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**1,100 Quotations**

# **Words to Inspire Writers**

**Edited by**

**Gregory Victor Babic**

**Over 300 Authors**

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# Words to Inspire Writers

*A perpetual Calendar of classic Writing-related  
Quotations—on Writers, Writing, Words,  
Books, Literature, and Publishing—specifically  
selected to illustrate the Writing Process and to  
motivate Authors every day*

Edited by

**Gregory Victor Babic**

F. C. Sach & Sons, Publishers

First published 2008 by F. C. Sach & Sons, Publishers

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**National Library of Australia cataloguing-in-publication data:**

Words to inspire writers: a perpetual calendar of classic writing-related quotations—on writers, writing, words, books, literature, and publishing—specifically selected to illustrate the writing process and to motivate authors every day.

Includes index.

ISBN 978-0-980372-20-5 (pbk.).

1. Creative writing—Quotations, maxims, etc. 2. Composition (Language arts)—Quotations, maxims, etc. 3. Authorship—Quotations, maxims, etc. 4. Publishers and publishing—Quotations, maxims, etc. I. Babic, Gregory Victor. II. Title.

808.882

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I have gathered a posie of other men's flowers, and nothing but the thread that binds them is mine own.

*John Bartlett* (1820–1905)

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# Dedication

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No author can successfully complete a book (even a compilation such as this one) without the love, support, and encouragement of many people. This time around I wish to publicly thank: Maureen, Natasha, Sharyn, Mark, Tom, Nat, Milla, and, most of all, Vito (the most caring and genuine person I have ever met). I hope each of them can see in the pages that follow my heartfelt thanks for everything they do and say that makes me feel so much appreciated and loved. Oh... and, of course, I must not forget to mention "*Princess Mischka B. Babic*", my sister Natasha's yellow Labrador puppy; although she only came into our lives in January 2007, she has showered us with unconditional love on every single day since!

*Gregory Victor Babic* (December 2007)

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# Introduction

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## Be Inspired to Write

This book was compiled as a gift of motivation for you, for every day of the year. Keep it on your desk between your Dictionary and your Thesaurus so that you can refer to it often.

The collected quotations, sayings, aphorisms, maxims, and epigrams contained within these pages have been specifically selected from the Public Domain (all authors having died before 1924) — predominantly for their motivational value — and then arranged to best illuminate the Writing Process.

Each date has as its focus three particular aspects of the *Writing Process* — namely, the *Pre-Writing or Preparation Stage* (of Thinking and Planning); the *Writing or Creation Stage* (of Drafting and Editing); and, the *Post-Writing or Celebration Stage* (of Publishing and Marketing) — and the quotations are arranged in that order in every entry. Whatever the stage of the Writing Process you are at, you will find a relevant inspirational quotation by reading either the first, second, or third entry; or, you could just read all three entries each and every day, and thus find yourself even more encouraged to continue with your own work.

It is to be hoped that you will take heart from this priceless heritage — a classic compendium of wise words whispered from the graves of the literary dead — and be inspired in your own writing always.

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# January

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## January 1

How many people eat, drink, and get married; buy, sell, and build; make contracts and attend to their fortune; have friends and enemies, pleasures and pains, are born, grow up, live and die—but asleep!

*Joseph Joubert* (1754–1824)

Whatever one wishes to say, there is one noun only by which to express it, one verb only to give it life, one adjective only which will describe it. One must search until one has discovered them, this noun, this verb, this adjective, and never rest content with approximations, never resort to trickery, however happy, or to vulgarism, in order to dodge the difficulty.

*Guy de Maupassant* (1850–1893)

Books... are the curse of the human race.

*Benjamin Disraeli* (1804–1881)

## January 2

I do not love a man who is zealous for nothing.

*Oliver Goldsmith* (1728–1774)

Fill your paper with the breathings of your heart.

*William Wordsworth* (1770–1850)

## Words to Inspire Writers

Ships that pass in the night, and speak each other in passing;  
Only a signal shown and a distant voice in the darkness;  
So on the ocean of life we pass and speak one another,  
Only a look and a voice; then darkness again and a silence.

*Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1807–1882)*

### January 3

Live all you can; it's a mistake not to. It doesn't so much matter what you do in particular, so long as you have your life. If you haven't had that what have you had?

*Henry James (1843–1916)*

It requires more than genius to be an author.

*Jean de La Bruyere (1645–1696)*

The past but lives in written words: a thousand ages were blank if books had not evoked their ghosts, and kept the pale unbodied shades to warn us from fleshless lips.

*François Fénelon (1651–1715)*

### January 4

Oh it is only a novel! ... In short, only some work in which the greatest powers of the mind are displayed, in which the most thorough knowledge of human nature, the happiest delineation of its varieties, the liveliest effusions of wit and humor, are conveyed to the world in the best chosen language.

*Jane Austen (1775–1817)*

Words in prose ought to express the intended meaning; if they attract attention to themselves, it is a fault; in the very best styles you read page after page without noticing the medium.

*Samuel Taylor Coleridge (1772–1834)*

## Words to Inspire Writers

How often we recall, with regret, that Napoleon once shot at a magazine editor and missed him and killed a publisher. But we remember with charity, that his intentions were good.

*Mark Twain* (1835–1910)

### January 5

Learn as much by writing as by reading.

*Lord Acton* (1834–1902)

Human speech is like a cracked pot on which we beat out rhythms for bears to dance to when we are striving to make music that will wring tears from stars.

*Gustave Flaubert* (1821–1880)

Dollars damn me; and the malicious Devil is forever grinning in upon me, holding the door ajar.... What I feel most moved to write, that is banned—it will not pay. Yet, altogether, write the other way I cannot. So the product is a final hash, and all my books are botches.

*Herman Melville* (1819–1891)

### January 6

However great a man's natural talent may be, the act of writing cannot be learned all at once.

*Jean-Jacques Rousseau* (1712–1778)

What a wealth of words in almost every language lies inert and unused; and certainly not fewest in our own. How much of what might be as current coin among us, is shut up in the treasure-house of a few classical authors, or is never to be met at all but in the columns of the dictionary, we meanwhile, in the midst of all this riches, condemning ourselves to a voluntary poverty... like

## Words to Inspire Writers

some workman who, being furnished for an operation that will challenge all his skills with a dozen different tools, each adapted for its own special purpose, should in his indolence and self-conceit persist in using only one; doing coarsely what might have been done finely, or leaving altogether undone that which, with such assistance, was quite within his reach.

*Richard Chenevix Trench* (1807–1886)

A book that furnishes no quotations is, *me judice*, no book—it is a plaything.

*Thomas Love Peacock* (1785–1866)

## January 7

Find your own quiet center of life and write from that to the world.

*Sarah Orne Jewett* (1849–1909)

True Ease in Writing comes from Art, not Chance,  
As those move easiest who have learn'd to dance.  
'Tis not enough no harshness gives offence,  
The sound must seem an Echo to the sense.

*Alexander Pope* (1688–1744)

How much more cruel the pen may be than the sword.

*Robert Burton* (1577–1640)

## January 8

The present life of men on earth, O king, as compared with the whole length of time which is unknowable to us, seems to me to be like this: as if, when you are sitting at dinner with your chiefs and ministers in wintertime... one of the sparrows from outside flew very quickly through the hall; as if it came in one door and soon went out through another. In that actual time it is indoors



## Words to Inspire Writers

it is not touched by the winter's storm; but yet the tiny period of calm is over in a moment, and having come out of the winter it soon returns to the winter and slips out of your sight. Man's life appears to be more or less like this; and of what may follow it, or what preceded it, we are absolutely ignorant.

*Saint Bede (673–735)*

Allegories, when well chosen, are like so many Tracks of Light in a Discourse, that make every thing about them clear and beautiful. A noble Metaphor, when it is placed to an Advantage, casts a kind of Glory round it, and darts a Luster through a whole Sentence.

*Joseph Addison (1672–1719)*

To escape criticism—say nothing, do nothing, be nothing.

*Elbert Hubbard (1856–1915)*

## January 9

The business of education is not to make the young perfect in any one of the sciences, but so to open their minds as may best make them capable of any, when they shall apply themselves to it.

*John Locke (1632–1704)*

No one means all he says, and yet very few say all they mean, for words are slippery and thought is viscous.

*Henry Brook Adams (1838–1918)*

A room without books is like a body without a soul.

*Marcus Tullius Cicero (106–43 B.C.)*

## January 10

Resolve to edge in a little reading every day, if it is but a single sentence. If you gain fifteen minutes a day, it will make itself felt

## Words to Inspire Writers

at the end of the year.

*Horace Mann* (1796–1859)

Cross out as many adjectives and adverbs as you can. . . It is comprehensible when I write: “The man sat on the grass,” because it is clear and does not detain one’s attention. On the other hand, it is difficult to figure out and hard on the brain if I write: “The tall, narrow-chested man of medium height and with a red beard sat down on the green grass that had already been trampled down by the pedestrians, sat down silently, looking around timidly and fearfully.” The brain can’t grasp all that at once, and art must be grasped at once, instantaneously.

*Anton Chekhov* (1860–1904)

It is very unusual for someone who is not a practiced writer, however erudite he may be, to understand completely the demanding work done by writers, or appreciate their stylistic accomplishments and triumphs and those subtle details characteristic of the writers of the ancient world.

*Baldesar Castiglione* (1478–1529)

## January 11

Dancing in all its forms cannot be excluded from the curriculum of all noble education; dancing with the feet, with ideas, with words, and, need I add that one must also be able to dance with the pen?

*Friedrich Nietzsche* (1844–1900)

Do not write so that you can be understood; write so that you cannot be misunderstood.

*Epictetus* (55–135)

## Words to Inspire Writers

The poet and the dreamer are distinct,  
Diverse, sheer opposite, antipodes.  
The one pours out a balm upon the world,  
The other vexes it.

*John Keats* (1795–1821)

### January 12

Words are the small change of thought.

*Jules Reynard* (1864–1910)

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

*Thomas Jefferson* (1743–1826)

There is one kind of laugh that I always did recommend; it looks out of the eye first with a merry twinkle, then it creeps down on its hands and knees and plays around the mouth like a pretty moth around the blaze of a candle, then it steals over into the dimples of the cheeks and rides around in those whirlpools for a while, then it lights up the whole face like the mellow bloom on a damask rose, then it swims up on the air, with a peal as clear and as happy as a dinner-bell, then it goes back again on gold tiptoes like an angel out for an airing, and then it lies down on its little bed of violets in the heart where it came from.

*Henry Wheeler Shaw* (1818–1885)

### January 13

Employ your time in improving yourself by other men's writings so that you shall come easily by what others have labored hard for.

*Socrates* (470–399 B.C.)

It is more important to make one's meaning clear in writing than in speaking; because unlike someone listening, the reader is not

## Words to Inspire Writers

always present when the author is writing.

*Baldesar Castiglione* (1478–1529)

Books are faithful repositories, which may be a while neglected or forgotten; but when they are opened again, will again impart their instruction: memory, once interrupted, is not to be recalled. Written learning is a fixed luminary, which, after the cloud that had hidden it has passed away, is again bright in its proper station. Tradition is but a meteor, which, if once it falls, cannot be rekindled.

*Samuel Johnson* (1709–1784)

### January 14

So have I loitered my life away, reading books, looking at pictures, going to plays, hearing, thinking, writing on what pleased me best. I have wanted only one thing to make me happy, but wanting that have wanted everything.

*William Hazlitt* (1778–1830)

The end of a novel, like the end of a children's dinner-party, must be made up of sweetmeats and sugar-plums.

*Anthony Trollope* (1815–1882)

If a man can write a better book, preach a better sermon, or make a better mousetrap, than his neighbor, though he build his house in the woods, the world will make a beaten path to his door.

*Ralph Waldo Emerson* (1803–1882)

### January 15

Every great writer is a writer of history, let him treat on almost any subject he may.

*Walter Savage Landor* (1775–1864)

## Words to Inspire Writers

Nothing so difficult as a beginning  
In poesy, unless perhaps the end.

*Lord [George Gordon] Byron (1788–1824)*

Whatever an author puts between the two covers of his book is public property; whatever of himself he does not put there is his private property, as much as if he had never written a word.

*Gail Hamilton (1833–1896)*

## January 16

Authorship is not a trade, it is an inspiration; authorship does not keep an office, its habitation is all out under the sky, and everywhere the winds are blowing and the sun is shining and the creatures of God are free.

*Mark Twain (1835–1910)*

If a job's worth doing, it's worth doing well.

*Proverb*

Discourse was deemed Man's noblest attribute,  
And written words the glory of his hand;  
Then followed Printing with enlarged command  
For thought—dominion vast and absolute  
For spreading truth, and making love expand.  
Now prose and verse sunk into disrepute  
Must lacquey a dumb Art that best can suit  
The taste of this once-intellectual Land.  
A backward movement surely have we here,  
From manhood,—back to childhood; for the age—  
Back towards caverned life's first rude career.  
Avaunt this vile abuse of pictured page!  
Must eyes be all in all, the tongue and ear  
Nothing? Heaven keep us from a lower stage!

*William Wordsworth (1770–1850)*

## Words to Inspire Writers

### January 17

Reading makes a full man, meditation a profound man, discourse a clear man.

*Benjamin Franklin* (1706–1790)

When you describe the miserable and unfortunate, and want to make the reader feel pity, try to be somewhat colder—that seems to give a kind of background to another's grief, against which it stands out more clearly. Whereas in your story the characters cry and you sigh. Yes, be more cold. . . . the more objective you are, the stronger will be the impression you make.

*Anton Chekhov* (1860–1904)

If a book is worth reading, it is worth buying.

*John Ruskin* (1819–1900)

### January 18

I rough out my thoughts in talk as an artist models in clay. Spoken language is so plastic,—you can pat and coax, and spread and shave, and rub out, and fill up, and stick on so easily, when you work that soft material, that there is nothing like it for modeling.

*Oliver Wendell Holmes, Sr* (1809–1894)

Oh, wondrous power of words, by simple faith  
Licensed to take the meaning that we love!

*William Wordsworth* (1770–1850)

But this I know; the writer who possesses the creative gift owns something of which he is not always master—something that at times strangely wills and works for itself. If the result be attractive, the World will praise you, who little deserve praise; if it be repulsive, the same World will blame you, who almost as little deserve blame.

*Charlotte Brontë* (1816–1855)

## Words to Inspire Writers

### January 19

It is not study alone that produces a writer; it is intensity.

*Edward George Earl Bulwer-Lytton* (1803–1873)

The most beautiful works are those where there is least content; the closer the expression is to the thought, the more indistinguishable the word from the content, the more beautiful is the work. I believe the future of art lies in this direction.

*Gustave Flaubert* (1821–1880)

I feel a kind of reverence for the first books of young authors. There is so much aspiration in them, so much audacious hope and trembling fear, so much of the heart's history, that all errors and shortcomings are for a while lost sight of in the amiable self assertion of youth.

*Henry Wadsworth Longfellow* (1807–1882)

### January 20

If you have great talents, industry will improve them: if you have but moderate abilities, industry will supply their deficiency.

*Sir Joshua Reynolds* (1723–1792)

Let us guess that whenever we read a sentence & like it, we unconsciously store it away in our model-chamber; & it goes, with the myriad of its fellows, to the building, brick by brick, of the eventual edifice which we call our style.

*Mark Twain* (1835–1910)

Books seem to me to be pestilent things, and infect all that trade in them... with something very perverse and brutal. Printers, binders, sellers, and others that make a trade and gain out of them have universally so odd a turn and corruption of mind that they have a way of dealing peculiar to themselves, and not conformed

## Words to Inspire Writers

to the good of society and that general fairness which cements mankind.

*John Locke* (1632–1704)

### January 21

I have learned this at least by my experiment: that if one advances confidently in the direction of his dreams, and endeavors to live the life which he has imagined, he will meet with a success unexpected in common hours.

*Henry David Thoreau* (1817–1862)

When I use a word, it means what I choose it to mean—neither more nor less. [Humpty Dumpty]

*Lewis Carroll* (1832–1898)

That which resembles most living one's life over again, seems to be to recall all the circumstances of it; and, to render this remembrance more durable, to record them in writing.

*Benjamin Franklin* (1706–1790)

### January 22

I do not know what I may appear to the world, but to myself I seem to have been only like a boy playing on the sea-shore, and diverting myself in now and then finding a smoother pebble or a prettier shell than ordinary, whilst the great ocean of truth lay all undiscovered before me.

*Sir Isaac Newton* (1642–1727)

Every successful novelist must be more or less a poet, even although he may never have written a line of verse. The quality of imagination is absolutely indispensable to him; his accurate power of examining and embodying human character and human



## Words to Inspire Writers

passion, as well as the external face of nature, is not less essential; and the talent describing well what he feels with acuteness, added to the above requisites, goes far to complete the poetic character.

*Sir Walter Scott* (1771–1832)

I do not think that anie language, be it whatsoever, is better able to utter all arguments, either with more pith, or greater planesse, then our English tung is, if the English utterer be as skilful in the matter, which he is to utter: as the foren utterer is.

*Richard Mulcaster* (1530–1611)

## January 23

As every divided kingdom falls, so every mind divided between many studies confounds and saps itself.

*Leonardo da Vinci* (1452–1519)

My God, this novel makes me break out in a cold sweat! Do you know how much I've written in five months, since the end of August? Sixty-five pages! Each paragraph is good in itself and there are some pages that are perfect. I feel certain. But just because of this, it isn't getting on. It's a series of well-turned, ordered paragraphs which do not flow on from each other. I shall have to unscrew them, loosen the joints, as one does with the masts of a ship when one wants the sail to take more wind. . .

*Gustave Flaubert* (1821–1880)

The first requisite, then, in an Epitaph is, that it should speak, in a tone which shall sink into the heart, the general language of humanity as connected with the subject of death. . . and of life.

*William Wordsworth* (1770–1850)

## Words to Inspire Writers

### January 24

Judge of thine improvement, not by what thou speakest or writest, but by the firmness of thy mind, and the government of thy passions and affections.

*Thomas Fuller* (1608–1661)

Suit the action to the word, the word to the action.

*William Shakespeare* (1564–1616)

Critical articles, even the unjust, abusive kind, are usually met with a silent bow. Such is literary etiquette. Answering back goes against custom, and anyone who indulges in it is justly accused of excessive vanity. . . . The fate of literature (both major and minor) would be a pitiful one if it were at the mercy of personal opinions. Point number one. And number two; there is no police force in existence that can consider itself competent in matters of literature. I agree that we can't do without the muzzle or the stick, because sharpers ooze their way into literature just as anywhere else. But no matter how hard you try, you won't come up with a better police force for literature than criticism and the author's own conscience. People have been at it since the beginning of creation, but they've invented nothing better.

*Anton Chekhov* (1860–1904)

### January 25

Of all the diversions of life, there is none so proper to fill up its empty spaces as the reading of useful and entertaining authors.

*Joseph Addison* (1672–1719)

The generall use of Speech, is to transferre our Mentall Discourse, into Verbal; or the Trayne of our Thoughts, into a Trayne of Words.

*Thomas Hobbes* (1588–1679)

## Words to Inspire Writers

It is not the critic who counts, nor the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena.

*Theodore Roosevelt* (1858–1919)

### January 26

It matters not how strait the gate,  
How charged with punishments the scroll,  
I am the master of my fate:  
I am the captain of my soul.

*William Ernest Henley* (1849–1903)

As to the adjective, when in doubt, strike it out.

*Mark Twain* (1835–1910)

A good name is seldom got by giving it to one's self.

*William Wycherley* (1640–1716)

### January 27

He who resolves never to ransack any mind but his own, will be soon reduced, from mere barrenness, to the poorest of all imitations; he will be obliged to imitate himself, and to repeat what he has before often repeated.

*Sir Joshua Reynolds* (1723–1792)

It is easy to finish things. Nothing is simpler. Never does one lie so cleverly as then.

*Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec* (1864–1901)

It is strange that there should be so little reading in the world, and so much writing. People in general do not willingly read, if they

## Words to Inspire Writers

can have anything else to amuse them.

*Samuel Johnson* (1709–1784)

### January 28

He hath never fed of the dainties that are bred in a book; he hath not eat paper, as it were; he hath not drunk ink; his intellect is not replenished.

*William Shakespeare* (1564–1616)

Tragedy is an imitation not only of a complete action, but of events inspiring fear and pity. Such an effect is best produced when the events come on us by surprise; and the effect is heightened when, at the same time, they follow as cause and effect. The tragic wonder will then be greater than if they happened of themselves or by accident; for even coincidences are most striking when they have an air of design.

*Aristotle* (384–322 B.C.)

A book is a mirror; if an ass peers into it, you can't expect an apostle to peer out.

*Georg Christoph Lichtenberg* (1742–1799)

### January 29

There exist some evils so terrible and some misfortunes so horrible that we dare not think of them, whilst their very aspect makes us shudder; but if they happen to fall on us, we find ourselves stronger than we imagined, we grapple with our ill luck, and behave better than we expected we should.

*Jean de La Bruyere* (1645–1696)

The house of fiction has in short not one window, but a million—a number of possible windows not to be reckoned, rather; every one

## Words to Inspire Writers

of which has been pierced, or is still pierce-able, in its vast front, by the need of the individual vision and by the pressure of the individual will. These apertures, of dissimilar shape and size, hang so, all together, over the human scene that we might have expected of them a greater sameness of report than we find. They are but windows at best, mere holes in a dead wall, disconnected, perched aloft; they are not hinged doors opening straight upon life. But they have this mark of their own that at each of them stands a figure with a pair of eyes, or at least with a field glass, which forms again and again, for observation, a unique instrument, insuring to the person making use of it an impression distinct from any other. He and his neighbors are watching the same show, but one seeing more where the other sees less, one seeing black where the other sees white, one seeing big where the other sees small, one seeing coarse where the other sees fine.

*Henry James (1843–1916)*

Borrowers of books—those mutilators of collections, spoilers of the symmetry of shelves, and creators of odd volumes.

*Charles Lamb (1775–1834)*

## January 30

Language, then, is the spoken means whereby thought is communicated, and it is only that. Language is not thought, nor is thought language; nor is there a mysterious and indissoluble connection between the two, as there is between soul and body, so that the one cannot exist and manifest itself without the other. There can hardly be a greater and more pernicious error, in linguistics or in metaphysics, than the doctrine that language and thought are identical.

*William Dwight Whitney (1827–1894)*

I could inform the dullest author how he might write an interesting book. Let him relate the events of his own life with honesty,

## Words to Inspire Writers

not disguising the feelings that accompanied them.

*Samuel Taylor Coleridge* (1772–1834)

It is easy to utter what has been kept silent, but impossible to recall what has been uttered.

*Plutarch* (46–127)

## January 31

When all is said and done, no literature can outdo the cynicism of real life; you won't intoxicate with one glass someone who has already drunk up a whole barrel.

*Anton Chekhov* (1860–1904)

Painters and poets alike have always had license to dare anything. We know that, and we both claim and allow to others in their turn this indulgence.

*Horace* (65–8 B.C.)

One is happy as a result of one's own efforts, once one knows the necessary ingredients of happiness—simple tastes, a certain degree of courage, self denial to a point, love of work, and, above all, a clear conscience. Happiness is no vague dream, of that I now feel certain.

*George Sand* (1804–1876)

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# February

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## February 1

The deepest quality of a work of art will always be the quality of the mind of the producer. . . No good novel will ever proceed from a superficial mind.

*Henry James* (1843–1916)

He that writes to himself writes to an eternal public.

*Ralph Waldo Emerson* (1803–1882)

Tomorrow, and tomorrow, and tomorrow,  
Creeps in this petty pace from day to day  
To the last syllable of recorded time,  
And all our yesterdays have lighted fools  
The way to dusty death. Out, out, brief candle!  
Life's but a walking shadow, a poor player,  
That struts and frets his hour upon the stage,  
And then is heard no more; it is a tale  
Told by an idiot, full of sound and fury,  
Signifying nothing.

*William Shakespeare* (1564–1616)

## February 2

Happy the Man, and happy he alone,  
He who can call today his own:  
He who, secure within, can say,  
Tomorrow do thy worst, for I have liv'd today.

*John Dryden* (1631–1700)

## Words to Inspire Writers

Epithets, like pepper,  
Give zest to what you write;  
And if you strew them sparely,  
They whet the appetite:  
But if you lay them on too thick,  
You spoil the matter quite!

*Lewis Carroll* (1832–1898)

I dislike modern memoirs. They are generally written by people who have either entirely lost their memories, or have never done anything worth remembering.

*Oscar Wilde* (1854–1900)

## February 3

I expect to pass through this world but once; any good thing therefore that I can do, or any kindness that I can show to any fellow-creature, let me do it now; let me not defer or neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again.

*Stephen Grelliet* (1773–1855)

The proper force of words lie not in the words themselves, but in their application.

*William Hazlitt* (1778–1830)

Turn pimp, flatterer, quack, lawyer, parson, be chaplain to an atheist, or stallion to an old woman, anything but a poet; for a poet is worse, more servile, timorous and fawning than any I have named.

*William Congreve* (1670–1729)



## Words to Inspire Writers

### February 4

Twice five years  
Or less I might have seen, when first my mind  
With conscious pleasure opened to the charm  
Of words in tuneful order, found them sweet  
For their own sakes, a passion, and a power;  
And phrases pleased me chosen for delight,  
For pomp, or love.

*William Wordsworth* (1770–1850)

Speech is the mirror of action.

*Solon* (638–558 B.C.)

The person who writes for fools is always sure of a large audience.

*Arthur Schopenhauer* (1788–1860)

### February 5

Imagination, where it is truly creative, is a faculty, not a quality; its seat is in the higher reason, and it is efficient only as the servant of the will. Imagination—as too often understood, is mere fantasy—the image-making power, common to all who have the gift of dreams.

*James Russell Lowell* (1819–1891)

Only the hand that erases can write the true thing.

*Meister Eckhart* (1260–1326)

Great artists have no country.

*Alfred de Musset* (1810–1857)

## Words to Inspire Writers

### February 6

Nothing can be created out of nothing.

*Lucretius [Titus Lucretius Carus] (99–55 B.C.)*

The Moving Finger writes; and, having writ,  
Moves on: nor all thy Piety nor Wit  
Shall lure it back to cancel half a Line,  
Nor all thy Tears wash out a Word of it.

*Omar Khayyam [translated by Edward Fitzgerald] (1048–1131)*

What an occupation! To sit and flay your fellow men and then offer  
their skins for sale and expect them to buy them.

*August Strindberg (1849–1912)*

### February 7

All good things which exist are the fruits of originality.

*John Stuart Mill (1806–1873)*

A tale should be judicious, clear, succinct;  
The language plain, and incidents well link'd;  
Tell not as new what ev'ry body knows;  
And, new or old, still hasten to a close.

*William Cowper (1731–1800)*

The lunatic, the lover, and the poet,  
Are of imagination all compact.

*William Shakespeare (1564–1616)*

### February 8

Accustom yourself to give careful attention to what others are saying,  
and try your best to enter into the mind of the speaker.

*Marcus Aurelius Antoninus (121–180)*

## Words to Inspire Writers

On the day when a young writer corrects his first proof-sheet he is as proud as a schoolboy who has just got his first dose of pox.

*Charles Pierre Baudelaire* (1821–1867)

I conceive that the right way to write a story for boys is to write so that it will not only interest boys but strongly interest any man who has ever been a boy. That immensely enlarges the audience.

*Mark Twain* (1835–1910)

## February 9

While we're talking, time will have meanly run on: pick today's fruits, not relying on the future in the slightest.

*Horace* (65–8 B.C.)

The time to begin writing an article is when you have finished it to your satisfaction. By that time you begin to clearly and logically perceive what it is you really want to say.

*Mark Twain* (1835–1910)

But an epitaph is not a proud writing shut up for the studious: it is exposed to all—to the wise and the most ignorant; it is condescending, perspicuous, and lovingly solicits regard; its story and admonitions are brief, that the thoughtless, the busy, and indolent, may not be deterred, nor the impatient tired: the stooping old man cons the engraven record like a second horn-book;—the child is proud that he can read it;—and the stranger is introduced through its meditation to the company of a friend: it is concerning all, and for all:—in the churchyard it is open to the day; the sun looks down upon the stone, and the rains of heaven beat against it.

*William Wordsworth* (1770–1850)

## Words to Inspire Writers

### February 10

Language is the formative organ of thought.

*Wilhelm von Humboldt* (1767–1835)

I will not go down to posterity talking bad grammar.

*Benjamin Disraeli* (1804–1881)

Nothing gives an author so much pleasure as to find his works respectfully quoted by other learned authors.

*Benjamin Franklin* (1706–1790)

### February 11

At bottom every man knows well enough that he is a unique being, only once on this earth; and by no extraordinary chance will such a marvelously picturesque piece of diversity in unity as he is, ever be put together a second time.

*Friedrich Nietzsche* (1844–1900)

Words, like glasses, obscure everything they do not make clear.

*Joseph Joubert* (1754–1824)

It takes two to speak the truth—one to speak, and another to hear.

*Henry David Thoreau* (1817–1862)

### February 12

Knowledge is of two kinds. We know a subject ourselves, or we know where we can find information upon it.

*Samuel Johnson* (1709–1784)

Poetry therefore, is an art of imitation... a representing, counterfeiting, or figuring forth to speak metaphorically. A speaking picture, with this end: to teach and delight.

*Sir Philip Sidney* (1554–1586)

## Words to Inspire Writers

One man is as good as another until he has written a book.

*Benjamin Jowett* (1817–1893)

### February 13

Inspiration comes from working everyday.

*Charles Pierre Baudelaire* (1821–1867)

I strive to be brief, and I become obscure.

*Horace* (65–8 B.C.)

There can hardly be a stranger commodity in the world than books. Printed by people who don't understand them; sold by people who don't understand them; bound, criticized and read by people who don't understand them; and now even written by people who don't understand them.

*Georg Christoph Lichtenberg* (1742–1799)

### February 14

Give me the liberty to know, to utter, and to argue freely according to conscience, above all liberties.

*John Milton* (1608–1674)

I may therefore venture to say that the air of reality seems to me to be the supreme virtue of the novel—the merit upon which all its other merits... hopelessly and submissively depend. If it be not there they are all as nothing, and if these be there, they owe their effect to the success with which the author has produced the illusion of life. The cultivation of this success, the study of this exquisite process, form, to my taste, the beginning and the end of the art of the novelist. They are his inspiration, his despair, his reward, his torment, and his delight.

*Henry James* (1843–1916)

## Words to Inspire Writers

Literature nowadays is a trade... the successful man of letters is your skillful tradesman. He thinks first and foremost of the markets.

*George Gissing* (1857–1903)

## February 15

O for a life of sensations rather than of thoughts!

*John Keats* (1795–1821)

We judge and reason with words, just as we calculate with numerals; and languages are for ordinary people what algebra is for geometricians.

*Étienne Bonnot de Condillac* (1715–1780)

No place affords a more striking conviction of the vanity of human hopes than a public library; for who can see the wall crowded on every side by mighty volumes, the works of laborious meditations and accurate inquiry, now scarcely known but by the catalogue. . .

*Samuel Johnson* (1709–1784)

## February 16

Art is either plagiarism or revolution.

*Paul Gauguin* (1848–1903)

Anybody can write a short story—a bad one, I mean—who has industry and paper and time enough; but not everyone may hope to write even a bad novel. It is the length that kills. The accepted novelist may take his novel up and put it down, spend days upon it in vain, and write not any more that he makes haste to blot. Not so the beginner. Human nature has certain rights; instinct—the instinct of self-preservation—forbids that any man (cheered and

## Words to Inspire Writers

supported by the consciousness of no previous victory) should endure the miseries of unsuccessful literary toil beyond a period to be measured in weeks.

*Robert Louis Stevenson* (1850–1894)

Writing is an occupation in which you have to keep proving your talent to those who have none.

*Jules Reynard* (1864–1910)

## February 17

Look in my face; my name is Might-have-been.  
I am also called No-more, Too-late, Farewell.

*Dante Gabriel Rossetti* (1828–1882)

There is no iron that can enter the human heart with such stupefying effect, as a period placed at just the right moment.

*Guy de Maupassant* (1850–1893)

Never read a book through merely because you have begun it.

*John Witherspoon* (1723–1794)

## February 18

One machine can do the work of fifty ordinary men. No machine can do the work of one extraordinary man.

*Elbert Hubbard* (1856–1915)

Good poetry seems too simple and natural a thing that when we meet it we wonder that all men are not always poets. Poetry is nothing but healthy speech.

*Henry David Thoreau* (1817–1862)

## Words to Inspire Writers

Wise men speak; their words of wisdom  
Perish in the ears that hear them,  
Do not reach the generations  
That, as yet unborn, are waiting  
In the great mysterious darkness  
Of the speechless days that shall be!

*Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1807–1882)*

## February 19

That which we have not been forced to decipher, to clarify by our own personal effort, that which was made clear before, is not ours. Only that issues from ourselves which we ourselves extract from the darkness within ourselves and which is unknown to others. And as art exactly recomposes life, an atmosphere of poetry surrounds those truths within ourselves to which we attain, the sweetness of a mystery which is but the twilight through which we have passed.

*Marcel Proust (1871–1922)*

A word is not a crystal, transparent and unchanged, it is the skin of a living thought and may vary greatly in color and content according to the circumstances and time in which it is used.

*Oliver Wendell Holmes, Sr (1809–1894)*

Time is like a river made up of the events which happen, and its current is strong; no sooner does anything appear than it is swept away, and another comes in its place, and will be swept away too.

*Marcus Aurelius Antoninus (121–180)*

## February 20

I simply don't know how anyone can write at great speed, and only for the money's sake.

*Fedor Mikhailovich Dostoevsky (1821–1881)*



## Words to Inspire Writers

I have thought many times since that if poets when they get discouraged would blow their brains out, they could write very much better when they got well.

*Mark Twain* (1835–1910)

Let us read, and let us dance—two amusements that will never do any harm to the world.

*Voltaire* (1694–1778)

## February 21

If suffer we must, let's suffer on the heights.

*Victor Hugo* (1802–1885)

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* (1803–1882)

Criticism is a queer thing. If it print “She was stark naked”—& then proceeded to describe her person in detail, what critic would not howl?—who would venture to leave the book on a parlor table?—but the artist does this & all ages gather around & look & talk & point. I can't say, “They cut his head off, or stabbed him, &c” describe the blood & the agony in his face.

*Mark Twain* (1835–1910)

## February 22

'Tis education forms the common mind, Just as the twig is bent, the tree's inclined.

*Alexander Pope* (1688–1744)

## Words to Inspire Writers

An incurable itch for scribbling takes possession of many, and grows inveterate in their insane breasts.

*Juvenal (Decimus Junius Juvenalis) (55–130)*

If a secret history of books could be written, and the author's private thoughts and meanings noted down alongside of his story, how many insipid volumes would become interesting, and dull tales excite the reader!

*William Makepeace Thackeray (1811–1863)*

## February 23

I have said that poetry is the spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings; it takes its origin from emotion recollected in tranquillity; the emotion is contemplated till, by a species of re-action, the tranquillity gradually disappears, and an emotion, kindred to that which was the subject of contemplation, is gradually produced, and does itself actually exist in the mind.

*William Wordsworth (1770–1850)*

He that will write well in any tongue, must follow the counsel of Aristotle, to speak as the common people do, to think as wise men do; and so should every man understand him, and the judgment of wise men allow him.

*Roger Ascham (1515–1568)*

Axioms in philosophy are not axioms until they are proved upon our pulses; we read fine things but never feel them to the full until we have gone the same steps as the author.

*John Keats (1795–1821)*

## February 24

Our passions shape our books; repose writes them in the intervals.

*Marcel Proust (1871–1922)*

## Words to Inspire Writers

That of all the several ways of beginning a book which are now in practice throughout the known world, I am confident my own way of doing it is the best—I'm sure it is the most religious—for I begin with writing the first sentence—and trusting to Almighty God for the second.

*Laurence Sterne* (1713–1768)

'Tis hard to say, if greater want of skill  
Appear in writing or in judging ill;  
But, of the two, less dang'rous is th' offence  
To tire our patience, than mislead our sense.

*Alexander Pope* (1688–1744)

## February 25

Give me a condor's quill! Give me Vesuvius' crater for an inkstand... To produce a mighty book you must choose a mighty theme. No great and enduring volume can ever be written on a flea, though many there be that have tried it.

*Herman Melville* (1819–1891)

Whether we are describing a king, an assassin, a thief, an honest man, a prostitute, a nun, a young girl, or a stall-holder in the market, it is always ourselves that we are describing.

*Guy de Maupassant* (1850–1893)

Gather ye rose-buds while ye may,  
Old Time is still a-flying:  
And this same flower that smiles today,  
Tomorrow will be dying.

*Robert Herrick* (1591–1674)

## Words to Inspire Writers

### February 26

If you are going to make a book end badly, it must end badly from the beginning.

*Robert Louis Stevenson* (1850–1894)

The words the happy say  
Are paltry melody  
But those the silent feel  
Are beautiful—.

*Emily Dickinson* (1830–1886)

The reason why we have two ears and only one mouth is that we may listen the more and talk the less.

*Zeno of Citium* (333–264 B.C.)

### February 27

To read without reflecting is like eating without digesting.

*Edmund Burke* (1729–1797)

The exact kind of language we employ in philosophical analyses of abstract truth is one thing, and the language used in attempts to popularize the subject is another.

*Marcus Tullius Cicero* (106–43 B.C.)

My soul; sit thou a patient looker-on;  
Judge not the play before the play is done:  
Her plot hath many changes, every day  
Speaks a new scene; the last act crowns the play.

*Francis Quarles* (1592–1644)

## Words to Inspire Writers

### February 28

Redeem thy mis-spent time that's past;  
Live this day, as if 'twere thy last.

*Thomas Ken* (1637–1711)

Take care that you never spell a word wrong. Always before you write a word, consider how it is spelled, and, if you do not remember, turn to a dictionary. It produces great praise to a lady to spell well.

*Thomas Jefferson* (1743–1826)

What experience and history teach is this—that people and governments never have learned anything from history, or acted on principles deduced from it.

*Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel* (1770–1831)

### February 29

They never taste who always drink;  
They always talk, who never think.

*Matthew Prior* (1664–1721)

When you write in prose you say what you mean. When you write in rhyme you say what you must.

*Oliver Wendell Holmes, Sr* (1809–1894)

When you meet someone better than yourself, turn your thoughts to becoming his equal. When you meet someone not as good as you are, look within and examine your own self.

*Confucius* (551–479 B.C.)

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# March

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## March 1

We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit.

*Aristotle* (384–322 B.C.)

Viewed freely, the English language is the accretion and growth of every dialect, race, and range of time, and is the culling and composition of all. From this point of view, it stands for Language in the largest sense, and is really the greatest of studies.

*Walt Whitman* (1819–1892)

Thank you for the manuscript; I shall lose no time in reading it.

*Benjamin Disraeli* (1804–1881)

## March 2

One should examine oneself for a very long time before thinking of condemning others.

*Molière [Jean Baptiste Poquelin]* (1622–1673)

Rhythm and rhyme and the harmonies of musical language, the play of fancy, the fire of imagination, the flashes of passion, so hide the nakedness of a heart laid open, that hardly any confession, transfigured in the luminous halo of poetry, is reproached as self-exposure.

*Oliver Wendell Holmes, Sr* (1809–1894)

## Words to Inspire Writers

I've been reading reviews of my stories for twenty-five years, and can't remember a single useful point in any of them, or the slightest good advice. The only reviewer who ever made an impression on me was Skabichevsky, who prophesied that I would die drunk in the bottom of a ditch.

*Anton Chekhov* (1860–1904)

### March 3

A little learning is a dangerous thing;  
Drink deep, or taste not the Pierian spring;  
There shallow draughts intoxicate the brain,  
And drinking largely sobers us again.

*Alexander Pope* (1688–1744)

It has always been my practice to cast a long paragraph in a single mould, to try it by my ear, to deposit it in my memory, but to suspend the action of the pen till I had given the last polish to my work.

*Edward Gibbon* (1737–1794)

Poems are made by fools like me,  
But only God can make a tree.

*Alfred Joyce Kilmer* (1886–1918)

### March 4

Writing well is at one and the same time good thinking, good feeling, and good expression; it is having wit, soul, and taste, all together.

*George-Louis Leclerc, Comte de Buffon* (1707–1788)

If one wait for the right time to come before writing, the right time never comes.

*James Russell Lowell* (1819–1891)

## Words to Inspire Writers

There is only one expert who is qualified to examine the souls and the life of a people and make a valuable report—the native novelist. . . . And when a thousand able novels have been written, there you have the soul of the people; and not anywhere else can these be had.

*Mark Twain* (1835–1910)

### March 5

Books serve to show a man that those original thoughts of his aren't very new after all.

*Abraham Lincoln* (1809–1865)

Language is an art, like brewing or baking; but writing would have been a much more appropriate simile. It certainly is not a true instinct, as every language has to be learnt. It differs, however, widely from all ordinary arts, for man has an instinctive tendency to speak. . . whilst no child has an instinctive tendency to brew, bake, or write.

*Charles Darwin* (1809–1882)

The test of literature is, I suppose, whether we ourselves live more intensely for the reading of it.

*Elizabeth Drew (Barstow) Stoddard* (1823–1902)

### March 6

But far more numerous was the Herd of such  
Who think too little and who talk too much.

*John Dryden* (1631–1700)

I was impelled to write this Sonnet by the disgusting frequency with which the word *artistical*, imported with other impertinences from the German, is employed by writers of the present day: for



## Words to Inspire Writers

artistical let them substitute artificial, and the poetry written on this system, both at home and abroad, will be for the most part much better characterized.

*William Wordsworth* (1770–1850)

Let it be kept till the ninth year, the manuscript put away at home: you may destroy whatever you haven't published; once out, what you've said can't be stopped.

*Horace* (65–8 B.C.)

## March 7

The dear good people don't know how long it takes to learn how to read. I've been at it eighty years, and can't say yet that I've reached the goal.

*Johann Wolfgang von Goethe* (1749–1832)

Scratch the simplest expressions, and you will find the metaphor. Written words are handage, inkage, and paperage; it is only by metaphor, or substitution and transposition of ideas, that we can call them language.

*Samuel Butler* (1835–1902)

Books, not which afford us a cowering enjoyment, but in which each thought is of unusual daring; such as an idle man cannot read, and a timid one would not be entertained by, which even make us dangerous to existing institutions—such call I good books.

*Henry David Thoreau* (1817–1862)

## March 8

There are three great questions which in life we have over and over again to answer: Is it right or wrong? Is it true or false? Is it beauti-

## Words to Inspire Writers

ful or ugly? Our education ought to help us to answer these questions.

*Sir John William Lubbock, 3rd Baronet (1803–1865)*

When I feel inclined to read poetry I take down my dictionary. The poetry of words is quite as beautiful as that of sentences. The author may arrange the gems effectively, but their shape and luster have been given by the attention of ages. Bring me the finest simile from the whole range of imaginative writing, and I will show you a single word which conveys a more profound, a more accurate, and a more eloquent analogy.

*Oliver Wendell Holmes, Sr (1809–1894)*

Even those who write against fame wish for the fame of having written well, and those who read their works desire the fame of having read them.

*Blaise Pascal (1623–1662)*

## March 9

We must, however, acknowledge, as it seems to me, that man with all his noble qualities, still bears in his bodily frame the indelible stamp of his lowly origin.

*Charles Darwin (1809–1882)*

I said there was no Rule in the World to be made for writing Letters, but that of being as near what you speak Face to Face as you can; which is so great a Truth, that I am of Opinion Writing has lost more Mistresses than any one Mistake in the whole Legend of Love.

*Sir Richard Steele (1672–1729)*

As a man has no right to kill one of his children if it is diseased or insane, so a man who has made the gradual and conscious expression of his personality in literature the aim of his life, has no right

## Words to Inspire Writers

to suppress himself any carefully considered work which seemed good enough when it was written. Suppression, if it is deserved, will come rapidly enough from the same causes that suppress the unworthy members of a man's family.

*J(ohn) M(illington) Synge* (1871–1909)

## March 10

What a piece of work is a man! How noble in reason! How infinite in faculties! In form and moving, how express and admirable! In action, how like an angel! In apprehension, how like a god! The beauty of the world! The paragon of animals! And yet, to me, what is this quintessence of dust? Man delights not me—no, nor woman neither.

*William Shakespeare* (1564–1616)

We want words to do more than they can. We try to do with them what comes to very much like trying to mend a watch with a pick-axe or to paint a miniature with a mop; we expect them to help us to grip and dissect that which in ultimate essence is as ungrip-pable as shadow. Nevertheless there they are; we have got to live with them, and the wise course is to treat them as we do our neighbors, and make the best and not the worst of them. But they are parvenu people as compared with thought and action.

*Samuel Butler* (1835–1902)

We may live without her, and worship without her, but we cannot remember without her. How cold is all history, how lifeless all imagery, compared to that which the living nation writes, and the uncorrupted marble bears!

*John Ruskin* (1819–1900)

## Words to Inspire Writers

### March 11

The mind I love must have wild places, a tangled orchard where dark damsons drop in the heavy grass, an overgrown little wood, the chance of a snake or two, a pool that nobody's fathomed the depth of, and paths threaded with flowers planted by the mind.

*Katherine Mansfield* (1888–1923)

What a lumbering poor vehicle prose is for the conveying of a great thought! . . . Prose wanders around with a lantern & laboriously schedules & verifies the details & particulars of a valley & its frame of crags & peaks, then Poetry comes, & lays bare the whole landscape with a single splendid flash.

*Mark Twain* (1835–1910)

What is a modern poet's fate?  
To write his thoughts upon a slate;  
The critic spits on what is done,  
Gives it a wipe—and all is gone.

*Thomas Hood* (1799–1845)

### March 12

I never found the companion that was so companionable as solitude.

*Henry David Thoreau* (1817–1862)

Writing is nothing other than a kind of speech which remains in being after it has been uttered, the representation, as it were, or rather the very life on our words.

*Baldesar Castiglione* (1478–1529)

When we see a natural style we are quite amazed and delighted, because we expected to see an author and find a man.

*Blaise Pascal* (1623–1662)

## Words to Inspire Writers

### March 13

The merit of originality is not novelty; it is sincerity. The believing man is the original man; whatsoever he believes, he believes it for himself, not for another.

*Thomas Carlyle* (1795–1881)

It is by teaching that we teach ourselves, by relating that we observe, by affirming that we examine, by showing that we look, by writing that we think, by pumping that we draw water into the well.

*Henri Frédéric Amiel* (1821–1881)

There is no frigate like a book  
To take us lands away,  
Nor any coursers like a page  
Of prancing poetry.

*Emily Dickinson* (1830–1886)

### March 14

Lively thoughts  
Give birth, full often, to unguarded words.

*William Wordsworth* (1770–1850)

Words spoken are symbols or signs of affections or impressions of the soul; written words are the signs of words spoken. As writing, so also is speech not the same for all races of men. But the mental affections themselves, of which these words are primarily signs, are the same for the whole of mankind, as are also the objects of which those affections are representations or likenesses, images, copies.

*Aristotle* (384–322 B.C.)

Books are made not like children but like pyramids...  
and they're just as useless! and they stay in the desert! ... Jackals

## Words to Inspire Writers

piss at their foot and the bourgeois climb up on them.

*Gustave Flaubert* (1821–1880)

### March 15

If I have seen further it is by standing on the shoulders of giants.

*Sir Isaac Newton* (1642–1727)

It is always good

When a man has two irons in the fire.

*Francis Beaumont* (1584–1616)

I am always reading immoral books on the sly, and then selfishly trying to prevent other people from having the same wicked good time.

*Mark Twain* (1835–1910)

### March 16

Reading maketh a full man; conference a ready man; and writing an exact man. And therefore, if a man write little, he had need have a great memory; if he confer little, he had need have a present wit [ready mind]; and if he read little, he had need have much cunning, to seem to know that he doth not.

*Francis Bacon* (1561–1626)

The poet's eye, in a fine frenzy rolling,

Doth glance from heaven to earth, from earth to heaven;

And as imagination bodies forth

The forms of things unknown, the poet's pen

Turns them to shapes, and gives to airy nothing

A local habitation and a name.

*William Shakespeare* (1564–1616)

## Words to Inspire Writers

The writing of the wise are the only riches our posterity cannot squander.

*Walter Savage Landor* (1775–1864)

### March 17

Entities should not be multiplied unnecessarily. No more things should be presumed to exist than are absolutely necessary. [‘Okham’s Razor’]

*William of Okham* (1280–1349)

Substitute “damn” every time you’re inclined to write “very”; your editor will delete it and the writing will be just as it should be.

*Mark Twain* (1835–1910)

I am two fools, I know,  
For loving, and for saying so  
In whining Poetry.

*John Donne* (1573–1631)

### March 18

Man is the measure of all things.

*Protagoras* (481–420 B.C.)

A great deal of talent is lost to the world for want of a little courage. Every day sends to their graves obscure men whose timidity prevented them from making a first effort.

*Sydney Smith* (1771–1845)

Writing is the only profession where no one considers you ridiculous if you earn no money.

*Jules Reynard* (1864–1910)

## Words to Inspire Writers

### March 19

A thing of beauty is a joy for ever:  
Its loveliness increases; it will never  
Pass into nothingness; but still will keep  
A bower quiet for us, and a sleep  
Full of sweet dreams, and health, and quiet breathing.  
*John Keats (1795–1821)*

The English language as it is spoken by the politest part of the nation, and as it stands in the writings of our most approved authors, oftentimes offends against every part of grammar.  
*Robert Lowth (1710–1787)*

A written word is the choicest of relics. It is something at once more intimate with us and more universal than any other work of art. It is the work of art nearest to life itself. It may be translated into every language, and not only be read but actually breathed from all human lips;—not to be represented on canvas or in marble only, but be carved out of the breath of life itself. The symbol of an ancient man's thought becomes a modern man's speech.  
*Henry David Thoreau (1817–1862)*

### March 20

For where is any author in the world  
Teaches such beauty as a woman's eye?  
Learning is but an adjunct to oneself.  
*William Shakespeare (1564–1616)*

Easy reading is damn hard writing.  
*Nathaniel Hawthorne (1804–1864)*



## Words to Inspire Writers

For neither man nor angel can discern  
Hypocrisy, the only evil that walks  
Invisible, except to God alone.

*John Milton* (1608–1674)

### March 21

Man is an intellectual animal, and therefore an everlasting contradiction to himself. His senses centre in himself, his ideas reach to the ends of the universe; so that he is torn in pieces between the two, without a possibility of its ever being otherwise.

*William Hazlitt* (1778–1830)

There are two ways of speaking an audience will always like; one is to tell them what they don't understand; and the other is to tell them what they're used to.

*George Eliot* (1819–1880)

A word is dead  
When it is said,  
Some say.  
I say it just  
Begins to live  
That day.

*Emily Dickinson* (1830–1886)

### March 22

Perhaps the most valuable result of all education is the ability to make yourself do the thing you have to do, when it ought to be done, whether you like it or not.

*T(homas) H(enry) Huxley* (1825–1895)

## Words to Inspire Writers

Every word... has two existences, as a spoken word and a written; and you have no right to sacrifice one of these, or even to subordinate it wholly, to the other. A word exists as truly for the eye as for the ear; and in a highly advanced state of society, where reading is almost as universal as speaking, quite as much for the one as for the other.

*Richard Chenevix Trench* (1807–1886)

Romanticism is the art of presenting people with the literary works which are capable of affording them the greatest possible pleasure, in the present state of their customs and beliefs. Classicism, on the other hand, presents them with the literature that gave the greatest possible pleasure to their great-grandfathers.

*Stendhal* (1783–1842)

## March 23

Knowledge dwells  
In heads replete with thoughts of other men;  
Wisdom in minds attentive to their own.

*William Cowper* (1731–1800)

A successful book is not made of what is in it, but what is left out of it.

*Mark Twain* (1835–1910)

One of the reasons that we find so few persons rational and agreeable in conversation is that there is hardly a person who does not think more of what he wants to say than of his answer to what is said.

*François, Duc de Rochefoucauld* (1613–1680)

## Words to Inspire Writers

### March 24

I like hearing myself talk. It is one of my greatest pleasures. I often have long conversations all by myself, and I am so clever that sometimes I don't understand a single word of what I am saying.

*Oscar Wilde (1854–1900)*

For I have neither wit, nor words, nor worth,  
Action, nor utterance, nor the power of speech,  
To stir men's blood; I only speak right on.

*William Shakespeare (1564–1616)*

Every new opinion, at its starting, is precisely in a minority of one.

*Thomas Carlyle (1795–1881)*

### March 25

Experience is never limited, and it is never complete; it is an immense sensibility, a kind of huge spider-web of the finest silken threads suspended in the chamber of consciousness, and catching every air-borne particle in its tissue.

*Henry James (1843–1916)*

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. When you catch an adjective, kill it. No, I don't mean utterly, but kill most of them—then the rest will be valuable. They weaken when they are close together. They give strength when they are wide apart. An adjective habit, or a wordy, diffuse, flowery habit, once fastened upon a person, is as hard to get rid of as any other vice.

*Mark Twain (1835–1910)*

Work and thou canst escape the reward; whether the work be fine or course, planting corn or writing epics, so only it be honest work,

## Words to Inspire Writers

done to thine own approbation, it shall earn a reward to the senses as well as to the thought.

*Ralph Waldo Emerson* (1803–1882)

### March 26

My words are only words, and moved  
Upon the topmost froth of thought.

*Lord Alfred Tennyson* (1809–1892)

You write with ease to show your breeding  
But easy writing is cursed hard reading.

*Benjamin Franklin* (1706–1790)

But words are things, and a small drop of ink,  
Falling like dew upon a thought, produces  
That which makes thousands, perhaps millions, think.  
'Tis strange, the shortest letter which man uses  
Instead of speech, may form a lasting link  
Of ages. To what straits old Time reduces  
Frail man, when paper, even a rag like this,  
Survives himself, his tomb, and all that's his.

*Lord [George Gordon] Byron* (1788–1824)

### March 27

Most thinkers write badly, because they communicate not only their thoughts, but also the thinking of them.

*Friedrich Nietzsche* (1844–1900)

The good writer seems to be writing about himself, but has his eye always on that thread of the Universe which runs through himself and all things.

*Ralph Waldo Emerson* (1803–1882)

## Words to Inspire Writers

For I bless God in the libraries of the learned and for all the book-sellers in the world.

*Christopher Smart* (1722–1771)

### March 28

Every great man nowadays has his disciples, and it is usually Judas who writes the biography.

*Oscar Wilde* (1854–1900)

A writer who can't write in a grammarly manner better shut up shop.

*Artemus Ward* (1834–1867)

When a book and a head collide and there is a hollow sound, is that always in the book?

*Georg Christoph Lichtenberg* (1742–1799)

### March 29

Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm.

*Ralph Waldo Emerson* (1803–1882)

When you are describing,  
A shape, or sound, or tint;  
Don't state the matter plainly,  
But put it in a hint;  
And learn to look at all things,  
With a sort of mental squint.

*Lewis Carroll* (1832–1898)

Let thy speech be better than silence, or be silent.

*Dionysius the Elder* (432–367 B.C.)

## Words to Inspire Writers

### March 30

Anyone who has got a book collection/library and a garden wants for nothing.

*Marcus Tullius Cicero* (106–43 B.C.)

Geometry is to sculpture what grammar is to the art of the writer.

*Guillaume Apollinaire* (1880–1918)

You can find in a text whatever you bring, if you will stand between it and the mirror of your imagination.

*Mark Twain* (1835–1910)

### March 31

But thoughts, the slaves of life, and life, time's fool,  
And time, that takes survey of all the world,  
Must have a stop.

*William Shakespeare* (1564–1616)

Just as the voice of the trumpet rings out clearer and stronger for being forced through a narrow tube so too a saying leaps forth much more vigorously when compressed into the rhythms of poetry, striking me then with a livelier shock.

*Michel Eyquem de Montaigne* (1533–1592)

An author values a compliment even when it comes from a source of doubtful competency.

*Mark Twain* (1835–1910)

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# April

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## April 1

The best way to become acquainted with a subject is to write a book about it.

*Benjamin Disraeli* (1804–1881)

However much we may admire the orator's occasional bursts of eloquence, the noblest written words are commonly as far behind or above the fleeting spoken language as the firmament with its stars is behind the clouds.

*Henry David Thoreau* (1817–1862)

Good things, when short, are twice as good.

*Baltasar Gracián* (1601–1658)

## April 2

There are some books that refuse to be written. They stand their ground year after year and will not be persuaded. It isn't because the book is not there and worth being written—it is only because the right form of the story does not present itself. There is only one right form for a story and if you fail to find that form the story will not tell itself.

*Mark Twain* (1835–1910)

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

## Words to Inspire Writers

will certainly misunderstand them.

*John Ruskin* (1819–1900)

There is no luck in literary reputation. They who make up the final verdict upon every book are not the partial and noisy readers of the hour when it appears; but a court as of angels, a public not to be bribed, not to be entreated, and not to be overawed, decides upon every man's title to fame.

*Ralph Waldo Emerson* (1803–1882)

### April 3

We often discover what will do, by finding out what will not do; and probably he who never made a mistake never made a discovery.

*Samuel Smiles* (1812–1904)

When an honest writer discovers an imposition it is his simple duty to strip it bare and hurl it down from its place of honor, no matter who suffers by it; any other course would render him unworthy of the public confidence.

*Mark Twain* (1835–1910)

If all mankind minus one were of one opinion, and only one person were of the contrary opinion, mankind would be no more justified in silencing that one person than he, if he had the power, would be justified in silencing mankind.

*John Stuart Mill* (1806–1873)

### April 4

It is not sufficient to have a grasp of what one should say, but one must also say these things in the way that one should, and this makes a great contribution to the character that the speech



## Words to Inspire Writers

projects. [Of style]

*Aristotle* (384–322 B.C.)

Every man's work, whether it be literature or music or pictures or architecture or anything else, is always a portrait of himself.

*Samuel Butler* (1835–1902)

I cannot help it;—in spite of myself, infinity torments me.

*Alfred de Musset* (1810–1857)

### April 5

We are as much informed of a writer's genius by what he selects as by what he originates.

*Ralph Waldo Emerson* (1803–1882)

As it is my design to make those that can scarcely read understand, I shall therefore avoid every literary ornament and put it in language as plain as the alphabet.

*Thomas Paine* (1737–1809)

The only sensible ends of literature are, first, the pleasurable toil of writing; second, the gratification of one's family and friends; and lastly, the solid cash.

*Nathaniel Hawthorne* (1804–1864)

### April 6

If I don't write to empty my mind, I go mad. As to that regular, uninterrupted love of writing. I do not understand it. I feel it as a torture, which I must get rid of, but never as a pleasure. On the contrary, I think composition a great pain.

*Lord [George Gordon] Byron* (1788–1824)

## Words to Inspire Writers

In art economy is always beauty.

*Henry James* (1843–1916)

Next to the originator of a good sentence is the first quoter of it. Many will read the book before one thinks of quoting a passage. As soon as he has done this, that line will be quoted east and west.

*Ralph Waldo Emerson* (1803–1882)

### April 7

The secret of getting ahead is getting started. The secret of getting started is breaking your complex overwhelming tasks into small manageable tasks, and then starting on the first one.

*Mark Twain* (1835–1910)

The learned fool writes his nonsense in better language than the unlearned, but it is still nonsense.

*Benjamin Franklin* (1706–1790)

Straightforward words  
Seem paradoxical.

*Laozi* (604–531 B.C.)

### April 8

Cherish your visions; cherish your ideals; cherish the music that stirs in your heart, the beauty that forms in your mind, the loveliness that drapes your purest thoughts, for out of them will grow delightful conditions, all heavenly environment; of these if you but remain true to them, your world will at last be built.

*James Allen* (1864–1912)

Every artist dips his brush into his own soul,  
And paints his own nature into his pictures.

*Henry Ward Beecher* (1813–1887)

## Words to Inspire Writers

We never tire of the friendships we form with books.

*Charles Dickens* (1812–1870)

### April 9

To me the meanest flower that blows can give  
Thoughts that do often lie too deep for tears.

*William Wordsworth* (1770–1850)

The easiest books are generally the best; for, whatever author is obscure and difficult in his own language, certainly does not think clearly.

*Lord Philip Dormer Stanhope* (1694–1773)

In comparing various authors with one another, I have discovered that some of the gravest and latest writers have transcribed, word for word, from former works, without making acknowledgment.

*Pliny the Elder* (23–79)

### April 10

A man may as well expect to grow stronger by always eating as wiser by always reading.

*Jeremy Collier* (1650–1726)

Composition is, for the most part, an effort of slow diligence and steady perseverance, to which the mind is dragged by necessity or resolution, and from which the attention is every moment starting to more delightful amusements.

*Samuel Johnson* (1709–1784)

About the most originality that any writer can hope to achieve honestly is to steal with good judgment.

*Henry Wheeler Shaw* (1818–1885)

## Words to Inspire Writers

### April 11

If there is a gun hanging on the wall in the first act, it must fire in the last.

*Anton Chekhov* (1860–1904)

Simplicity is the ultimate sophistication.

*Leonardo da Vinci* (1452–1519)

Keep away from people who try to belittle your ambitions. Small people always do that, but the really great make you feel that you, too, can become great.

*Mark Twain* (1835–1910)

### April 12

I think that I shall never see  
A poem lovely as a tree.

*Alfred Joyce Kilmer* (1886–1918)

He that uses many words for the explaining any subject doth, like the cuttlefish, hide himself for the most part in his own ink.

*John Ray* (1627–1705)

In general I do not draw well with literary men—not that I dislike them but I never know what to say to them after I have praised their last publication.

*Lord [George Gordon] Byron* (1788–1824)

### April 13

When once the itch of literature comes over a man, nothing can cure it but the scratching of a pen. But if you have not a pen, I suppose you must scratch any way you can.

*Samuel Lover* (1797–1868)

## Words to Inspire Writers

Language is a city to the building of which every human being brought a stone.

*Ralph Waldo Emerson* (1803–1882)

I too am not a bit tamed. I too am untranslatable,  
I sound my barbaric yawp over the roofs of the world.

*Walt Whitman* (1819–1892)

## April 14

If you wish to be a writer, write!

*Epictetus* (55–135)

Half the wrong conclusions at which mankind arrive are reached by the abuse of metaphors, and by mistaking general resemblance of imaginary similarity for real identity.

*Viscount [Henry John Temple] Palmerston* (1784–1865)

There are some people who leave impressions not so lasting as the imprint of an oar upon the water.

*Kate Chopin* (1851–1904)

## April 15

I love to lose myself in other men's minds. When I am not walking, I am reading; I cannot sit and think. Books think for me.

*Charles Lamb* (1775–1834)

For a man to write well, there are required three necessities: to read the best authors, observe the best speakers, and much exercise of his own style.

*Ben Jonson* (1572–1637)

## Words to Inspire Writers

There are men that will make you books, and turn them loose into the world, with as much dispatch as they would do a dish of fritters.

*Miguel de Cervantes* (1547–1616)

### April 16

If we clearly consider what our intention is when we speak, we shall find that it is nothing else but to unfold to others the thoughts of our own mind.

*Dante* (1265–1321)

There is but one art, to omit!

*Robert Louis Stevenson* (1850–1894)

True glory consists in doing what deserves to be written; in writing what deserves to be read; and in so living as to make the world happier and better for our living in it.

*Pliny the Elder* (23–79)

### April 17

I am not yet so lost in lexicography, as to forget that words are the daughters of earth, and that things are the sons of heaven. Language is only the instrument of science, and words are but the signs of ideas: I wish, however, that the instrument might be less apt to decay, and that signs might be more permanent, like the things which they denote.

*Samuel Johnson* (1709–1784)

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* (1817–1862)

## Words to Inspire Writers

The excellence of every art is its intensity, capable of making all disagreeables evaporate, from their being in close relationship with beauty and truth.

*John Keats* (1795–1821)

### April 18

On earth there is nothing great but man; in man there is nothing great but mind.

*Sir William Hamilton* (1788–1856)

I have revered always not crude verbosity, but holy simplicity.

*Saint Jerome* (347–420)

Some books are to be tasted, others to be swallowed, and some few to be chewed and digested: that is, some books are to be read only in parts; others to be read, but not curiously [carelessly]; and some few to be read wholly and with diligence and attention.

*Francis Bacon* (1561–1626)

### April 19

The only freedom deserving the name is that of pursuing our own good in our own way, so long as we do not attempt to deprive others of theirs. . . Mankind are greater gainers by suffering each other to live as seems good to themselves, than by compelling each to live as seems good to the rest.

*John Stuart Mill* (1806–1873)

Language is the dress of thought.

*Samuel Johnson* (1709–1784)

Books are fatal: they are the curse of the human race. Nine-tenths of existing books are nonsense, and the clever books are the refutation of that nonsense. The greatest misfortune that ever befell

## Words to Inspire Writers

man was the invention of printing.

*Benjamin Disraeli* (1804–1881)

### April 20

I do not know whether I was then a man dreaming I was a butterfly, or whether I am now a butterfly dreaming I am a man.

*Zhuangzi* (369–286 B.C.)

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* (1847–1911)

Write without pay until somebody offers to pay you. If nobody offers within three years, sawing wood is what you were intended for.

*Mark Twain* (1835–1910)

### April 21

A man who does not lose his reason over certain things has none to lose.

*Gotthold Ephraim Lessing* (1729–1781)

A man's style in any art should be like his dress—it should attract as little attention as possible. I never knew a writer yet who took the smallest pains with his style and was at the same time readable.

*Samuel Butler* (1835–1902)

The multitude of books is a great evil. There is no measure or limit to this fever for writing; every one must be an author; some out of vanity to acquire celebrity and raise up a name, others for the sake



## Words to Inspire Writers

of lucre and gain.

*Martin Luther* (1483–1546)

### April 22

Novelists should never allow themselves to weary of the study of real life.

*Charlotte Brontë* (1816–1855)

You need not expect to get your book right the first time. Go to work and revamp or rewrite it. God only exhibits his thunder and lightning at intervals, and so they always command attention. These are God's adjectives. You thunder and lightning too much; the reader ceases to get under the bed, by and by.

*Mark Twain* (1835–1910)

Men have been chained to hideous walls and other strange anchors but few have known such suffering and bitterness... as those who have been bound to Pens.

*Charles Dickens* (1812–1870)

### April 23

Two things fill the mind with ever new and increasing wonder and awe—the starry heavens above me, and the moral law within me.

*Immanuel Kant* (1724–1804)

I hold any writer sufficiently justified who is himself in love with his theme.

*Henry James* (1843–1916)

A cynic is a man who knows the price of everything and the value of nothing.

*Oscar Wilde* (1854–1900)

## Words to Inspire Writers

### April 24

Man—a being in search of meaning.

*Plato* (427–347 B.C.)

Most marvelous and enviable is that fecundity of fancy which can adorn whatever it touches, which can invest naked fact and dry reasoning with unlooked for beauty, make flowers bloom even on the brow of the precipice.

*Margaret Fuller* (1810–1850)

Heard melodies are sweet, but those unheard  
Are sweeter; therefore, ye soft pipes, play on.

*John Keats* (1795–1821)

### April 25

The wisdom of the wise and the experience of the ages are perpetuated by quotations.

*Benjamin Disraeli* (1804–1881)

Show, don't tell.

*Henry James* (1843–1916)

Our admiration of fine writing will always be in proportion to its real difficulty and its apparent ease.

*Charles Caleb Colton* (1780–1832)

### April 26

I have got no further than this: Every man has a right to utter what he thinks truth, and every other man has a right to knock him down for it. Martyrdom is the test.

*Samuel Johnson* (1709–1784)

## Words to Inspire Writers

No style is good that is not fit to be spoken or read aloud with effect.

*William Hazlitt* (1778–1830)

Poetry is an expression, through human language restored to its essential rhythm, of the mysteriousness of existence.

*Stéphane Mallarmé* (1842–1898)

### April 27

Writing or printing is like shooting with a rifle; you may hit your reader's mind, or miss it;—but talking is like playing at a mark with the pipe of an engine; if it is within reach, and you have time enough, you can't help hitting it.

*Oliver Wendell Holmes, Sr* (1809–1894)

The style of an author should be the image of his mind, but the choice and command of language is the fruit of exercise.

*Edward Gibbon* (1737–1794)

The chief glory of every people arises from its writers.

*Samuel Johnson* (1709–1784)

### April 28

Read not to contradict and confute; nor to believe and take for granted; nor to find talk and discourse; but to weigh and consider.

*Francis Bacon* (1561–1626)

A perfectly healthy sentence, it is true, is extremely rare. For the most part we miss the hue and fragrance of the thought; as if we could be satisfied with the dews of the morning or evening without their colors, or the heavens without their azure.

*Henry David Thoreau* (1817–1862)

## Words to Inspire Writers

The older author is constantly rediscovering himself in the more or less fossilized productions of his earlier years.

*Oliver Wendell Holmes, Sr* (1809–1894)

### April 29

To live in the world of creation—to get into it and stay in it—to frequent and haunt it—to think intensely and fruitfully—to woo combinations and inspirations into being by a depth and continuity of attention and meditations—this is the only thing.

*Henry James* (1843–1916)

You are right in demanding that an artist approach his work consciously, but you are confusing two concepts: the solution of a problem and the correct formulation of a problem. Only the second is required of the artist.

*Anton Chekhov* (1860–1904)

Read the best books first, or you may not have a chance to read them at all.

*Henry David Thoreau* (1817–1862)

### April 30

Many books require no thought from those who read them, and for a very simple reason. They made no such demand upon those who wrote them.

*Charles Caleb Colton* (1780–1832)

There is nothing to write about, you say. Well then, write and let me know just this—that there is nothing to write about; or tell me in the good old style if you are well. That's right. I am quite well.

*Pliny the Younger* (62–114)

## **Words to Inspire Writers**

It is art that makes life, makes interest, makes importance and I know of no substitute whatever for the force and beauty of its process.

*Henry James* (1843–1916)

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# May

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## May 1

Would you not like to try all sorts of lives—one is so very small—but that is the satisfaction of writing—one can impersonate so many people.

*Katherine Mansfield* (1888–1923)

My God, my God, thou art a direct God, may I not say a literal God... [but also] a figurative, a metaphorical God too; a God in whose words there is such a height of figures, such voyages, such peregrinations to fetch remote and precious metaphors, such extensions, such spreadings, such curtains of allegories, such third heavens of hyperboles, so harmonious elocutions, so retired and so reserved expressions, so commanding persuasions, so persuading commandments, such sinews even in thy milk, and such things in thy words, as all profane authors seem of the seed of the serpent that creeps; thou art the dove that flies.

*John Donne* (1573–1631)

Every burned book enlightens the world.

*Ralph Waldo Emerson* (1803–1882)

## May 2

Books and friends should be few but good.

*Proverb*

## Words to Inspire Writers

In all pointed sentences, some degree of accuracy must be sacrificed to conciseness.

*Samuel Johnson* (1709–1784)

Learning hath gained most by those books by which the printers have lost.

*Thomas Fuller* (1608–1661)

### May 3

Give me books, fruit, French wine and fine weather and a little music out of doors, played by somebody I do not know.

*John Keats* (1795–1821)

The man who makes no mistakes does not usually make anything.

*Edward John Phelps* (1822–1900)

The words that love inspires  
Outlive their utterance.

*Horace* (65–8 B.C.)

### May 4

Neither man nor nation can exist without a sublime idea.

*Fedor Mikhailovich Dostoevsky* (1821–1881)

Sleep on your writing; take a walk over it; scrutinize it of a morning; review it of an afternoon; digest it after a meal; let it sleep in your drawer a twelvemonth; never venture a whisper about it to your friend, if he be an author especially.

*Amos Bronson Alcott* (1799–1888)

Another damned, thick, square book! Always scribble, scribble, scribble! Eh! Mr. Gibbon?

*William, Duke of Gloucester* (1743–1805)

## Words to Inspire Writers

### May 5

All my best thoughts were stolen by the ancients.

*Ralph Waldo Emerson* (1803–1882)

When an author is too meticulous about his style, you may presume that his mind is frivolous and his content flimsy.

*Marcus Annaeus Seneca* (4 B.C.–A.D. 65)

The only obligation, to which in advance we may hold a novel, without incurring the accusation of being arbitrary, is that it be interesting.

*Henry James* (1843–1916)

### May 6

Live always in the best company when you read.

*Sydney Smith* (1771–1845)

The secret of all good writing is sound judgment. . . Get the facts in clear perspective and the words will follow naturally.

*Horace*(65–8 B.C.)

I should like one of these days to be so well known, so popular, so celebrated, so famous, that it would permit me. . . to break wind in society, and society would think it a most natural thing.

*Honoré de Balzac* (1799–1850)

### May 7

And thou wilt give thyself relief, if thou doest every act of thy life as if it were the last.

*Marcus Aurelius Antoninus* (121–180)



## Words to Inspire Writers

Books are never finished they are merely abandoned.

*Oscar Wilde* (1854–1900)

You can make a better living in the world as a soothsayer than as a truth-sayer.

*Georg Christoph Lichtenberg* (1742–1799)

## May 8

The most wasted of all days is that on which one has not laughed.

*Nicolas-Sébastien Chamfort* (1741–1794)

Authors have established it as a kind of rule, that a man ought to be dull sometimes; as the most severe reader makes allowances for many rests and nodding-places in a voluminous writer.

*Joseph Addison* (1672–1719)

The Press is at once the eye and the ear and the tongue of the people. It is the visible speech, if not the voice, of the democracy. It is the phonograph of the world.

*William Thomas Stead* (1849–1912)

## May 9

The greater amount of truth is impulsively uttered; thus the greater amount is spoken, not written.

*Edgar Allan Poe* (1809–1849)

When I want to read a good book, I write one.

*Benjamin Disraeli* (1804–1881)

With no other privilege than that of sympathy and sincere good wishes, I would address an affectionate exhortation to the youthful literati, grounded on my own experience. It will be but short;

## Words to Inspire Writers

for the beginning, middle, and end converge to one charge: NEVER PURSUE LITERATURE AS A TRADE.

*Samuel Taylor Coleridge* (1772–1834)

### May 10

Unprovided with original learning, unformed in the habits of thinking, unskilled in the arts of composition, I resolved to write a book.

*Edward Gibbon* (1737–1794)

I want to make your flesh creep.

*Charles Dickens* (1812–1870)

Historians tell us the story of the past, novelists the story of the present.

*Edmond de Goncourt* (1822–1896)

### May 11

Every man's life is a fairy tale written by God's finger.

*Hans Christian Anderson* (1805–1875)

The mind conceives with pain, but it brings forth with delight.

*Joseph Joubert* (1754–1824)

We can never be sure that the opinion we are endeavoring to stifle is a false opinion; and if we were sure, stifling it would be an evil still.

*John Stuart Mill* (1806–1873)

## Words to Inspire Writers

### May 12

Ah, but a man's reach should exceed his grasp—or what's a heaven for?

*Robert Browning* (1812–1889)

Speak properly, and in as few words as you can, but always plainly; for the end of speech is not ostentation, but to be understood.

*William Penn* (1644–1718)

When people find a man of the most distinguished abilities as a writer their inferior while he is with them, it must be highly gratifying to them.

*Samuel Johnson* (1709–1784)

### May 13

When a dog bites a man that is not news, but when a man bites a dog, that is news.

*Charles Anderson Dana* (1819–1897)

Words are like leaves; and where they most abound,  
Much fruit of sense beneath is rarely found.

*Alexander Pope* (1688–1744)

In the highest civilization, the book is still the highest delight. He who has once known its satisfaction is provided with a resource against calamity.

*Ralph Waldo Emerson* (1803–1882)

### May 14

I live for books.

*Thomas Jefferson* (1743–1826)

## Words to Inspire Writers

To write well, express yourself like common people, but think like a wise man. Or, think as wise men do, but speak as the common people do.

*Aristotle* (384–322 B.C.)

I never read a book before reviewing it. It prejudices me so.

*Sydney Smith* (1771–1845)

## May 15

I am certain of nothing but the holiness of the heart's affections and the truth of imagination—what the imagination seizes as beauty must be truth—whether it existed before or not.

*John Keats* (1795–1821)

Clear writers, like clear fountains, do not seem so deep as they are; the turbid look the most profound.

*Walter Savage Landor* (1775–1864)

There are three infallible ways of pleasing an author, and the three form a rising scale of compliment: 1, To tell him you have read one of his books; 2, To tell him you have read all of his books; 3, To ask him to let you read the manuscripts of his forthcoming book. No. 1 admits you to his respect; No. 2 admits you to his admiration; No. 3 carries you clear into his heart.

*Mark Twain* (1835–1910)

## May 16

At twenty years of age, the will reigns; at thirty, the wit; and at forty, the judgment.

*Benjamin Franklin* (1706–1790)

When you wish to instruct, be brief; that men's minds take in quickly what you say, learn its lesson, and retain it faithfully. Every

## Words to Inspire Writers

word that is unnecessary only pours over the side of a brimming mind.

*Marcus Tullius Cicero* (106–43 B.C.)

As civilization advances, poetry almost necessarily declines.

*Lord [Thomas Babington] Macaulay* (1800–1859)

## May 17

Beauty in things exist in the mind which contemplates them.

*David Hume* (1711–1776)

There is no way of writing well and also of writing easily.

*Anthony Trollope* (1815–1882)

It is no great art to say something briefly when, like Tacitus, one has something to say; when one has nothing to say, however, and none the less writes a whole book and makes truth into a liar—that I call an achievement.

*Georg Christoph Lichtenberg* (1742–1799)

## May 18

An empty book is like an infant's soul, in which anything may be written. It is capable of all things, but contains nothing. I have a mind to fill this with profitable wonders.

*Thomas Traherne* (1636–1674)

Proper words in proper places, make the true definition of style.

*Jonathan Swift* (1667–1745)

I have the conviction that excessive literary production is a social offence.

*George Eliot* (1819–1880)

## Words to Inspire Writers

### May 19

Conversation has a kind of charm about it, an insinuating and insidious something that elicits secrets from us just like love or liquor.

*Marcus Annaeus Seneca* (4 B.C. – A.D. 65)

There is a Wit for Discourse, and a Wit for Writing.

*Sir Richard Steele* (1672–1729)

Many writers perplexe their Readers, and Hearers with meere Non-sense, Their writings need sunshine.

*Ben Jonson* (1572–1637)

### May 20

While I thought that I was learning how to live, I have been learning how to die.

*Leonardo da Vinci* (1452–1519)

There have been many most excellent poets that have never versified, and now swarm many versifiers that need never answer to the name of poets.

*Sir Philip Sidney* (1554–1586)

I can trace my ancestry back to a protoplasmal primordial atomic globule. Consequently, my family pride is something inconceivable. I can't help it. I was born sneering.

*Sir W(illiam) S(chwenk) Gilbert* (1836–1911)

### May 21

The best of a book is not the thought which it contains, but the thought which it suggests; just as the charm of music dwells not

## Words to Inspire Writers

in the tones but in the echoes of our hearts.

*Oliver Wendell Holmes, Sr* (1809–1894)

True eloquence consists in saying all that should be said, and that only.

*François, Duc de Rochefoucauld* (1613–1680)

To have great poetry there must be great audiences, too.

*Walt Whitman* (1819–1892)

## May 22

When people cease to complain, they cease to think.

*Napoleon I [Napoleon Bonaparte]* (1769–1821)

In writing, you address the average quantity of sense of information in the world; in speaking, you pick your audience, or at least know what they are prepared for, or else previously explain what you think necessary.

*James Northcote* (1746–1831)

When a new book is published, read an old one.

*Samuel Rogers* (1763–1855)

## May 23

A thought is often original, though you have uttered it a hundred times.

*Oliver Wendell Holmes, Sr* (1809–1894)

The web, then, or the pattern, a web at once sensuous and logical, an elegant and pregnant texture: that is style, that is the foundation of the art of literature.

*Robert Louis Stevenson* (1850–1894)

## Words to Inspire Writers

The multitude of books is making us ignorant.

*Voltaire* (1694–1778)

### May 24

Little minds are interested in the extraordinary; great minds in the commonplace.

*Elbert Hubbard* (1856–1915)

Brevity is the sister of talent.

*Anton Chekhov* (1860–1904)

All the world knows me in my book, and may book in me.

*Michel Eyquem de Montaigne* (1533–1592)

### May 25

Every thought is new when an author expresses it in a manner peculiar to himself.

*Luc de Clapiers, Marquis de Vauvenargues* (1715–1747)

You will have written exceptionally well if, by skillful arrangement of your words, you have made an ordinary one seem original.

*Horace*(65–8 B.C.)

The World is grown so full of Dissimulation and Compliment, that Mens Words are hardly any Signification of their Thoughts.

*Sir Richard Steele* (1672–1729)

### May 26

That there should one man die ignorant who had capacity for knowledge, this I call a tragedy.

*Thomas Carlyle* (1795–1881)



## Words to Inspire Writers

Ideas are enclosed and almost bound in words like precious stones in a ring.

*Giacomo Leopardi* (1798–1837)

To refuse praise reveals a desire to be praised twice over.

*François, Duc de Rochefoucauld* (1613–1680)

## May 27

Education made us what we are.

*Claude-Adrien Helvétius* (1715–1771)

What is character but the determination of incident? What is incident but the illustration of character?

*Henry James* (1843–1916)

It is interesting that the words which are least used, least written and the least spoken are the very ones which are best known and most widely recognized.

*Michel Eyquem de Montaigne* (1533–1592)

## May 28

'Tis better to have fought and lost,  
Than never to have fought at all.

*Arthur Hugh Clough* (1819–1861)

Making a book is a craft, like making a clock; it needs more than native wit to be an author.

*Jean de La Bruyere* (1645–1696)

What a blessed thing it is, that Nature, when she invented, manufactured, and patented her authors, contrived to make critics out of the chips that were left!

*Oliver Wendell Holmes, Sr* (1809–1894)

## Words to Inspire Writers

### May 29

Some people read because they are too lazy to think.

*Georg Christoph Lichtenberg* (1742–1799)

Thus, with child to speak, and helpless in my throes, biting my  
truant pen, beating myself for spite: Fool! said my muse to me,  
look in thy heart, and write.

*Sir Philip Sidney* (1554–1586)

In my early years I read very hard. It is a sad reflection, but a true  
one, that I knew almost as much at eighteen as I do now.

*Samuel Johnson* (1709–1784)

### May 30

A proverb is a short sentence based on long experience.

*Miguel de Cervantes* (1547–1616)

An author in his book must be like God in the universe, present  
everywhere and visible nowhere.

*Gustave Flaubert* (1821–1880)

If fame is to come only after death, I am in no hurry for it.

*Martial [Marcus Valerius Martialis]* (40–102)

### May 31

Study the past, if you would divine the future.

*Confucius* (551–479 B.C.)

Ten censure wrong, for one that writes amiss.

*Alexander Pope* (1688–1744)

The trade of authorship is a violent and indestructible obsession.

*George Sand* (1804–1876)

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# June

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## June 1

By thought I embrace the universal.

*Blaise Pascal* (1623–1662)

As to metaphorical expression, that is a great excellence in style, when it is used with propriety, for it gives you two ideas for one; conveys the meaning more luminously, and generally with a perception of delight.

*Samuel Johnson* (1709–1784)

What is originality? Undetected plagiarism.

*Henry Wheeler Shaw* (1818–1885)

## June 2

You who write, choose a subject suited to your abilities and think long and hard on what your powers are equal to and what they are unable to perform.

*Horace* (65–8 B.C.)

The eloquent man is he who is no beautiful speaker, but who is inwardly and desperately drunk with a certain belief.

*Ralph Waldo Emerson* (1803–1882)

An ambassador is a man of virtue sent to lie abroad for his country; a news-writer is a man without virtue who lies at home for himself.

*Sir Henry Wotton* (1568–1639)

## Words to Inspire Writers

### June 3

I have never known any distress that an hour's reading did not relieve.

*Baron de Montesquieu* (1689–1755)

As the character is, such is the speech.

*Aelius Aristides* (117–181)

He that complies against his will,  
Is of his own opinion still.

*Samuel Butler* (1612–1680)

### June 4

I am too much of a skeptic to deny the possibility of anything.

*T(homas) H(enry) Huxley* (1825–1895)

Use what language you will, you can never say anything but what you are.

*Ralph Waldo Emerson* (1803–1882)

True genius walks along a line, and, perhaps, our greatest pleasure is in seeing it so often near falling, without being ever actually down.

*Oliver Goldsmith* (1728–1774)

### June 5

Start at once a bedside library and spend the last half hour of the day in communion with the saints of humanity.

*Sir William Osler, 1st Baronet* (1849–1919)

Under all speech that is good for anything there lies a silence that is better. Silence is deep as Eternity; speech is shallow as Time.

*Thomas Carlyle* (1795–1881)

## Words to Inspire Writers

Biographies are but the clothes and buttons of the man. The biography of the man himself cannot be written.

*Mark Twain* (1835–1910)

### June 6

Sit down to write what you have thought, and not to think about what you shall write.

*William Cobbett* (1763–1835)

You must take care, not that your work can be understood, but that it can by no means be misunderstood.

*Quintilian* (35–95)

Literature is an occupation in which you have to keep proving your talent to people who have none.

*Jules Reynard* (1864–1910)

### June 7

Life is just one damned thing after another.

*Elbert Hubbard* (1856–1915)

People think that I can teach them style. What stuff it all is! Have something to say, and say it as clearly as you can. That is the only secret of style.

*Matthew Arnold* (1822–1888)

The magic of the tongue is the most dangerous of all spells.

*Edward George Earl Bulwer-Lytton* (1803–1873)

## Words to Inspire Writers

### June 8

The formula ‘Two and two makes five’ is not without its attractions.

*Fedor Mikhailovich Dostoevsky* (1821–1881)

It has come to be practically a short rule in literature that a man, having once shown himself capable to original writing, is entitled thenceforth to steal from the writings of others at discretion.

*Ralph Waldo Emerson* (1803–1882)

If a book comes from the heart, it will contrive to reach other hearts.

*Thomas Carlyle* (1795–1881)

### June 9

What’s a man’s first duty? The answer’s brief: To be himself.

*Henrik Johan Ibsen* (1828–1906)

Nothing so fretful, so despicable as a Scribbler, see what I am, and what a parcel of Scoundrels I have brought about my ears, and what language I have been obliged to treat them with to deal with them in their own way;—all this comes of Authorship.

*Lord [George Gordon] Byron* (1788–1824)

How long most people would look at the best book before they would give the price of a large turbot [flatfish] for it.

*John Ruskin* (1819–1900)

### June 10

Everything’s got a moral, if only you can find it.

*Lewis Carroll* (1832–1898)

## Words to Inspire Writers

We hate poetry that has a palpable design upon us—and if we do not agree, seems to put its hand in its breeches pocket. Poetry should be great and unobtrusive, a thing which enters into one's soul, and does not startle or amaze it with itself, but with its subject.

*John Keats* (1795–1821)

What I aspired to be  
And was not, comforts me.

*Robert Browning* (1812–1889)

## June 11

If we had a keen vision and feeling of all ordinary human life, it would be like hearing the grass grow and the squirrel's heart beat, and we should die of that roar which lies on the other side of silence.

*George Eliot* (1819–1880)

To write a good love letter, you ought to begin without knowing what you mean to say, and to finish without knowing what you have written.

*Jean-Jacques Rousseau* (1712–1778)

I have offended God and mankind because my work did not reach the quality it should have.

*Leonardo da Vinci* (1452–1519)

## June 12

Every man has three characters—that which he exhibits, that which he has, and that which he thinks he has.

*Alphonse Karr* (1808–1890)

## Words to Inspire Writers

The secret of good writing is to say an old thing in a new way or to say a new thing in an old way.

*Richard Harding Davis* (1864–1916)

People who like this sort of thing will find this is the sort of thing they like.

*Abraham Lincoln* (1809–1865)

## June 13

I carry my ideas about me for a long time, often a very long time, before I commit them to writing.

*Ludwig van Beethoven* (1770–1827)

It's a delicious thing to write. To be no longer yourself but to move in an entire universe of your own creating.

*Gustave Flaubert* (1821–1880)

If you would not be forgotten as soon as you are dead, either write things worth reading or do things worth writing.

*Benjamin Franklin* (1706–1790)

## June 14

Self-confidence is the first requisite to great undertakings.

*Samuel Johnson* (1709–1784)

Language is the autobiography of the human mind.

*Max Muller* (1823–1900)

I much prefer a compliment, insincere or not, to sincere criticism.

*Titus Maccius Plautus* (254–184 B.C.)



## Words to Inspire Writers

### June 15

It takes a great deal of history to produce a little literature.

*Henry James* (1843–1916)

Just as the orator marks his good things by a dramatic pause, or by raising and lowering his voice, or by gesture, so the writer marks his epigrams with italics, setting the little gem, so to speak, like a jeweler.

*Oscar Wilde* (1854–1900)

Works of fiction, if only well gotten up, have always their advantages in the hearts of listeners over plain, homely truth.

*Harriet Beecher Stowe* (1811–1896)

### June 16

I never desire to converse with a man who has written more than he has read.

*Samuel Johnson* (1709–1784)

Looking back, I imagine I was always writing. Twaddle it was too. But better far to write twaddle or anything, anything, than nothing at all.

*Katherine Mansfield* (1888–1923)

You know who the critics are? The men who have failed in literature and art.

*Benjamin Disraeli* (1804–1881)

### June 17

Book love. . . is your pass to the greatest, the purest, and the most perfect pleasure that God has prepared for His creatures.

*Anthony Trollope* (1815–1882)

## Words to Inspire Writers

Get black on white.

*Guy de Maupassant* (1850–1893)

People do not deserve to have good writings; they are so pleased with the bad.

*Ralph Waldo Emerson* (1803–1882)

### June 18

It is always easier to draw on the storehouse of memory than to find something original to say.

*Michel Eyquem de Montaigne* (1533–1592)

Words, when well chosen, have so great a Force in them, that a Description often gives us more lively Ideas than the Sight of Things themselves.

*Joseph Addison* (1672–1719)

Be sure that you go to the author to get at his meaning, not to find yours.

*John Ruskin* (1819–1900)

### June 19

One ought, every day at least, to hear a little song, read a good poem, see a fine picture, and, if it were possible, to speak a few reasonable words.

*Johann Wolfgang von Goethe* (1749–1832)

Writing is easy. All you have to do is cross out the wrong words.

*Mark Twain* (1835–1910)

Sir, more than kisses, letters mingle Soules;  
For, thus friends absent speake.

*John Donne* (1573–1631)

## Words to Inspire Writers

### June 20

The world is emblematic. Parts of speech are metaphors because the whole of nature is a metaphor of the human mind.

*Ralph Waldo Emerson* (1803–1882)

Read over your compositions, and wherever you meet with a passage which you think is particularly fine, strike it out.

*Samuel Johnson* (1709–1784)

Reviewers are usually people who would have been poets, historians, biographers... if they could; they have tried their talents at one or at the other, and have failed; therefore they turn critics.

*Samuel Taylor Coleridge* (1772–1834)

### June 21

So little done, so much to do.

*Cecil John Rhodes* (1853–1902)

What is proper in writing is also proper in speaking; and the finest speech resembles the finest writing.

*Baldesar Castiglione* (1478–1529)

Genius does what it must, and Talent does what it can.

*Edward Robert Bulwer-Lytton* (1831–1891)

### June 22

The superior man is satisfied and composed; the mean man is always full of distress.

*Confucius* (551–479 B.C.)

The misuse of language induces evil in the soul.

*Socrates* (470–399 B.C.)

## Words to Inspire Writers

One gains universal applause who mingles the useful with the agreeable, at once delighting and instructing the reader.

*Horace*(65–8 B.C.)

### June 23

Most authors steal their works, or buy.

*Alexander Pope* (1688–1744)

Every great and original writer, in proportion as he is great and original, must himself create the taste by which he is to be relished.

*William Wordsworth* (1770–1850)

Beneath the rule of men entirely great,  
The pen is mightier than the sword.

*Edward George Earl Bulwer-Lytton* (1803–1873)

### June 24

A man who fears suffering is already suffering from what he fears.

*Michel Eyquem de Montaigne* (1533–1592)

Don't say the old lady screamed—bring her on and let her scream.

*Mark Twain* (1835–1910)

He who does not expect a million readers should not write a line.

*Johann Wolfgang von Goethe* (1749–1832)

### June 25

To my taste the most fruitful and most natural exercise of our minds is conversation. I find the practice of it the most delightful activity in our lives.

*Michel Eyquem de Montaigne* (1533–1592)

## Words to Inspire Writers

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

*Anton Chekhov* (1860–1904)

I would rather be attacked than unnoticed. For the worst thing you can do to an author is to be silent as to his works.

*Samuel Johnson* (1709–1784)

## June 26

If you want the present to be different from the past, study the past.

*Baruch de Spinoza* (1632–1677)

The most important quality in diction is clarity, provided there is no loss of dignity.

*Aristotle* (384–322 B.C.)

My scribbling pays me zero francs per line—not including the white spaces.

*(Victor) Henri, Marquis de Rochefort-Luçay* (1831–1913)

## June 27

Not to care for philosophy is to be a true philosopher.

*Blaise Pascal* (1623–1662)

If I am to write, I must have a room to myself that will be my room.

*Harriet Beecher Stowe* (1811–1896)

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

*Molière [Jean Baptiste Poquelin]* (1622–1673)

## Words to Inspire Writers

### June 28

You can't step into the same river twice.

*Heraclitus* (535–475 B.C.)

Writing is busy idleness.

*Johann Wolfgang von Goethe* (1749–1832)

Opinions alter, manners change, creeds rise and fall, but the moral laws are written on the table of eternity.

*Lord Acton* (1834–1902)

### June 29

The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes but in having new eyes.

*Marcel Proust* (1871–1922)

He writes as fast as they can read, and he does not write himself down.

*William Hazlitt* (1778–1830)

The society of dead authors has this advantage over that of the living: they never flatter us to our faces, nor slander us behind our backs, nor intrude upon our privacy, nor quit their shelves until we take them down.

*Charles Caleb Colton* (1780–1832)

### June 30

The greatest part of a writer's time is spent in reading, in order to write; a man will turn over half a library to make one book.

*Samuel Johnson* (1709–1784)

## **Words to Inspire Writers**

Beauty is the purgation of superfluities.

*Michelangelo* (1475–1564)

There is false modesty, but there is no false pride.

*Jules Reynard* (1864–1910)

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# July

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## July 1

Life isn't all beer and skittles.

*Thomas Hughes* (1822–1896)

What is poetry? The suggestion, by the imagination, of noble grounds for the noble emotions.

*John Ruskin* (1819–1900)

I suffer from the disease of writing books and being ashamed of them when they are finished.

*Baron de Montesquieu* (1689–1755)

## July 2

Why did I write? What sins to me unknown dipped me in ink, my parents, or my own?

*Alexander Pope* (1688–1744)

The finest language is mostly made up of simple unimposing words.

*George Eliot* (1819–1880)

To withdraw myself from myself has ever been my sole, my entire, my sincere motive in scribbling at all.

*Lord [George Gordon] Byron* (1788–1824)



## Words to Inspire Writers

### July 3

If a little knowledge is dangerous, where is the man who has so much as to be out of danger?

*T(homas) H(enry) Huxley* (1825–1895)

Writing is a dreadful labor, yet not so dreadful as Idleness.

*Thomas Carlyle* (1795–1881)

A bitter jest, a slander, a calumny, pierceth deeper than any loss, danger, bodily pain, or injury whatsoever.

*Robert Burton* (1577–1640)

### July 4

Pleasure is very seldom found where it is sought; our brightest blazes of gladness are commonly kindled by unexpected sparks.

*Samuel Johnson* (1709–1784)

Yet even Letters are as it were the Banke of words, and restore themselves to an Author, as the pawnes of Language.

*Ben Jonson* (1572–1637)

Nothing can bring back the hour  
Of splendor in the grass, of glory in the flower.

*William Wordsworth* (1770–1850)

### July 5

All words are pegs to hang ideas on.

*Henry Ward Beecher* (1813–1887)

To be a well-favored man is the gift of fortune; but to write and read comes by nature.

*William Shakespeare* (1564–1616)

## Words to Inspire Writers

There are three things which the public will always clamor for, sooner or later: namely,  
Novelty, novelty, novelty.

*Thomas Hood* (1799–1845)

### July 6

When I think over what I have said, I envy dumb people.

*Marcus Annaeus Seneca* (4 B.C. – A.D. 65)

Sounds produced by the voice are symbols of affections of the soul, and writing is a symbol of vocal sounds.

*Aristotle* (384–322 B.C.)

There is then creative reading as well as creative writing.

*Ralph Waldo Emerson* (1803–1882)

### July 7

The more the pleasures of the body fade away, the greater to me is the pleasure and charm of conversation.

*Plato* (427–347 B.C.)

Let us lay it down that the virtue of style is to be clear (since a speech is a kind of indication; if it does not indicate clearly it will not be performing its function), and to be neither mean nor above the prestige of the subject, but appropriate (the poetic style is doubtless not mean, but it is inappropriate to a speech).

*Aristotle* (384–322 B.C.)

It is advantageous to an author that his book should be attacked as well as praised. Fame is a shuttlecock. If it be struck at only one end of the room, it will soon fall to the ground. To keep it up, it must be struck at both ends.

*Samuel Johnson* (1709–1784)

## Words to Inspire Writers

### July 8

The mind ought sometimes to be amused, that it may the better return to thought, and to itself.

*Phaedrus* (15 B.C. – A.D. 50)

Words are like money; there is nothing so useless, unless when in actual use.

*Samuel Butler* (1835–1902)

That is the road we all have to take—over the Bridge of Sighs into eternity.

*Søren Kierkegaard* (1813–1855)

### July 9

If wrinkles must be written upon our brows, let them not be written upon the heart. The spirit should never grow old.

*James A(bram) Garfield* (1831–1881)

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* (1873–1914)

A book may be amusing with numerous errors, or it may be very dull without a single absurdity.

*Oliver Goldsmith* (1728–1774)

### July 10

I have striven not to laugh at human actions, not to weep at them, nor to hate them, but to understand them.

*Baruch de Spinoza* (1632–1677)

## Words to Inspire Writers

Writers, like teeth, are divided into incisors and grinders.

*Walter Bagehot* (1826–1877)

An apology for the Devil—it must be remembered that we have only heard one side of the case. God has written all the books.

*Samuel Butler* (1835–1902)

### July 11

To expect a man to retain everything that he has ever read is like expecting him to carry about in his body everything that he has ever eaten.

*Arthur Schopenhauer* (1788–1860)

Immodest words admit of no defense,  
For want of decency is want of sense.

*Wentworth Dillon, Earl of Roscommon* (1630–1685)

*Author:* A fool, who, not content with having bored those who have lived with him, insists on tormenting the generations to come.

*Baron de Montesquieu* (1689–1755)

### July 12

One of the illusions of life is that the present hour is not the critical, decisive hour. Write it on your heart that every day is the best day in the year. No man has learned anything rightly, until he knows that every day is Doomsday.

*Ralph Waldo Emerson* (1803–1882)

The wastepaper basket is the writer's best friend.

*Isaac Singer* (1811–1875)

## Words to Inspire Writers

We see then how far the monuments of wit and learning are more durable than the monuments of power, or of the hands. For have not the verses of Homer continued twenty-five hundred years or more, without the loss of a syllable or letter; during which time infinite palaces, temples, castles, cities have been destroyed and demolished?

*Francis Bacon* (1561–1626)

### July 13

Two men look out through the same bars:  
One sees the mud, and one the stars.

*Frederick Langbridge* (1849–1923)

Our work is to present things that are as they are.

*Frederick the Great [Frederick II]* (1712–1786)

When the Lord finished the world, He pronounced it good. That is what I said about my first work, too. But Time, I tell you, Time takes the confidence out of these incautious early opinions.

*Mark Twain* (1835–1910)

### July 14

When I am attacked by gloomy thoughts, nothing helps me so much as running to my books. They quickly absorb me and banish the clouds from my mind.

*Michel Eyquem de Montaigne* (1533–1592)

The essence of language lies in the intentional conveyance of ideas from one living being to another through the instrumentality of arbitrary tokens or symbols agreed upon and understood by both as being associated with the particular ideas in question.

*Samuel Butler* (1835–1902)

## Words to Inspire Writers

No literature is complete until the language it was written in is dead.

*Henry Wadsworth Longfellow* (1807–1882)

### July 15

One hour of steady thinking over a subject (a solitary walk is as good an opportunity for the process as any other) is worth two or three of reading only.

*Lewis Carroll* (1832–1898)

The two most engaging powers of a good author are to make new things familiar and familiar things new.

*William Makepeace Thackeray* (1811–1863)

Poetry is the record of the best and happiest moments of the happiest and best minds.

*Percy Bysshe Shelley* (1792–1822)

### July 16

Surely God would not have created such a being as man... to exist only for a day! No, no, man was made for immortality.

*Abraham Lincoln* (1809–1865)

The funniest things are the forbidden... The humorous story is told gravely; the teller does his best to conceal the fact that he even dimly suspects that there is anything funny about it.

*Mark Twain* (1835–1910)

There is a certain race of men that either imagine it their duty, or make it their amusement, to hinder the reception of every work of learning or genius, who stands as sentinels in the avenues of fame, and value themselves upon giving Ignorance and Envy the

## Words to Inspire Writers

first notice of a prey.

*Samuel Johnson* (1709–1784)

### July 17

Altogether, the style of a writer is a faithful representative of his mind; therefore, if any man wish to write a clear style, let him first be clear in his thoughts; and if any would write in a noble style, let him first possess a noble soul.

*Johann Wolfgang von Goethe* (1749–1832)

There is nothing ugly; I never saw an ugly thing in my life: for let the form of an object be what it may,—light, shade, and perspective will always make it beautiful.

*John Constable* (1776–1837)

It's a classic... something that everybody wants to have read and nobody wants to read.

*Mark Twain* (1835–1910)

### July 18

Learning is a treasure which accompanies its owner everywhere.

*Proverb*

There is no such thing as a moral book or an immoral book. Books are well written or badly written. That is all.

*Oscar Wilde* (1854–1900)

'Tis pleasant, sure, to see one's name in print;  
A book's a book, though there's nothing in it.

*Lord [George Gordon] Byron* (1788–1824)

## Words to Inspire Writers

### July 19

Always do what you are afraid to do.

*Ralph Waldo Emerson* (1803–1882)

A man may write at any time, if he will set himself doggedly to it.

*Samuel Johnson* (1709–1784)

A good book is the purest essence of a human soul.

*Thomas Carlyle* (1795–1881)

### July 20

Some experience of popular lecturing had convinced me that the necessity of making things plain to uninstructed people was one of the very best means of clearing up the obscure corners in one's own mind.

*T(homas) H(enry) Huxley* (1825–1895)

Vague forms of speech have so long passed for mysteries of science; and hard words mistaken for deep learning, that it will not be easy to persuade either those who speak or those who hear them, that they are but a hindrance to true knowledge.

*John Locke* (1632–1704)

Everything that is written merely to please the author is worthless.

*Blaise Pascal* (1623–1662)

### July 21

If I had read as much as other men I should have known no more than they.

*Thomas Hobbes* (1588–1679)



## Words to Inspire Writers

Every style that is not boring is a good one.

*Voltaire* (1694–1778)

The decline of literature indicates the decline of a nation.

*Johann Wolfgang von Goethe* (1749–1832)

## July 22

The bitterest tears shed over graves are for words left unsaid and deeds left undone.

*Harriet Beecher Stowe* (1811–1896)

Prose on certain occasions can bear a great deal of poetry: on the other hand, poetry sinks and swoons under a moderate weight of prose.

*Walter Savage Landor* (1775–1864)

We are motivated by a keen desire for praise, and the better a man is the more he is inspired by glory. The very philosophers themselves, even in those books which they write in contempt of glory, inscribe their names.

*Marcus Tullius Cicero* (106–43 B.C.)

## July 23

I am always at a loss at how much to believe of my own stories.

*Washington Irving* (1783–1859)

Clarity is the politeness of the man of letters.

*Jules Reynard* (1864–1910)

Poets are the unacknowledged legislators of mankind.

*Percy Bysshe Shelley* (1792–1822)

## Words to Inspire Writers

### July 24

The body is not a permanent dwelling, but a sort of inn (with a brief sojourn at that) which is to be left behind when one perceives that one is a burden to the host.

*Marcus Annaeus Seneca* (4 B.C. – A.D. 65)

“Where shall I begin, please your Majesty?” he asked. “Begin at the beginning” the King said, gravely, “and go on till you come to the end: then stop.”

*Lewis Carroll* (1832–1898)

Words—so innocent and powerless as they are, as standing in a dictionary, how potent for good and evil they become in the hands of one who knows how to combine them.

*Nathaniel Hawthorne* (1804–1864)

### July 25

Everyone is a genius at least once a year. The real geniuses simply have their bright ideas closer together.

*Georg Christoph Lichtenberg* (1742–1799)

Never write anything that does not give you great pleasure. Emotion is easily transferred from the writer to the reader.

*Joseph Joubert* (1754–1824)

A genius! For thirty-seven years I’ve practiced fourteen hours a day, and now they call me a genius!

*Pablo Sarasate (y Navascués)* (1844–1908)

### July 26

A well-written life is almost as rare as a well-spent one.

*Thomas Carlyle* (1795–1881)

## Words to Inspire Writers

The English, in truth, do add here and there some other words when speaking; but it is obvious that 'God-damn' is the foundation of their language.

*Pierre-Augustin Caron de Beaumarchais* (1732–1799)

Wear the old coat and buy the new book.

*Austin Phelps* (1820–1890)

## July 27

Authors and lovers always suffer some infatuation, from which only absence can set them free.

*Samuel Johnson* (1709–1784)

Who would succeed in the world should be wise in the use of his pronouns.

Utter the You twenty times, where you once utter the I.

*John Hay* (1838–1905)

One hates an author that's all author.

*Lord [George Gordon] Byron* (1788–1824)

## July 28

Exercise!... the only possible exercise is to talk, not to walk.

*Oscar Wilde* (1854–1900)

The truest poetry is the most feigning.

*William Shakespeare* (1564–1616)

We care what happens to people only in proportion as we know what people are.

*Henry James* (1843–1916)

## Words to Inspire Writers

### July 29

When I am... completely myself, entirely alone... or during the night when I cannot sleep, it is on such occasions that my ideas flow best and most abundantly. Whence and how these come I know not nor can I force them... Nor do I hear in my imagination the parts successively, but I hear them *gleich alles zusammen* (at the same time all together).

*Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart* (1756–1791)

The chief virtue that language can have is clearness, and nothing detracts from it so much as the use of unfamiliar words.

*Hippocrates* (460–370 B.C.)

The hunger for applause is the source of all conscious literature and heroism.

*François, Duc de Rochefoucauld* (1613–1680)

### July 30

Every human being is intended to have a character of his own; to be what no others are, and to do what no other can do.

*William Ellery Channing* (1780–1842)

You write with ease to show your breeding,  
But easy writing's vile hard reading.

*Richard Brinsley Sheridan* (1751–1816)

Do you wish people to believe good of you? Don't speak.

*Blaise Pascal* (1623–1662)

### July 31

A man should never be ashamed to own he has been in the wrong, which is but saying, in other words, that he is wiser today than he

## Words to Inspire Writers

was yesterday.

*Alexander Pope* (1688–1744)

We work in the dark—we do what we can—we give what we have. Our doubt is our passion, and our passion is our task. The rest is the madness of art.

*Henry James* (1843–1916)

There is nothing so absurd but some philosopher has said it.

*Marcus Tullius Cicero* (106–43 B.C.)

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# August

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## August 1

Thought is no more identical with language than feeling is identical with the nervous system.

*Samuel Butler* (1835–1902)

Good writing is a kind of skating which carries off the performer where he would not go.

*Ralph Waldo Emerson* (1803–1882)

Books, we are told, propose to instruct or to amuse. Indeed! The true antithesis to knowledge, in this case, is not pleasure, but power. All that is literature seeks to communicate power; all that is not literature, to communicate knowledge.

*Thomas de Quincey* (1785–1859)

## August 2

Error flies from mouth to mouth, from pen to pen, and to destroy it takes ages.

*Voltaire* (1694–1778)

When roused by passion, I can sometimes find the right words to say, but in ordinary conversation I can find none, none at all. I find conversation unbearable owing to the very fact that I am obliged to speak.

*Jean-Jacques Rousseau* (1712–1778)

## Words to Inspire Writers

Your manuscript is both good and original, but the part that is good is not original and the part that is original is not good. [Attributed]

*Samuel Johnson* (1709–1784)

### August 3

It is the chiefest point of happiness that a man is willing to be what he is.

*Desiderius Erasmus* (1466–1536)

An original writer is not one who imitates nobody, but one whom nobody can imitate.

*François-René (Vicomte de) Chateaubriand* (1768–1848)

Vanity is so secure in the heart of man that everyone wants to be admired: even I who write this, and you who read this.

*Blaise Pascal* (1623–1662)

### August 4

A man must keep a little back shop where he can be himself without reserve. In solitude alone can he know true freedom.

*Michel Eyquem de Montaigne* (1533–1592)

Our plans miscarry because they have no aim. When a man does not know what harbor he is making for, no wind is the right wind.

*Marcus Annaeus Seneca* (4 B.C. – A.D. 65)

A sure sign of a good book is that you like it more the older you get.

*Georg Christoph Lichtenberg* (1742–1799)

## Words to Inspire Writers

### August 5

The love of learning, the sequestered nooks,  
And all the sweet serenity of books.

*Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1807–1882)*

Though analogy is often misleading, it is the least misleading  
thing we have.

*Samuel Butler (1835–1902)*

A doctor who doesn't say too many foolish things is a patient half-  
cured, just as a critic is a poet who has stopped writing verse and  
a policeman is a burglar who has retired from practice.

*Marcel Proust (1871–1922)*

### August 6

What should I have known or written had I been a quiet, mercan-  
tile politician or a lord in waiting? A man must travel, and turmoil,  
or there is no existence.

*Lord [George Gordon] Byron (1788–1824)*

Anybody can write a three-volume novel. It merely requires a  
complete ignorance of both life and literature.

*Oscar Wilde (1854–1900)*

Our high respect for a well-read man is praise enough of literature.

*Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803–1882)*

### August 7

Were it offered to my choice, I should have no objections to a rep-  
etition of the same life from its beginning, only asking the advan-  
tages authors have in a second edition to correct some faults of



## Words to Inspire Writers

the first.

*Benjamin Franklin* (1706–1790)

I'm not alone when I'm writing—the language itself, like a kind of trampoline, is there helping me.

*Sir Edward William Stafford* (1819–1901)

Beauty is truth, truth beauty,—that is all  
Ye know on earth, and all ye need to know.

*John Keats* (1795–1821)

### August 8

A man who dares to waste one hour of time has not discovered the value of life.

*Charles Darwin* (1809–1882)

I heard an angel speak last night And he said, "Write!"

*Elizabeth Barrett Browning* (1806–1861)

A good book is the best of friends, the same today and forever.

*Martin Farquhar Tupper* (1810–1889)

### August 9

Everything great in the world is done by neurotics; they alone founded our religions and created our masterpieces.

*Marcel Proust* (1871–1922)

Every artist was first an amateur.

*Ralph Waldo Emerson* (1803–1882)

If men could learn from history, what lessons it might teach us!  
But passion and party blind our eyes and the light which experience gives is a lantern on the stern, which shines only on the

## Words to Inspire Writers

waves behind us!

*Samuel Taylor Coleridge* (1772–1834)

### August 10

Be wiser than other people if you can, but do not tell them so.

*Lord Philip Dormer Stanhope* (1694–1773)

Prose was born yesterday—that is what we must tell ourselves. Poetry is pre-eminently the medium of past literatures. All the metrical combinations have been tried; but nothing like this can be said of prose.

*Gustave Flaubert* (1821–1880)

The writer may very well serve a movement of history as its mouthpiece, but he cannot of course create it.

*Karl Marx* (1818–1883)

### August 11

I have never let my schooling interfere with my education.

*Mark Twain* (1835–1910)

When you have nothing to say, say nothing.

*Charles Caleb Colton* (1780–1832)

The only reward to be expected from the cultivation of literature is contempt if one fails and hatred if one succeeds.

*Voltaire* (1694–1778)

### August 12

Every composer knows the anguish and despair occasioned by forgetting ideas which one had no time to write down.

*(Louis) Hector Berlioz* (1803–1869)

## Words to Inspire Writers

A man who uses a great many words to express his meaning is like a bad marksman who, instead of aiming a single stone at an object, takes up a handful and throws at it in hopes he may hit.

*Samuel Johnson* (1709–1784)

Times are bad. Children no longer obey their parents, and everyone is writing a book.

*Marcus Tullius Cicero* (106–43 B.C.)

## August 13

Masterpieces are no more than the shipwrecked flotsam of great minds.

*Marcel Proust* (1871–1922)

Writing is learning to say nothing, more cleverly every day.

*William Allingham* (1828–1889)

Publication—is the auction of the Mind of Man.

*Emily Dickinson* (1830–1886)

## August 14

We can believe what we choose. We are answerable for what we choose to believe.

*Cardinal John Henry Newman* (1801–1890)

Style will have propriety, if it should be emotive and characterful and proportional to the subject-matter.

*Aristotle* (384–322 B.C.)

An author is often obscure to the reader because they proceed from the thought to expression than like the reader from the expression to the thought.

*Nicolas-Sébastien Chamfort* (1741–1794)

## Words to Inspire Writers

### August 15

To read good books is like holding a conversation with the most eminent minds of past centuries and, more-over, a studied conversation in which these authors reveal to us only the best of their thoughts.

*René Descartes* (1596–1650)

The strokes of the pen need deliberation as much as the sword needs swiftiness.

*Julia Ward Howe* (1819–1910)

The critic's symbol should be the tumble-bug: he deposits his egg in somebody else's dung, otherwise he could not hatch it.

*Mark Twain* (1835–1910)

### August 16

Whether a person shows themselves to be a genius in science or in writing a song, the only point is, whether the thought, the discovery, or the deed, is living and can live on.

*Johann Wolfgang von Goethe* (1749–1832)

I quote others only the better to express myself.

*Michel Eyquem de Montaigne* (1533–1592)

Where is human nature so weak as in the bookstore?

*Henry Ward Beecher* (1813–1887)

### August 17

The meaningless absurdity of life is the only incontestable knowledge accessible to man.

*Count Leo Tolstoy* (1828–1910)

## Words to Inspire Writers

What is written without effort is in general read without pleasure.  
*Samuel Johnson* (1709–1784)

My works are like water. The works of the great masters are like wine. But everybody drinks water.  
*Mark Twain* (1835–1910)

## August 18

Language... is not outside the mind, but is the outside of the mind.  
*Max Muller* (1823–1900)

A long poem is a test of invention which I take to be the Polar star of poetry, as fancy is the sails, and imagination the rudder.  
*John Keats* (1795–1821)

The job of the critic is to report to us his moods.  
*Oscar Wilde* (1854–1900)

## August 19

There are a thousand thoughts lying within a man that he does not know 'til he takes up a pen to write.  
*William Makepeace Thackeray* (1811–1863)

No one who cannot limit himself has ever been able to write.  
*Nicolas Boileau* (1636–1711)

Damn the age. I'll write for antiquity.  
*Charles Lamb* (1775–1834)

## Words to Inspire Writers

### August 20

The things I want to know are in books; my best friend is a person who will give me a book that I have not read.

*Abraham Lincoln* (1809–1865)

A synonym is a word you use when you can't spell the other one.

*Baltasar Gracián* (1601–1658)

And after all what is a lie? 'Tis but  
The truth in masquerade.

*Lord [George Gordon] Byron* (1788–1824)

### August 21

In solitude, be a multitude to thyself.

*Albius Tibullus* (54–19 B.C.)

All writing comes by the grace of God.

*Ralph Waldo Emerson* (1803–1882)

Write your injuries in dust, your benefits in marble.

*Benjamin Franklin* (1706–1790)

### August 22

It is only by language that we rise above them [the lower animals]—by language, which is the parent, not the child, of thought.

*Oscar Wilde* (1854–1900)

Always speak the truth—think before you speak—and write it down afterwards. [The Red Queen]

*Lewis Carroll* (1832–1898)

## Words to Inspire Writers

Creed and opinion change with time, and their symbols perish; but Literature and its temples are sacred to all creeds and inviolate.

*Mark Twain* (1835–1910)

### August 23

Without knowing the force of words, it is impossible to know men.

*Confucius* (551–479 B.C.)

If . . . it makes my whole body so cold no fire can warm me, I know that it is poetry.

*Emily Dickinson* (1830–1886)

My great concern is not whether you have failed, but whether you are content with your failure.

*Abraham Lincoln* (1809–1865)

### August 24

Do I contradict myself?  
Very well then I contradict myself,  
(I am large, I contain multitudes.)

*Walt Whitman* (1819–1892)

All morning I worked on the proof of one of my poems, and took out a comma; in the afternoon I put it back.

*Oscar Wilde* (1854–1900)

If you want people to think well of you, do not speak well of yourself.

*Blaise Pascal* (1623–1662)

## Words to Inspire Writers

### August 25

The soul fortunately, has an interpreter—often an unconscious, but still a truthful interpreter—in the eye.

*Charlotte Brontë* (1816–1855)

As for style of writing, if one has anything to say, it drops from him simply and directly, as a stone falls to the ground.

*Henry David Thoreau* (1817–1862)

There is one thing stronger than all the armies in the world: and that is an idea whose time has come.

*Victor Hugo* (1802–1885)

### August 26

Not the owner of many possessions will you be right to call happy: he more rightly deserves the name of happy who knows how to use the gods' gifts wisely and to put up with rough poverty, and who fears dishonor more than death.

*Horace*(65–8 B.C.)

Who often, but without success, have prayed for apt Alliteration's artful aid.

*Charles Churchill* (1731–1764)

That action is best, which procures the greatest happiness for the greatest numbers.

*Francis Hutcheson* (1694–1746)

### August 27

*Cogito, ergo sum.* I think, therefore I am.

*René Descartes* (1596–1650)



## Words to Inspire Writers

There is always time to add a word, never to withdraw one.

*Baltasar Gracián* (1601–1658)

Taste is the literary conscience of the soul.

*Joseph Joubert* (1754–1824)

## August 28

Perhaps no person can be a poet, or can even enjoy poetry, without a certain unsoundness of mind.

*Lord [Thomas Babington] Macaulay* (1800–1859)

Three hours a day will produce as much as a man ought to write.

*Anthony Trollope* (1815–1882)

If possible honestly, if not, somehow, make money.

*Horace* (65–8 B.C.)

## August 29

Youth is a blunder; manhood a struggle; old age a regret.

*Benjamin Disraeli* (1804–1881)

Be generous, be delicate, and always pursue the prize. [About the rules of writing]

*Henry James* (1843–1916)

Society is now one polish'd horde,  
Form'd of two mighty tribes, the Bores and Bored.

*Lord [George Gordon] Byron* (1788–1824)

## Words to Inspire Writers

### August 30

A man may be so much of everything that he is nothing of anything.

*Samuel Johnson* (1709–1784)

Each man the architect of his own fate.

*Appius Claudius Caecus* (340–273 B.C.)

No one who can read, ever looks at a book, even unopened on a shelf, like one who cannot.

*Charles Dickens* (1812–1870)

### August 31

Madam, a circulating library in a town is an evergreen tree of diabolical knowledge.

*Richard Brinsley Sheridan* (1751–1816)

Common phrases are, as it were, so stereotyped now by conventional use, that it is really much easier to write on the ordinary politics of the day in the common newspaper style, than it is to make a good pair of shoes.

*Samuel Taylor Coleridge* (1772–1834)

His sayings are generally like women's letters; all the pith is in the postscript.

*William Hazlitt* (1778–1830)

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# September

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## September 1

Natural ability without education has more often raised a man to glory and virtue than education without natural ability.

*Marcus Tullius Cicero* (106–43 B.C.)

Writing is a dog's life, but the only life worth living.

*Gustave Flaubert* (1821–1880)

A book is a garden, an orchard, a storehouse, a party, a company by the way, a counselor, a multitude of counselors.

*Henry Ward Beecher* (1813–1887)

## September 2

There are only three events in a man's life; birth, life, and death; he is not conscious of being born, he dies in pain, and he forgets to live.

*Jean de La Bruyere* (1645–1696)

To business that we love we rise betime,  
And go to't with delight.

*William Shakespeare* (1564–1616)

Why shouldn't truth be stranger than fiction? Fiction, after all, has to make sense.

*Mark Twain* (1835–1910)

## Words to Inspire Writers

### September 3

The great law of culture: let each become all that he was created capable of being.

*Thomas Carlyle* (1795–1881)

Learn to write well, or not to write at all.

*John Sheffield* (1648–1721)

I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it. [Attributed]

*Voltaire* (1694–1778)

### September 4

Mix a little foolishness with your serious plans: it's lovely to be silly at the right moment.

*Horace* (65–8 B.C.)

We cannot write well or truly but what we write with gusto.

*Henry David Thoreau* (1817–1862)

Whoever thinks a faultless piece to see,  
Thinks what ne'er was, nor is, nor e'er shall be.

*Alexander Pope* (1688–1744)

### September 5

Language is the light of the mind.

*John Stuart Mill* (1806–1873)

Good writing comes from good talent.

*Leonardo da Vinci* (1452–1519)

## Words to Inspire Writers

Are you not ashamed of heaping up the greatest amount of money and honor and reputation, and caring so little about wisdom and truth and the greatest improvement of the soul?

*Socrates* (470–399 B.C.)

### September 6

The misery of a child is interesting to a mother, the misery of a young man is interesting to a young woman, the misery of an old man is interesting to nobody.

*Victor Hugo* (1802–1885)

The difference between the right word and the nearly right word is the same as that between lightning and the lightning bug.

*Mark Twain* (1835–1910)

God protects those he loves from worthless reading.

*Johann Kaspar Lavater* (1741–1801)

### September 7

No man is an Island, entire of itself; every man is a piece of the Continent, a part of the main.

*John Donne* (1573–1631)

It is the writer's business not to accuse and not to prosecute, but to champion the guilty, once they are condemned and suffer punishment.

*Anton Chekhov* (1860–1904)

There is no happiness in love except at the end of an English novel.

*Anthony Trollope* (1815–1882)

## Words to Inspire Writers

### September 8

When a man fell into his anecdotage it was a sign for him to retire from the world.

*Benjamin Disraeli* (1804–1881)

A place for everything, and everything in its place.

*Samuel Smiles* (1812–1904)

'Tis strange—but true; for truth is always strange;  
Stranger than fiction: if it could be told,  
How much would novels gain by the exchange!

*Lord [George Gordon] Byron* (1788–1824)

### September 9

The block of granite, which was an obstacle in the path of the weak, becomes a stepping stone in the path of the strong.

*Thomas Carlyle* (1795–1881)

The story I am writing exists, written in absolutely perfect fashion, some place in the air. All I must do is find it, and copy it.

*Jules Reynard* (1864–1910)

The paper burns, but the words fly away.

*Akiba ben Joseph* (50–135)

### September 10

May you live all the days of your life.

*Jonathan Swift* (1667–1745)

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

*Jack London* (1876–1916)

## Words to Inspire Writers

Fame is like a river, that beareth up things light and swollen, and drowns things weighty and solid. [Of praise]

*Francis Bacon* (1561–1626)

### September 11

Up, sluggard, and waste not life; in the grave will be sleeping enough.

*Benjamin Franklin* (1706–1790)

In composing, as a general rule, run your pen through every other word you have written; you have no idea what vigor it will give your style.

*Sydney Smith* (1771–1845)

Judge not the play before the play be done.

*Sir John Davies* (1569–1626)

### September 12

Grasp the subject; the words will follow.

*Cato the Elder* (234–149 B.C.)

It is my ambition to say in ten sentences what others say in a whole book.

*Friedrich Nietzsche* (1844–1900)

His style is chaos illuminated by flashes of lightning. As a writer he has mastered everything except language.

*Oscar Wilde* (1854–1900)

### September 13

Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body.

*Sir Richard Steele* (1672–1729)

## Words to Inspire Writers

You must often make erasures if you mean to write what is worthy of being read a second time, and don't labor for the admiration of the crowd, but be content with a few choice readers.

*Horace* (65–8 B.C.)

Great orators who are not also great writers become very indistinct shadows to the generations following them. The spell vanishes with the voice.

*Thomas Bailey Aldrich* (1836–1907)

## September 14

When we remember we are all mad, the mysteries disappear and life stands explained.

*Mark Twain* (1835–1910)

In poetry, in which every line, every phrase, may pass the ordeal of deliberation and deliberate choice, it is possible, and barely possible, to attain that ultimatum which I have ventured to propose as the infallible test of a blameless style; its untranslatableness in words of the same language without injury to the meaning.

*Samuel Taylor Coleridge* (1772–1834)

Yes, the work comes out more beautiful from a material that resists the process, verse, marble, onyx, or enamel.

*Théophile Gautier* (1811–1872)

## September 15

The whole world is a comedy to those that think, a tragedy to those that feel.

*Horace Walpole* (1717–1797)



## Words to Inspire Writers

Don't write merely to be understood. Write so that you cannot possibly be misunderstood.

*Robert Louis Stevenson* (1850–1894)

Show me the books he loves and I shall know  
The man far better than through mortal friends.

*Silas Weir Mitchell* (1829–1914)

## September 16

Life would be infinitely happier if we could only be born at the age of eighty and gradually approach eighteen.

*Mark Twain* (1835–1910)

I should write for the mere yearning and fondness I have for the beautiful, even if my night's labors should be burnt every morning and no eye shine upon them.

*John Keats* (1795–1821)

Great nations write their autobiographies in three manuscripts—the book of their deeds, the book of their words and the book of their art.

*John Ruskin* (1819–1900)

## September 17

Let those who would write heroic poems make their life an heroic poem.

*John Milton* (1608–1674)

I put a piece of paper under my pillow, and when I could not sleep I wrote in the dark.

*Henry David Thoreau* (1817–1862)

## Words to Inspire Writers

Oh! rather give me commentators plain,  
Who with no deep researches vex the brain;  
Who from the dark and doubtful love to run,  
And hold their glimmering tapers to the sun.

*George Crabbe* (1754–1832)

## September 18

Knowledge advances by steps, and not by leaps.

*Lord [Thomas Babington] Macaulay* (1800–1859)

Books want to be born: I never make them. They come to me and insist on being written, and on being such and such.

*Samuel Butler* (1835–1902)

To write what is worth publishing, to find honest people to publish it, and get sensible people to read it, are the three great difficulties in being an author.

*Charles Caleb Colton* (1780–1832)

## September 19

False views... do very little harm, for everyone takes a salutary pleasure in proving their falseness; and when this is done, one path towards error is closed and the road to truth is often at the same time opened.

*Charles Darwin* (1809–1882)

The aim of art is to represent not the outward appearance of things, but their inward significance.

*Aristotle* (384–322 B.C.)

I love everything that's old: old friends, old times, old manners, old books, and old wine.

*Oliver Goldsmith* (1728–1774)

## Words to Inspire Writers

### September 20

Originality does not consist in saying what no one has ever said before, but in saying exactly what you think yourself.

*James Stephen* (1758–1832)

Good sense is both the first principal and the parent source of good writing.

*Horace*(65–8 B.C.)

In human intercourse the tragedy begins, not when there is misunderstanding about words, but when silence is not understood.

*Henry David Thoreau* (1817–1862)

### September 21

The reason why so few good books are written is that so few people who can write know anything.

*Walter Bagehot* (1826–1877)

Writing, when properly managed, (as you may be sure I think mine is) is but a different name for conversation.

*Laurence Sterne* (1713–1768)

The books that the world calls immoral are books that show the world its shame.

*Oscar Wilde* (1854–1900)

### September 22

Since we cannot know all that is to be known of everything, we ought to know a little about everything.

*Blaise Pascal* (1623–1662)

## Words to Inspire Writers

I wish our clever young poets would remember my homely definitions of prose and poetry; that is, prose = words in their best order;—poetry = the best words in the best order.

*Samuel Taylor Coleridge* (1772–1834)

And yet on the other hand unless wariness be us'd, as good almost kill a Man as kill a good Book; who kills a Man kills a reasonable creature, God's Image, but hee who destroyes a good Booke, kills reason it selfe, kills the Image of God, as it were in the eye.

*John Milton* (1608–1674)

## September 23

Experience is an author's most valuable asset; experience is the thing that puts the muscle and the breath and the warm blood into the book he writes.

*Mark Twain* (1835–1910)

We must speak to the eyes, if we wish to affect the mind.

*Horace Walpole* (1717–1797)

When a true genius appears in the world, you may know him by this sign, that the dunces are all in confederacy against him.

*Jonathan Swift* (1667–1745)

## September 24

Talent alone cannot make a writer. There must be a man behind the book.

*Ralph Waldo Emerson* (1803–1882)

A blow with a word strikes deeper than a blow with a sword.

*Robert Burton* (1577–1640)

## Words to Inspire Writers

This will never be a civilized country until we spend more money for books than we do for chewing gum.

*Elbert Hubbard* (1856–1915)

### September 25

A moment's insight is sometimes worth a life's experience.

*Oliver Wendell Holmes, Sr* (1809–1894)

Writing is a way of talking without being interrupted.

*Jules Reynard* (1864–1910)

Only one thing is impossible for God: to find any sense in any copyright law on the planet.

*Mark Twain* (1835–1910)

### September 26

In the education of children there is nothing like alluring the interest and affection; otherwise you only make so many asses laden with books.

*Michel Eyquem de Montaigne* (1533–1592)

Poetry lifts the veil from the hidden beauty of the world, and makes familiar objects be as if they were not familiar.

*Percy Bysshe Shelley* (1792–1822)

The worst thing about new books is that they keep us from reading the old ones.

*Joseph Joubert* (1754–1824)

### September 27

Character gives us qualities, but it is in actions—what we do—that we are happy or the reverse. . . . All human happiness and misery

## Words to Inspire Writers

take the form of action.

*Aristotle* (384–322 B.C.)

The maker of a sentence launches out in the infinite and builds a road into Chaos and old Night, and is followed by those who hear him with something of wild, creative delight.

*Ralph Waldo Emerson* (1803–1882)

Wounds inflicted by the sword heal more easily than those inflicted by the tongue.

*Cardinal de Richelieu* (1585–1642)

## September 28

It is as easy to dream a good book as it is hard to write a good book.

*Honoré de Balzac* (1799–1850)

Letters should be easy and natural, and convey to the persons to whom we send just what we would say if we were with them.

*Lord Philip Dormer Stanhope* (1694–1773)

I'll publish, right or wrong:

Fools are my theme, let satire be my song.

*Lord [George Gordon] Byron* (1788–1824)

## September 29

Woe be to him that reads but one book.

*George Herbert* (1593–1633)

I perceived that to express those impressions, to write that essential book, which is the only true one, a great writer does not, in the current meaning of the word, invent it, but, since it exists already in each one of us, interprets it. The duty and the task of a writer

## Words to Inspire Writers

are those of an interpreter.

*Marcel Proust* (1871–1922)

Nothing contributes to the entertainment of the reader more, than the change of times and the vicissitudes of fortune.

*Marcus Tullius Cicero* (106–43 B.C.)

## September 30

I see  
that everywhere among the race of men  
it is the tongue that wins and not the deed.

*Sophocles* (497–406 B.C.)

All writing is a form of prayer.

*John Keats* (1795–1821)

The true University of these days is a collection of books.

*Thomas Carlyle* (1795–1881)

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# October

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## October 1

To know how to say what others only know how to think is what makes men poets or sages; and to dare to say what others only dare to think makes men martyrs or reformers—or both.

*Elizabeth (Rundle) Charles* (1828–1896)

Forty is the old age of youth; fifty the youth of old age.

*Victor Hugo* (1802–1885)

Well, my book is written—let it go. But if it were only to write over again there wouldn't be so many things left out. They burn in me; and they keep multiplying; but now they can't ever be said. And besides, they would require a library—and a pen warmed up in hell.

*Mark Twain* (1835–1910)

## October 2

When I was sitting writing 'The Shadow of the Glen' I got more aid than any learning would have given me from a chink in the floor of the old Wicklow house where I was staying, that let me hear what was being said by the servant girls in the kitchen.

*J(ohn) M(illington) Synge* (1871–1909)

The most original authors are not so because they advance what is new, but because they put what they have to say as if it had never



## Words to Inspire Writers

been said before.

*Johann Wolfgang von Goethe* (1749–1832)

A book is good company. It is full of conversation without loquacity. It comes to your longing with full instruction, but pursues you never.

*Henry Ward Beecher* (1813–1887)

### October 3

Whoever interrupts the conversation of others to make a display of his fund of knowledge, makes notorious his own stock of ignorance.

*Saadi* (1184–1291)

How many a dispute could have been deflated into a single paragraph if the disputants had dared to define their terms.

*Aristotle* (384–322 B.C.)

The world's great men have not commonly been great scholars, nor great scholars great men.

*Oliver Wendell Holmes, Sr* (1809–1894)

### October 4

*Carpe diem.* Seize the day.

*Horace* (65–8 B.C.)

When a man is in doubt about this or that in his writing, it will often guide him if he asks himself how it will tell a hundred years hence.

*Samuel Butler* (1835–1902)

I don't give a damn for a man who can spell a word only one way.

*Mark Twain* (1835–1910)

## Words to Inspire Writers

### October 5

It is not my mode of thought that has caused my misfortunes, but the mode of thought of others.

*Donatien Alphonse François, Marquis de Sade* (1740–1814)

All poetry [is] putting the infinite with the finite.

*Robert Browning* (1812–1889)

Authors are judged by strange capricious rules

The great ones are thought mad, the small ones fools.

*Alexander Pope* (1688–1744)

### October 6

I cannot live without books.

*Thomas Jefferson* (1743–1826)

A writer's inspiration is not just to create. He must eat three times a day.

*Pierre-Augustin Caron de Beaumarchais* (1732–1799)

It makes one hope and believe that a day will come when, in the eye of the law, literary property will be as sacred as whiskey, or any other of the necessities of life. It grieves me to think how far more profound and reverent a respect the law would have for literature if a body could only get drunk on it.

*Mark Twain* (1835–1910)

### October 7

Why should we be in such desperate haste to succeed, and in such desperate enterprises? If a man does not keep pace with his companions, perhaps it is because he hears a different drummer. Let

## Words to Inspire Writers

him step to the music which he hears, however measured or far away.

*Henry David Thoreau* (1817–1862)

He has left off reading altogether, to the great improvement of his originality.

*Charles Lamb* (1775–1834)

I am a citizen of the world.

*Diogenes* (412–322 B.C.)

## October 8

Time is a great teacher, but unfortunately it kills all its pupils.

*(Louis) Hector Berlioz* (1803–1869)

The difficulty of literature is not to write, but to write what you mean; not to affect your reader, but to affect him precisely as you wish.

*Robert Louis Stevenson* (1850–1894)

But words once spoke can never be recalled.

*Wentworth Dillon, Earl of Roscommon* (1630–1685)

## October 9

History is philosophy derived from examples.

*Dionysius the Elder* (432–367 B.C.)

The writer does the most good who gives his reader the most knowledge and takes from him the least time.

*Sydney Smith* (1771–1845)

The covers of this book are too far apart.

*Ambrose Bierce* (1842–1914)

## Words to Inspire Writers

### October 10

He is indebted to his memory for his jests and to his imagination for his facts.

*Richard Brinsley Sheridan* (1751–1816)

You don't know what it is to stay a whole day with your head in your hands trying to squeeze your unfortunate brain so as to find a word.

*Gustave Flaubert* (1821–1880)

A sick man that gets talking about himself, a woman that gets talking about her baby, and an author that begins reading out of his own book, never know when to stop.

*Oliver Wendell Holmes, Sr* (1809–1894)

### October 11

Seek not to know who said something, but take note of what has been said.

*Thomas à Kempis* (1380–1471)

The last thing that we find in making a book is to know what we must put first.

*Blaise Pascal* (1623–1662)

To be just, that is to say, to justify its existence, criticism should be partial, passionate and political, that is to say, written from an exclusive point of view, but a point of view that opens up the widest horizons.

*Charles Pierre Baudelaire* (1821–1867)

## Words to Inspire Writers

### October 12

We need a reason to speak, but none to keep silent.

*Pierre Nicole* (1625–1695)

Who casts to write a living line, must sweat.

*Ben Jonson* (1572–1637)

As writers become more numerous, it is natural for readers to become more indolent.

*Oliver Goldsmith* (1730–1774)

### October 13

He who has a why to live can bear almost any how.

*Friedrich Nietzsche* (1844–1900)

If I write four words, I strike out three of them.

*Nicolas Boileau* (1636–1711)

A stand can be made against invasion by an army; no stand can be made against invasion by an idea.

*Victor Hugo* (1802–1885)

### October 14

Never write on a subject until you have read yourself full of it.

*Jean Paul* (1763–1825)

Tell the truth  
But tell it slant.

*Emily Dickinson* (1830–1886)

## Words to Inspire Writers

No publisher should ever express an opinion of the value of what he publishes. That is a matter entirely for the literary critic to decide.

*Oscar Wilde* (1854–1900)

## October 15

It is necessary to the happiness of man that he be mentally faithful to himself. Infidelity does not consist in believing or in disbelieving, it consists in professing to believe what one does not believe.

*Thomas Paine* (1737–1809)

You cannot depend on your eyes when your imagination is out of focus.

*Mark Twain* (1835–1910)

*Critic*, n. A person who boasts himself hard to please because nobody tries to please him.

*Ambrose Bierce* (1842–1914)

## October 16

Often the test of courage is not to die but to live.

*Vittorio Alfieri* (1749–1803)

If at first you don't succeed,  
Try, try again.

*William Edward Hickson* (1803–1870)

It is a stupidity second to none, to busy oneself with the correction of the world.

*Molière [Jean Baptiste Poquelin]* (1622–1673)

## Words to Inspire Writers

### October 17

Resolve to be thyself: and know, that he  
Who finds himself, loses his misery.

*Matthew Arnold* (1822–1888)

Drop the question what tomorrow may bring, and count as profit  
every day that Fate allows you.

*Horace* (65–8 B.C.)

Never contradict. Never explain. Never apologize. (Those are the  
secrets of a happy life!)

*John Fisher* (1469–1535)

### October 18

No great man lives in vain. The history of the world is but the bi-  
ography of great men.

*Thomas Carlyle* (1795–1881)

If all the grammarians in the world were placed end to end, it  
would be a good thing.

*Oscar Wilde* (1854–1900)

The public is the only critic whose opinion is worth anything at  
all.

*Mark Twain* (1835–1910)

### October 19

The past was nothing to her; offered no lesson which she was will-  
ing to heed. The future was a mystery which she never attempted  
to penetrate. The present alone was significant.

*Kate Chopin* (1851–1904)

## Words to Inspire Writers

A short saying often contains much wisdom.

*Sophocles* (497–406 B.C.)

He does not write at all whose poems no man reads.

*Martial [Marcus Valerius Martialis]* (40–102)

## October 20

How many a man has dated a new era in his life from the reading of a book.

*Henry David Thoreau* (1817–1862)

As I take up my pen I feel myself so full, so equal to my subject, and see my book so clearly before me in embryo, I would almost like to try to say it all in a single word.

*Georg Christoph Lichtenberg* (1742–1799)

Literary success of any enduring kind is made by refusing to do what publishers want, by refusing to write what the public want, by refusing to accept any popular standards, by refusing to write anything to order.

*Lafcadio Hearn* (1850–1904)

## October 21

Everything has been thought of before, but the problem is to think of it again.

*Johann Wolfgang von Goethe* (1749–1832)

I am a galley slave to pen and ink.

*Honoré de Balzac* (1799–1850)

If by the people you understand the multitude, the *hoi polloi*, 'tis no matter what they think; they are sometimes in the right, sometimes in the wrong; their judgment is a mere lottery.

*John Dryden* (1631–1700)



## Words to Inspire Writers

### October 22

Who knows if Shakespeare might not have thought less if he had read more?

*Edward Young* (1683–1765)

Ninety percent of inspiration is perspiration.

*Proverb*

Some are born great, some achieve greatness, and some have greatness thrust upon 'em.

*William Shakespeare* (1564–1616)

### October 23

Due attention to the inside of books, and due contempt for the outside, is the proper relation between a man of sense and his books.

*Lord Philip Dormer Stanhope* (1694–1773)

Against the disease of writing one must take special precautions, since it is a dangerous and contagious disease.

*Peter Abelard* (1079–1142)

All the fame I look for in life is to have lived it quietly.

*Michel Eyquem de Montaigne* (1533–1592)

### October 24

It matters not how a man dies, but how he lives. The act of dying is not of importance, it lasts so short a time.

*Samuel Johnson* (1709–1784)

Nothing ventured, nothing gained.

*Proverb*

## Words to Inspire Writers

In every work of genius we recognize our own rejected thoughts.

*Ralph Waldo Emerson* (1803–1882)

### October 25

He is blessed over all mortals who loses no moment of the passing life in remembering the past.

*Henry David Thoreau* (1817–1862)

May I die like a dog rather than hasten the ripening of a sentence by a single second!

*Gustave Flaubert* (1821–1880)

No man speaks safely but he that is glad to hold his peace.

*Thomas à Kempis* (1380–1471)

### October 26

There is no genius free from some tincture of madness.

*Marcus Annaeus Seneca* (4 B.C. – A.D. 65)

The difference between journalism and literature is that journalism is unreadable and literature is unread.

*Oscar Wilde* (1854–1900)

Oh, write of me, not “Died in bitter pains,” but “Emigrated to another star!”

*Helen Hunt Jackson* (1830–1885)

### October 27

The journey, not the arrival, matters.

*Michel Eyquem de Montaigne* (1533–1592)

## Words to Inspire Writers

Chapters relieve the mind.

*Laurence Sterne* (1713–1768)

Whenever two good people argue over principles, they are both right.

*Marie Ebner von Eschenbach* (1830–1916)

## October 28

When I do not understand, I like to say nothing.

*Sophocles* (497–406 B.C.)

Once in seven years I burn all my sermons; for it is a shame if I cannot write better sermons now than I did seven years ago.

*John Wesley* (1703–1791)

Whenever books are burned men also in the end are burned.

*Heinrich Heine* (1797–1856)

## October 29

Be yourself and speak your mind today, though it contradict all you have said before.

*Elbert Hubbard* (1856–1915)

Things in motion sooner catch the eye Than what not stirs.

*William Shakespeare* (1564–1616)

The reward of a thing well done is to have done it.

*Ralph Waldo Emerson* (1803–1882)

## Words to Inspire Writers

### October 30

Whenever two people meet there are really six people present. There is each man as he sees himself, each man as the other person sees him, and each man as he really is.

*William James* (1842–1910)

Plagiarists are always suspicious of being stolen from.

*Samuel Taylor Coleridge* (1772–1834)

Be modest! It is the kind of pride least likely to offend.

*Jules Reynard* (1864–1910)

### October 31

Biography lends to death a new terror.

*Oscar Wilde* (1854–1900)

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... 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* (1835–1910)

Surely human affairs would be far happier if the power in men to be silent were the same as that to speak. But experience more than sufficiently teaches that men govern nothing with more difficulty than their tongues, and can moderate their desires more easily than their words.

*Baruch de Spinoza* (1632–1677)

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# November

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## November 1

Books are good enough in their own way, but they are a mightily bloodless substitute for life.

*Robert Louis Stevenson* (1850–1894)

All one's inventions are true, you can be sure of that. Poetry is as exact a science as geometry.

*Gustave Flaubert* (1821–1880)

The faults of great authors are generally excellences carried to an excess.

*Samuel Taylor Coleridge* (1772–1834)

## November 2

Wise men learn more from fools than fools from wise men.

*Cato the Elder* (234–149 B.C.)

The business of art is this—to make that understood and felt which, in the form of an argument, might be incomprehensible and inaccessible.

*Count Leo Tolstoy* (1828–1910)

I wish thee as much pleasure in the reading, as I had in the writing.

*Francis Quarles* (1592–1644)

## **Words to Inspire Writers**

### **November 3**

Judge a man by his questions rather than by his answers.

*Voltaire* (1694–1778)

Wit in conversation is only a readiness of thought and a facility of expression, or (in midwives' phrase) a quick conception, and an easy delivery.

*Alexander Pope* (1688–1744)

I am a citizen, not of Athens or Greece, but of the world.

*Socrates* (470–399 B.C.)

### **November 4**

There are some who speak one moment before they think.

*Jean de La Bruyere* (1645–1696)

Drama, instead of telling us the whole of a man's life, must place him in such a situation, tie such a knot, that when it is untied, the whole man is visible.

*Count Leo Tolstoy* (1828–1910)

Write how you want, the critic shall show the world you could have written better.

*Oliver Goldsmith* (1728–1774)

### **November 5**

Get your facts first, and then you can distort them as much as you please.

*Mark Twain* (1835–1910)

Many a time the thing left silent makes for happiness.

*Pindar* (522–443 B.C.)

## Words to Inspire Writers

Nature, which gave us two eyes to see, and two ears to hear, has given us but one tongue to speak.

*Jonathan Swift* (1667–1745)

### November 6

In matters of principle, stand like a rock; in matters of taste, swim with the current.

*Thomas Jefferson* (1743–1826)

Works of imagination should be written in very plain language; the more purely imaginative they are the more necessary it is to be plain.

*Samuel Taylor Coleridge* (1772–1834)

The worth of a state, in the long run, is the worth of the individuals composing it.

*John Stuart Mill* (1806–1873)

### November 7

The universe ought to be presumed too vast to have any character.

*C(harles) S(anders) Peirce* (1839–1914)

Satire should, like a polished razor keen,  
Wound with a touch that's scarcely felt or seen.

*Lady Mary Wortley Montagu* (1689–1762)

A writer is dear and necessary for us only in the measure of which he reveals to us the inner workings of his very soul.

*Count Leo Tolstoy* (1828–1910)

## Words to Inspire Writers

### November 8

Knowing is not enough; we must apply. Willing is not enough; we must do.

*Johann Wolfgang von Goethe* (1749–1832)

Men of few words are the best men.

*William Shakespeare* (1564–1616)

If you are attacked as regards your style, never reply; it is for your work alone to make answer.

*Voltaire* (1694–1778)

### November 9

Some, for renown, on scraps of learning doat,  
And think they grow immortal as they quote.

*Edward Young* (1683–1765)

I did not write it. God wrote it. I merely did his dictation. [On Uncle Tom's Cabin]

*Harriet Beecher Stowe* (1811–1896)

No man but a blockhead ever wrote, except for money.

*Samuel Johnson* (1709–1784)

### November 10

To have ideas is to gather flowers; to think, is to weave them into garlands.

*Madame Swetchine* (1782–1857)

Prose is when all the lines except the last go on to the end. Poetry is when some of them fall short of it.

*Jeremy Bentham* (1748–1832)



## Words to Inspire Writers

Not gods, nor men, nor even booksellers have put up with poets being second-rate.

*Horace*(65–8 B.C.)

### November 11

When a man does not write his poetry, it escapes by other vents through him.

*Ralph Waldo Emerson* (1803–1882)

I wish I could write as I feel and think—as I sometimes converse even.

*Amos Bronson Alcott* (1799–1888)

No furniture so charming as books.

*Sydney Smith* (1771–1845)

### November 12

If all our misfortunes were laid in one common heap whence everyone must take an equal portion, most people would be contented to take their own and depart.

*Socrates* (470–399 B.C.)

Everything that I have written is closely related to something that I have lived through.

*Henrik Johan Ibsen* (1828–1906)

It is a rule with me, that a person who can write a long letter, with ease, cannot write ill.

*Jane Austen* (1775–1817)

## Words to Inspire Writers

### November 13

Do as you would be done by is the surest method that I know of pleasing.

*Lord Philip Dormer Stanhope* (1694–1773)

I always write a good first line, but I have trouble in writing the others.

*Molière [Jean Baptiste Poquelin]* (1622–1673)

Books have a sense of honor. If they are lent out, they will not come back.

*Theodor Fontane* (1819–1898)

### November 14

It is the essence of genius to make use of the simplest ideas.

*Charles Peguy* (1873–1914)

I would rather men ask why I have no statue than why I have one.

*Cato the Elder* (234–149 B.C.)

Often I am still listening when the song is over.

*Jean François, Marquis de Saint-Lambert* (1716–1803)

### November 15

Most men make little use of their speech than to give evidence against their own understanding.

*George Savile, 1st Marquis of Halifax* (1633–1695)

Every author in some degree portrays himself in his works, even if it be against his will.

*Johann Wolfgang von Goethe* (1749–1832)

## Words to Inspire Writers

I will praise any man that will praise me.

*William Shakespeare* (1564–1616)

### November 16

The oldest books are still new to those who have not read them.

*Samuel Butler* (1835–1902)

It is the man determines what is said, not the words.

*Henry David Thoreau* (1817–1862)

You can cover a great deal of country in books.

*Andrew Lang* (1844–1912)

### November 17

Every quotation contributes something to the stability or enlargement of the language.

*Samuel Johnson* (1709–1784)

Any fool can tell the truth, but it requires a man of some sense to know how to tell a lie well.

*Samuel Butler* (1835–1902)

If we encounter a man of rare intellect, we should ask him what books he reads.

*Ralph Waldo Emerson* (1803–1882)

### November 18

If you would be a real seeker after truth, it is necessary that at least once in your life you doubt, as far as possible, all things.

*René Descartes* (1596–1650)

## Words to Inspire Writers

Nothing is more despicable than a professional talker who uses his words as a quack uses his remedies.

*François Fénelon* (1651–1715)

Talking and eloquence are not the same: to speak, and to speak well, are two things.

*Ben Jonson* (1573–1637)

## November 19

All our knowledge has its origins in our perceptions.

*Leonardo da Vinci* (1452–1519)

Most writers regard the truth as their most valuable possession, and therefore are economical in its use.

*Mark Twain* (1835–1910)

Fine words! I wonder where you stole them.

*Jonathan Swift* (1667–1745)

## November 20

For all sad words of tongue or pen,  
The saddest are these: “It might have been.”

*John Greenleaf Whittier* (1807–1892)

Many a poem is marred by a superfluous word.

*Henry Wadsworth Longfellow* (1807–1882)

When I get a little money, I buy books; and if there is any left I buy food and clothes.

*Desiderius Erasmus* (1466–1536)

## Words to Inspire Writers

### November 21

We feel and know that we are eternal.

*Baruch de Spinoza* (1632–1677)

ENGLISH GRAMMAR is the art of speaking and writing the English language with propriety.

*Lindley Murray* (1745–1826)

Art is a jealous mistress.

*Ralph Waldo Emerson* (1803–1882)

### November 22

Intellect annuls fate. So far as a man thinks, he is free.

*Ralph Waldo Emerson* (1803–1882)

The English tongue is rapidly spreading and bids fair to become the general language of the human race.

*Sir John William Lubbock, 3rd Baronet* (1803–1865)

Classical quotation is the parole of literary men all over the world.

*Samuel Johnson* (1709–1784)

### November 23

If you cannot mould yourself as you would wish, how can you expect other people to be entirely to your liking?

*Thomas à Kempis* (1380–1471)

I have made this letter longer than usual, only because I have not had the time to make it shorter.

*Blaise Pascal* (1623–1662)

## Words to Inspire Writers

Of all that is written, I love only what a person has written with his own blood.

*Friedrich Nietzsche* (1844–1900)

### November 24

We live in an age that reads too much to be wise.

*Oscar Wilde* (1854–1900)

Do not accustom yourself to use big words for little matters.

*Samuel Johnson* (1709–1784)

They lard their lean books with the fat of others' works.

*Robert Burton* (1577–1640)

### November 25

Stay at home in your mind. Don't recite other people's opinions. I hate quotations. Tell me what you know.

*Ralph Waldo Emerson* (1803–1882)

Ready writing makes not good writing, but good writing brings on ready writing.

*Ben Jonson* (1572–1637)

All books are divisible into two classes: the books of the hour, and the books of all time.

*John Ruskin* (1819–1900)

### November 26

The main thing is to make history, not to write it.

*Otto Eduard Leopold, Prince von Bismarck* (1815–1898)

## Words to Inspire Writers

A Woman seldom writes her Mind but in her Postscript.

*Sir Richard Steele* (1672–1729)

There is properly no history, only biography.

*Ralph Waldo Emerson* (1803–1882)

## November 27

Knowledge is the mother of all virtue; all vice proceeds from ignorance.

*Proverb*

The first rule, indeed by itself virtually a sufficient condition for good style, is to have something to say.

*Arthur Schopenhauer* (1788–1860)

Never explain—your friends do not need it and your enemies will not believe you anyway.

*Elbert Hubbard* (1856–1915)

## November 28

I wish to say what I think and feel today, with the proviso that tomorrow perhaps I shall contradict it all.

*Ralph Waldo Emerson* (1803–1882)

Poetry is the rhythmical creation of beauty in words.

*Edgar Allan Poe* (1809–1849)

The mass of men lead lives of quiet desperation.

*Henry David Thoreau* (1817–1862)

## Words to Inspire Writers

### November 29

No task is a long one but the task on which one dare not start. It becomes a nightmare.

*Charles Pierre Baudelaire* (1821–1867)

All erroneous ideas would perish of their own accord if given clear expression.

*Luc de Clapiers, Marquis de Vauvenargues* (1715–1747)

Nowadays three witty turns of phrase and a lie make a writer.

*Georg Christoph Lichtenberg* (1742–1799)

### November 30

All that we see or seem is but a dream within a dream.

*Edgar Allan Poe* (1809–1849)

One ought only to write when one leaves a piece of one's own flesh in the ink-pot, each time one dips one's pen.

*Count Leo Tolstoy* (1828–1910)

Be not the slave of Words.

*Thomas Carlyle* (1795–1881)



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# December

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## December 1

The true perfection of man lies not in what man has, but in what man is.

*Oscar Wilde* (1854–1900)

Journalism is literature in a hurry.

*Matthew Arnold* (1822–1888)

Every book must be chewed to get out its juice.

*Proverb*

## December 2

How vain it is to sit down to write when you have not stood up to live.

*Henry David Thoreau* (1817–1862)

The job of the artist is to always deepen the mystery.

*Francis Bacon* (1561–1626)

Oh for a book and a shady nook...

*Christopher North* (1785–1854)

## Words to Inspire Writers

### December 3

Teach me to live, that I may dread  
The grave as little as my bed.

*Thomas Ken* (1637–1711)

I wish I could write as mysterious as a cat.

*Edgar Allan Poe* (1809–1849)

The generations of living things pass in a short time, and like runners hand on the torch of life.

*Lucretius [Titus Lucretius Carus]* (99–55 B.C.)

### December 4

Adam was the only man who, when he said a thing, knew that nobody had said it before him.

*Mark Twain* (1835–1910)

The pen is the tongue of the hand—a silent utterer of words for the eye.

*Henry Ward Beecher* (1813–1887)

Any publicity is good publicity.

*Proverb*

### December 5

Sir, I have found you an argument; but I am not obliged to find you an understanding.

*Samuel Johnson* (1709–1784)

Justice to my readers compels me to admit that I write because I have nothing to do; justice to myself induces me to add that I will cease to write the moment I have nothing to say.

*Charles Caleb Colton* (1780–1832)

## Words to Inspire Writers

A good book is the precious life-blood of a master spirit, embalmed and treasured up on purpose to a life beyond life.

*John Milton* (1608–1674)

### December 6

Good friends, good books and a sleepy conscience: this is the ideal life.

*Mark Twain* (1835–1910)

You can never correct your work well until you have forgotten it.

*Voltaire* (1694–1778)

History repeats itself.

*Proverb*

### December 7

We are all in the gutter, but some of us are looking at the stars.

*Oscar Wilde* (1854–1900)

I am sorry this is such a long letter, but I did not have the time to write a short one.

*Mark Twain* (1835–1910)

Among all kinds of Writing, there is none in which Authors are more apt to miscarry than in Works of Humor, as there is none in which they are more ambitious to excel.

*Joseph Addison* (1672–1719)

### December 8

Character is destiny.

*Heraclitus* (535–475 B.C.)

## Words to Inspire Writers

*Circumlocution*, n. A literary trick whereby the writer who has nothing to say breaks it gently to the reader.

*Ambrose Bierce* (1842–1914)

The highest intellects, like the tops of mountains, are the first to catch and to reflect the dawn.

*Lord [Thomas Babington] Macauley* (1800–1859)

## December 9

Many have been the wise speeches of fools, though not so many as the foolish speeches of wise men.

*Thomas Fuller* (1608–1661)

You must render: never report.

*Guy de Maupassant* (1850–1893)

Men's words are ever bolder than their deeds.

*Samuel Taylor Coleridge* (1772–1834)

## December 10

It is not death that a man should fear, but he should fear never beginning to live.

*Marcus Aurelius Antoninus* (121–180)

I know you lawyers can, with ease,  
Twist words and meanings as you please;  
That language, by your skill made pliant,  
Will bend to favor ev'ry client.

*John Gay* (1685–1732)

The ignorant man always adores what he cannot understand.

*Cesare Lombroso* (1853–1909)

## Words to Inspire Writers

### December 11

Research! A mere excuse for idleness; it has never achieved, and will never achieve any results of the slightest value.

*Benjamin Jowett* (1817–1893)

The music that can deepest reach,  
And cure all ill, is cordial speech.

*Ralph Waldo Emerson* (1803–1882)

If a writer wrote merely for his time, I would have to break my pen and throw it away.

*Victor Hugo* (1802–1885)

### December 12

A really intelligent man feels what other men only know.

*Baron de Montesquieu* (1689–1755)

Genius makes its observations in short-hand; talent writes them out at length.

*Christian Nevell Bovee* (1820–1904)

Most men are within a finger's breadth of being mad.

*Diogenes* (412–323 B.C.)

### December 13

The one special advantage we enjoy over animals is our power to speak with one another, to express our thoughts in words. For this reason it is a peculiarly satisfactory experience for a man to take pleasure in conversation and seek to excel at it.

*Marcus Tullius Cicero* (106–43 B.C.)

## Words to Inspire Writers

The writer is an explorer. Every step is an advance into new land.

*Ralph Waldo Emerson* (1803–1882)

I would rather be ashes than dust! I would rather that my spark burn out in a brilliant blaze than it be stifled by dry-rot. I would rather be a superb meteor, every atom of me in magnificent glow, than a sleepy and permanent planet.

*Jack London* (1876–1916)

## December 14

Books must follow sciences, and not sciences books.

*Francis Bacon* (1561–1626)

A novel is a mirror walking along a main road.

*Stendhal* (1783–1842)

When the eyes say one thing, and the tongue another, a practiced man relies on the language of the first.

*Ralph Waldo Emerson* (1803–1882)

## December 15

A man ought to read just as inclination leads him; for what he reads as a task will do him little good.

*Samuel Johnson* (1709–1784)

The best stories don't come from "good vs. bad" but from "good vs. good".

*Count Leo Tolstoy* (1828–1910)

The profession of letters is, after all, the only one in which one can make no money without being ridiculous.

*Jules Reynard* (1864–1910)

## Words to Inspire Writers

### December 16

What you don't know would make a great book.

*Sydney Smith* (1771–1845)

There can never be a moment of true standstill in language, just as little as in the ceaselessly flaming thought of men.

*Wilhelm von Humboldt* (1767–1835)

I suppose publishers are untrustworthy. They certainly always look it.

*Oscar Wilde* (1854–1900)

### December 17

The man who does not read good books has no advantage over the man who cannot read them.

*Mark Twain* (1835–1910)

Poetry is simply the most beautiful, impressive, and widely effective mode of saying things.

*Matthew Arnold* (1822–1888)

No author is a man of genius to his publisher.

*Heinrich Heine* (1797–1856)

### December 18

Life consists not in holding good cards but in playing those you hold well.

*Henry Wheeler Shaw* (1818–1885)

The love of life is necessary to the vigorous prosecution of any undertaking.

*Samuel Johnson* (1709–1784)

## Words to Inspire Writers

Let your literary compositions be kept from the public eye for nine years.

*Horace*(65–8 B.C.)

### December 19

I know of no more encouraging fact than the unquestionable ability of man to elevate his life by a conscious endeavor.

*Henry David Thoreau* (1817–1862)

Things which matter most must never be at the mercy of things which matter least.

*Johann Wolfgang von Goethe* (1749–1832)

The advantage of doing one's praising for oneself is that one can lay it on so thick and exactly in the right places.

*Samuel Butler* (1835–1902)

### December 20

It is the mark of an educated mind to be able to entertain a thought without accepting it.

*Aristotle* (384–322 B.C.)

If I chance to talk a little wild, forgive me.

*William Shakespeare* (1564–1616)

No race can prosper till it learns that there is as much dignity in tilling a field as in writing a poem.

*Booker T(aliaferro) Washington* (1856–1915)



## Words to Inspire Writers

### December 21

I never saw an author who was aware that there is any dimensional difference between a fact and a surmise.

*Mark Twain* (1835–1910)

He uses statistics as a drunken man uses lamp-posts—for support rather than illumination.

*Andrew Lang* (1844–1912)

Nothing ever becomes real 'til it is experienced—even a proverb is no proverb to you 'til your life has illustrated it.

*John Keats* (1795–1821)

### December 22

It hinders the creative work of the mind if the intellect examines too closely the ideas as they pour in.

*Friedrich von Schiller* (1759–1805)

Footnotes—little dogs yapping at the heels of the text.

*William James* (1842–1910)

The aim, if reached or not, makes great the life: try to be Shakespeare, leave the rest to fate!

*Robert Browning* (1812–1889)

### December 23

I have a horror of sunsets, they're so romantic, so operatic.

*Marcel Proust* (1871–1922)

What we have to learn, we learn by doing.

*Aristotle* (384–322 B.C.)

## Words to Inspire Writers

It is a luxury to be understood.

*Ralph Waldo Emerson* (1803–1882)

## December 24

Sometimes give your services for nothing. . . . And if there be an opportunity of serving one who is a stranger in financial straits, give full assistance to all such. For where there is love of man, there is also love of the art. [C.f. *Ars longa, vita brevis*—Art lasts, life is short]

*Hippocrates* (460–377 B.C.)

Silence is not always tact and it is tact that is golden, not silence.

*Samuel Butler* (1835–1902)

In all things I have sought rest, and nowhere have I found it save in a corner with a book.

*Thomas à Kempis* (1380–1471)

## December 25

The men who make history have not time to write it.

*Klemens Von Metternich* (1773–1859)

A translation is no translation unless it will give you the music of a poem along with the words of it.

*J(ohn) M(illington) Synge* (1871–1909)

Writers are the main landmarks of the past.

*Edward George Earl Bulwer-Lytton* (1803–1873)

## Words to Inspire Writers

### December 26

The dread of something after death—  
The undiscover'd country, from whose bourn  
No traveler returns.

*William Shakespeare* (1564–1616)

In good writing, words become one with things.

*Ralph Waldo Emerson* (1803–1882)

Talking about oneself can also be a means to conceal oneself.

*Friedrich Nietzsche* (1844–1900)

### December 27

Style is life! It is the very life-blood of thought!

*Gustave Flaubert* (1821–1880)

Dialogue must contribute to the telling of the story.

*Anthony Trollope* (1815–1882)

The sole end of literature should be to enable the reader better to  
enjoy life, or better to endure it.

*Samuel Johnson* (1709–1784)

### December 28

There are many truths of which the full meaning cannot be realized until personal experience has brought it home.

*John Stuart Mill* (1806–1873)

The right word may be effective, but no word was ever as effective as a rightly timed pause.

*Mark Twain* (1835–1910)

## Words to Inspire Writers

Nor in the critic let the man be lost.

*Alexander Pope* (1688–1744)

### December 29

The great end of life is not knowledge but action.

*T(homas) H(enry) Huxley* (1825–1895)

There is no such thing as a great talent without great will-power.

*Honoré de Balzac* (1799–1850)

The function of the novelist... is to comment upon life as he sees it.

*Frank Norris* (1870–1902)

### December 30

Is there another life? Shall I awake and find all this a dream? There must be, we cannot be created for this sort of suffering.

*John Keats* (1795–1821)

Indeed, I think the illegibility of my handwriting is very author-like.

*Nathaniel Hawthorne* (1804–1864)

No man has an appreciation so various that his judgment is good upon all varieties of literary work.

*Mark Twain* (1835–1910)

### December 31

Far away in the sunshine are my highest inspirations. I may not reach them, but I can look up and see the beauty, believe in them

## **Words to Inspire Writers**

and try to follow where they may lead.

*Louisa May Alcott* (1832–1888)

One word frees us of all the weight and pain of life: that word is love.

*Sophocles* (497–406 B.C.)

Books are the treasured wealth of the world and the fit inheritance of generations and nations.

*Henry David Thoreau* (1817–1862)

To be, or not to be—that is the question;  
Whether 'tis nobler in the mind to suffer  
The slings and arrows of outrageous fortune,  
Or to take arms against a sea of troubles,  
And by opposing end them? To die, to sleep—  
No more; and by a sleep to say we end  
The heart-ache and the thousand natural shocks  
That flesh is heir to, 'tis a consummation  
Devoutly to be wish'd. To die, to sleep;  
To sleep, perchance to dream. Ay, there's the rub;  
For in that sleep of death what dreams may come,  
When we have shuffled off this mortal coil,  
Must give us pause.

*William Shakespeare (1564-1616)*

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# Useful Web Addresses

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There are many invaluable collections of Quotations on the World Wide Web, and, although not meant to be exhaustive or definitive, this listing of websites containing General and Writing Quotations should be a good starting point for any further browsing.

## About Quotations—Writing Quotes

<http://quotations.about.com/cs/inspirationquotes/a/Writing5.htm>

## Andilinks Quotation Collections

<http://www.andilinks.com/quo.htm>

## The Art of Living and Writing Quotations

<http://www.geocities.com/SoHo/workshop/8405/QUOTES.html>

## Basic Quotations—Famous Quotes by Famous People

<http://www.basicquotations.com/>

## Bella Online—Writing Quotations

<http://www.bellaonline.com/articles/art4073.asp>

## Bonnie Bruno's index of famous quotes

<http://bonniebruno.com/quotes.htm>

## Brain Candy Quotations Collection-great writing quotes

<http://www.corsinet.com/braincandy/great.html>

## Creative Wit about... Writing

<http://creativewit.com/writing.html>

## **Words to Inspire Writers**

**Daily Celebrations: Favorite Quotations—Writing & Writers**

<http://www.dailycelebrations.com/writing.htm>

**Dakota State University—Creative Writing: Fiction-Quotations from Writers**

<http://www.homepages.dsu.edu/jankej/Writing/quotes.htm>

**Delamar Web—Writers On Writing**

<http://www.delamar.org/xqwriterson.htm>

**eConsultant—Writing Quotes**

<http://www.econsultant.com/quotes/writing.html>

**Ed Myers' Writers' Quotations about Writing**

<http://www.edwardmyers.com/writing.html>

**Familiar Quotations—Compiled by John Bartlett**

<http://www.bartleby.com/100/>

**Famous writing sayings and quotations**

<http://www.famoussayings4u.com/famous-writing-sayings.php>

**Garbl's Concise Writing Guide—Words of Wisdom**

<http://garbl.home.comcast.net/stylemanual/betwrit.htm#wisdom>

**GIGA Quotes—Writing**

<http://www.giga-usa.com/gigaweb1/quotes2/qutopwritingx002.htm>

**Heart Touchers—Quotes About Writing**

[http://www.hearttouchers.com/writer\\_s\\_quotes](http://www.hearttouchers.com/writer_s_quotes)



## **Words to Inspire Writers**

**Leigh Michaels' Classroom on the Web—Quotations for Writers**

[http://home.mchsi.com/~webclass/quotations\\_for\\_writers.htm](http://home.mchsi.com/~webclass/quotations_for_writers.htm)

**LitQuotes—Quotes from Literature**

<http://www.litquotes.com/>

**Love Quotes and Quotations—Inspirational Writing Quotes: Words of Wisdom by Published Writers**

<http://www.love-quotes-and-quotations.com/inspirational-writing-quotes.html>

**Mark Twain quotations—Writing**

<http://www.twainquotes.com/writing.html>

**Marta Randall—Quotations about Writing**

<http://www.scriptsit.com/WritingQuotes.html>

**The Motivational and Inspirational Corner**

<http://www.motivational-inspirational-corner.com/>

**National Writers Union—Memorable and Humorous Quotations for Writers**

<http://www.unionwriters.org/home/writers-quotations.php>

**Nebraska Center for Writers—Quotations for Writers**

<http://mockingbird.creighton.edu/ncw/quotes.htm>

**Nonstop English—Quotations of famous people**

<http://www.nonstopenglish.com/reading/quotations/>

**Poe War.com Writer's Resource Center—Quotations about Writing and Books**

<http://www.poewar.com/archives/2005/03/05/quotations-about-writing-and-books/>

## **Words to Inspire Writers**

### **The Quotable Writer—Quotations About Writing and Publishing**

[http://members.aol.com/williamagordon/writers\\_quotations.html](http://members.aol.com/williamagordon/writers_quotations.html)

### **Quotations about Writing**

<http://www.angelfire.com/on2/wordz/writing.html>

### **Quotations about Writing**

<http://www.monksOfAdoration.org/writingq.html>

### **Quotations Book—Quotations about Writers and Writing**

[http://www.quotationsbook.com/subjects/1323/Writers\\_and\\_Writing](http://www.quotationsbook.com/subjects/1323/Writers_and_Writing)

### **Quotations for Writers of All Persuasions**

<http://www.cgcwg.org/quotations.htm>

### **Quotations on Speech and Writing assembled by Vivian Cook**

<http://homepage.ntlworld.com/vivian.c/WSQuotes.htm>

### **Quotations on Writing**

<http://www.suzanne-williams.com/lil/Files/quotatio.htm>

### **The Quotations Page—Writing**

<http://www.quotationspage.com/subjects/writing/>

### **The Quote Garden—Quotations about Writing**

<http://www.quoteGarden.com/writing.html>

### **Quoteland.com—Authors and Writing**

<http://www.quoteland.com/search.asp>

### **Quotes for Writers**

<http://www.mtco.com/~lbamber/quotes.htm>

## **Words to Inspire Writers**

### **Success Quotation Center**

<http://www.cybernation.com/quotationcenter/>

### **Talking Books—Useful Quotations**

<http://mysite.verizon.net/vzeqjolw/id6.html>

### **The Web's Most Humongous Collection of Writing Quotes**

<http://home.earthlink.net/~wallinger/quotes.html>

### **Wikiquote—Books**

<http://en.wikiquote.org/wiki/Books>

### **Wikiquote—Literature**

<http://en.wikiquote.org/wiki/Literature>

### **Wikiquote—Writing**

<http://en.wikiquote.org/wiki/Writing>

### **Wise Owl Wisdom**

<http://www.wiseowlbooks.com/publish/wisdom.html>

### **Writers' Quotes—Quotes from Writers**

[http://www.writersservices.com/mag/m\\_quotes\\_writers.htm](http://www.writersservices.com/mag/m_quotes_writers.htm)

### **Writing Quotations**

<http://thue.stanford.edu/jacquie/quote.html>

### **Writing Quotations of Mark Twain**

<http://www.dowse.com/articles/twains-quotes.html>

### **Writing Quotes—Famous Quotes Famous Sayings**

<http://quotations.home.worldnet.att.net/writing.html>

### **Writing/Writers Quotes**

<http://www.wisdomquotes.com/catwritingwriters.html>

## **Words to Inspire Writers**

WSU Writing Web—Quotations for Writers

[http://www.wright.edu/cola/Dept/eng/wsuwweb/  
pageindex/quotes.htm](http://www.wright.edu/cola/Dept/eng/wsuwweb/pageindex/quotes.htm)

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An Award-winning short story writer and the author of numerous articles and columns published in trade and consumer magazines, he is currently putting together his first short fiction collection. He hopes *Words to Inspire Writers* will make writers everywhere understand they follow a long and rich literary tradition.

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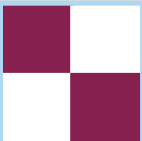
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