

Quotes About Writing

“Writing in a notebook is a way to fuel up. Supreme superior unleaded. And it’s free.” –Naomi Shihab Nye

“Keeping a notebook may be the single best way to survive as a writer. It encourages greater sensitivity to your world, inside and out. It serves as a haven for new ideas until they are strong and mature enough to face the harsh light of rational judgement. It gives you a quiet place to catch your breath and begin writing.” Ralph Fletcher

“Write about what makes you different.” –Sandra Cisneros

“It’s misleading to think of writers as special creatures, word sorcerers who possess some sort of magical knowledge hidden from everyone else. Writers are ordinary people who like to write. They feel the urge to write, and they scratch that itch every chance they get.” –Ralph Fletcher

“Here’s the secret of writing: there is no secret.” –Ralph Fletcher

“Good writing happens when human beings follow particular steps to take control of their sentences – to make their words do what they want them to do.” –Ralph Fletcher

“I write every day for two hours. But it’s what I do for the other twenty-two hours that allows me to write.” –Don Murray

“The secret wish of poetry is to stop time.” –Charles Simic

“Poems are other people’s snapshots in which we see our own lives.” –Charles Simic

“The bigger the issue, the smaller you write.” –Richard Price

“The novel isn’t dead. The novel is going to be at your funeral.” –Richard Price

“I get my ideas from living my life wide-eyed and awake. I sit on the edge of chairs. I pay attention to wherever I am.” Drew Lamm

“Stories were once as important to survival as a spear or a hoe. They gave counsel. They connected the visible to the invisible, the living to the dead. Stories distributed the suffering so it could be born.” –E. L. Doctorow

“I’m sure a beautiful empty notebook was the reason I wrote my first book. It was begging for filling.” –Jacqueline Jackson

“We do not write what we know; we write what we want to find out.”
–Wallace Stegner

“You own everything that happened to you. Tell your stories. If people wanted you to write warmly about them, they should have behaved better.”
–Anne Lamott

“Almost all good writing begins with terrible first efforts. You need to start somewhere.” –Anne Lamott

“If you call yourself a writer you should be reading like a maniac.”
–Sherman Alexie