mind not "I must tell everybody about that" (ie responsibility to other people) but "I must stop that from being forgotten if I can" (ie responsibility towards subject). When writing a poem I am trying to construct a verbal device or machine which will, upon reading, render up the emotion I originally experienced to as many people as possible for as long as possible. You'll remember I called it a slot machine into which the reader inserts the penny of his attention. ~ *Philip Larkin*.
325. We write to taste life twice. ~ *Anais Nin*
326. No one is asking, let alone demanding, that you write. The world is not waiting with bated breath for your article or book. Whether or not you get a single word on paper, the sun will rise, the earth will spin, the universe will expand. Writing is forever and always a choice -- your choice. ~ *Beth Mende Conny*.
327. The books that the world calls immoral are books that show the world its own shame. ~ *Oscar Wilde*.
328. Life isn't about finding yourself. Life is about creating yourself. ~ *George Bernard Shaw*.

329. I write two pages of arrant nonsense, after straining; I write variations of every sentence; compromises; bad shots; possibilities; till my writing book is like a lunatic's dream. Then I trust to some inspiration on re-reading; and pencil them into sense. ~ *Virginia Woolf*.

330. Take out another notebook, pick up another pen, and just write, just write, just write. In the middle of the world, make one positive step. In the centre of chaos, make one definitive act. Just write. Say yes, stay alive, be awake. Just write. Just write. Just write. ~ *Natalie Goldberg*.

331. It's like Scott in the Antarctic. You simply keep walking. Don't look at the horizon — look at your feet. Just keep walking. ~ *Peter Temple*.

332. Art does not solve problems but makes us aware of their existence. It opens our eyes to see and our brain to imagine. ~ *Magdalena Abakanowicz*.

333. The beautiful part of writing is that you don't have to get it right the first time, unlike, say, a brain surgeon. You can always do it better, find the exact word, the apt phrase, the leaping simile. ~ *Robert Cormier*.

334. Like stones, words are laborious and unforgiving, and the fitting of them together, like the fitting of stones, demands great patience and strength of purpose and particular skill. ~ *Edmund Morrison*.

335. What I like in a good author isn't what he says, but what he whispers. ~ *Logan Pearsall Smith*.

336. Keep loving that special thing that the right words can do for us all. ~ *Jay Mouton*.

337. Say all you have to say in the fewest possible words, or your reader will be sure to skip them: and in the plainest possible words or he will certainly misunderstand them. ~ *John Ruskin*.

338. If good poetry is to be written, enormous amounts of bad poetry must be written too, if only because it is important for a serious poet to know what it is she/he is trying not to do. ~ *Germaine Greer*.

339. Poetry is impossible. You are trying to make your language do something it never did before. It's never done quite satisfactorily. It's a most extraordinary exercise. ~ *W.S. Merwin*.

340. I think I did pretty well, considering I started out with nothing but a bunch of blank paper. ~ *Steve Martin*.

341. Most new poetry is unmemorable not because it's obscure, or self-absorbed, or trivial — terrific poems can be written in all these ways — but because most young poets have lost their sense of human sound. Or they know what it is, but can't write the shape of it. All

the wit and learning in the world can't compensate for an inability to render persuasively the distinct voice of an actual breathing person. ~ *Glyn Maxwell*.

342. I think I did pretty well, considering I started out with nothing but a bunch of blank paper. ~ *Steve Martin*.

343. What are the words you do not yet have? What do you need to say?... for it is not differences which immobilise us, but silence. And there are so many silences to be broken. ~ *Audre Lorde*.

344. I think I am starving for publication: I love to get published; it maddens me not to get published. I feel at times like getting every publisher in the world by the scruff of the neck, forcing his jaws open, and cramming the manuscript down his throat – 'God-damn you, here it is – I will and must be published.' ~ *Tom Wolfe*.

345. When I sit down at my writing desk, time seems to vanish. I think it's a wonderful way to spend one's life. ~ *Erica Jong*.

346. The mark of a really great writer is that he or she gives expression to what the masses of mankind think or feel without knowing it. The mediocre writer simply writes what everyone would have said. ~ *G.C. Lichtenberg* (1799)

347. 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*.

348. Creativity is more important than knowledge. ~ *Albert Einstein*.

349. Most writers can write books faster than publishers can write checks. ~ *Richard Curtis*.

350. It is impossible to discourage the real writers - they don't give a damn what you say, they're going to write. ~ *Sinclair Lewis*.

351. If my doctor told me I had only six minutes to live, I wouldn't brood. I'd type a little faster. ~ *Isaac Asimov*.

352. If writing seems hard, it's because it is hard. It's one of the hardest things people do. ~ *William Zinsser*.

353. The mark of a really great writer is that he or she gives expression to what the masses of mankind think or feel without knowing it. The mediocre writer simply writes what everyone would have said. ~ *G.C. Lichtenberg* (1799)