

“There is nothing to writing. All you do is sit down at a typewriter and bleed.”

– Ernest Hemingway

“If you don't have time to read, you don't have the time (or the tools) to write. Simple as that.”

– Stephen King

“You never have to change anything you got up in the middle of the night to write.”

– Saul Bellow

“We write to taste life twice, in the moment and in retrospect.”

– Anaïs Nin

Writing is a socially acceptable form of schizophrenia.”

– E.L. Doctorow

“Don't tell me the moon is shining; show me the glint of light on broken glass.”

– Anton Chekhov

“Words can be like X-rays if you use them properly -- they'll go through anything. You read and you're pierced.”

– Aldous Huxley, *Brave New World*

“Read, read, read. Read everything -- trash, classics, good and bad, and see how they do it. Just like a carpenter who works as an apprentice and

studies the master. Read! You'll absorb it.

Then write. If it's good, you'll find out. If it's not, throw it out of the window.”

– William Faulkner

“The scariest moment is always just before you start.”

– Stephen King, *On Writing*

“If you want to be a writer, you must do two things above all others: read a lot and write a lot.”

– Stephen King

“The first draft of anything is shit.”

– Ernest Hemingway

“If my doctor told me I had only six minutes to live, I wouldn't brood. I'd type a little faster.”

– Isaac Asimov

“Everywhere I go I'm asked if I think the university stifles writers. My opinion is that they don't stifle enough of them. There's many a best-seller that could have been prevented by a good teacher.”

– Flannery O'Connor

“People love a happy ending. So every episode, I will explain once again that I don't like people. And then Mal will shoot someone. Someone we like. And their puppy.”

– Joss Whedon

“Tears are words that need to be written.”

– [Paulo Coelho](#)

“You can't wait for inspiration. You have to go after it with a club.”

– [Jack London](#)

“I haven't any right to criticize books, and I don't do it except when I hate them. I often want to criticize Jane Austen, but her books madden me so that I can't conceal my frenzy from the reader; and therefore I have to stop every time I begin. Every time I read *Pride and Prejudice* I want to dig her up and beat her over the skull with her own shin-bone.”

– [Mark Twain](#)

“The purpose of a writer is to keep civilization from destroying itself.”

– [Albert Camus](#)

“Easy reading is damn hard writing.”

– [Nathaniel Hawthorne](#)

“Description begins in the writer's imagination, but should finish in the reader's.”

– [Stephen King](#), *On Writing*

“I hate writing, I love having written.”

– [Dorothy Parker](#)

“A little talent is a good thing to have if you want to be a writer. But the only real requirement is the ability to remember every scar.”

– [Stephen King](#)

“Writing a book is a horrible, exhausting struggle, like a long bout with some painful illness. One would never undertake such a thing if one were not driven on by some demon whom one can neither resist nor understand.”

– [George Orwell](#)

“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](#)

“The most valuable of all talents is that of never using two words when one will do.”

– [Thomas Jefferson](#)

“Perfectionism is the voice of the oppressor, the enemy of the people. It will keep you cramped and insane your whole life, and it is the main obstacle between you and a shitty first draft. I think perfectionism is based on the obsessive belief that if you run carefully enough, hitting each stepping-stone just right, you won't have to die. The truth is that you will die anyway and that a lot of people who aren't even looking at their feet are going to do a whole lot better than you, and have a lot more fun while they're doing it.”

– [Anne Lamott](#), *Bird by Bird: Some Instructions on Writing and Life*

“Don't bend; don't water it down; don't try to make it logical; don't edit your own soul according to the fashion. Rather, follow your most intense

obsessions mercilessly.”

– Franz Kafka

“It has often been said
there’s so much to be read,
you never can cram
all those words in your head.

So the writer who breeds
more words than he needs
is making a chore
for the reader who reads.

That’s why my belief is
the briefer the brief is,
the greater the sigh
of the reader’s relief is.

And that’s why your books
have such power and strength.
You publish with shorth!
(Shorth is better than length.)”

– Dr. Seuss

“Cram your head with characters and stories. Abuse your library privileges. Never stop looking at the world, and never stop reading to find out what sense other people have made of it. If people give you a hard time and tell you to get your nose out of a book, tell them you’re working. Tell them it’s research. Tell them to pipe down and leave you alone.”

– Jennifer Weiner

“Write with the door closed, rewrite with the door open.”

– Stephen King, *On Writing*

“All I need is a sheet of paper
and something to write with, and then
I can turn the world upside down.”

– Friedrich Nietzsche

“A person is a fool to become a writer. His only compensation is absolute freedom. He has no master except his own soul, and that, I am sure, is why he does it”

– Roald Dahl

“When asked, “How do you write?” I invariably answer, “One word at a time,” and the answer is invariably dismissed. But that is all it is. It sounds too simple to be true, but consider the Great Wall of China, if you will: one stone at a time, man. That’s all. One stone at a time. But I’ve read you can see that motherfucker from space without a telescope.”

– Stephen King

“Writing and reading decrease our sense of isolation. They deepen and widen and expand our sense of life: they feed the soul. When writers make us shake our heads with the exactness of their prose and their truths, and even make us laugh about ourselves or life, our buoyancy is restored. We are given a shot at dancing with, or at least clapping along with, the absurdity of life, instead of being squashed by it over and over again. It’s like singing on a boat during a terrible storm at sea. You can’t stop the raging storm, but singing can change the hearts and spirits of the people who are together on that ship.”

– Anne Lamott, *Bird by Bird: Some Instructions on Writing and Life*

“Any reviewer who expresses rage and loathing for a novel is preposterous. He or she is like a person who has put on full armor and attacked a hot fudge sundae.”

– Kurt Vonnegut

“Nothing's a better cure for writer's block than to eat ice cream right out of the carton.”

– [Don Roff](#)

“Everybody does have a book in them, but in most cases that's where it should stay.”

– [Christopher Hitchens](#)

“Amateurs sit and wait for inspiration, the rest of us just get up and go to work.”

– [Stephen King](#), *[On Writing](#)*

“Your intuition knows what to write, so get out of the way.”

– [Ray Bradbury](#)

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

– [Isaac Asimov](#)

“The hard part about writing a novel is finishing it.”

– [Ernest Hemingway](#)

“What an astonishing thing a book is. It's a flat object made from a tree with flexible parts on which are imprinted lots of funny dark squiggles. But one glance at it and you're inside the mind of another person, maybe somebody dead for thousands of years. Across the millennia, an author is speaking clearly and silently inside your head, directly to you. Writing is perhaps the greatest of human inventions, binding together people who

never knew each other, citizens of distant epochs. Books break the shackles of time. A book is proof that humans are capable of working magic.”

– [Carl Sagan](#)

“A writer is a person who cares what words mean, what they say, how they say it. Writers know words are their way towards truth and freedom, and so they use them with care, with thought, with fear, with delight. By using words well they strengthen their souls. Story-tellers and poets spend their lives learning that skill and art of using words well. And their words make the souls of their readers stronger, brighter, deeper.”

– [Ursula K. Le Guin](#)

“How do I know what I think until I see what I say?”

– [E.M. Forster](#)

“He asked, "What makes a man a writer?" "Well," I said, "it's simple. You either get it down on paper, or jump off a bridge.”

– [Charles Bukowski](#)

“The best time for planning a book is while you're doing the dishes. ”

– [Agatha Christie](#)

“If you expect to succeed as a writer, rudeness should be the second-to-least of your concerns. The least of all should be polite society and what it expects. If you intend to write as truthfully as you can, your days as a member of polite society are numbered, anyway.”

– [Stephen King](#), *[On Writing](#)*

“I write entirely to find out what I'm thinking, what I'm looking at, what I see and what it means. What I want and what I fear.”

– [Joan Didion](#)