

Quotes on Writing and Being a Writer

From *Chicken Soup for the Soul: Inspiration for Writers*

“Find out the reason that commands you to write: see whether it has spread its roots into the very depth of your heart; confess to yourself you would have to die if forbidden to write.” Rainer Maria Rilke

“I can’t speak for others, but for me my writers group is invaluable. I’d sooner do without my thesaurus or—perish the thought—spell check than without the support of my group.” Mimi Greenwood Knight

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

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

“To be a writer one must live life thoroughly. Have adventures, seek out extraordinary people, never fear heartbreak, attend as many parties as possible, go to the beach, pay attention to everything, read constantly, and never, ever stop writing.” Victoria Fedden

“When your work speaks for itself, don’t interrupt.” Henry J. Kaiser

“I am a stickler for details.” Melissa Face

“If you want to write, write in whatever circumstance you find yourself. Writers write.” Tammy Roark-Proctor

“The difference between the almost right word and the right word is really a large matter—it’s the difference between the lightning bug and the lightning.” Mark Twain

“Consider your reader.” Kelly James-Enger

“The worth of a book is to be measured by what you can carry away from it.” James Bryce

“There is no greater agony than bearing an untold story inside you.” Maya Angelou

“Writers work very hard to get their stories to where they might be able to share them with others.” John P. Buentello

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

“The two most engaging powers of an author are to make new things familiar and familiar things new.” Samuel Johnson

“Fill your paper with the breathings of your heart.” William Wordsworth