

Andre Dubus

Quotes

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I think the deeper you go into questions, the deeper or more interesting the questions get. And I think that's the job of art.

~Andre Dubus

One of the things I learned about writing a memoir is you can't drag the reader through everything. Every human life is worth 20 memoirs.

~Andre Dubus

I see a lot of marriages crash and burn around me and my wife. I've always been curious about how hard it is to love well and be loved.

~Andre Dubus

Fear is a ghost; embrace your fear, and all you'll see in your arms is yourself.

~Andre Dubus

As a matter of writing philosophy, if there is one, I try not to ever plot a story. I try to write it from the character's point of view and see where it goes.

~Andre Dubus

I've learned over the years that the writing is smarter and far larger than the writer and his or her own desires for it.

~Andre Dubus

Somewhere, sometime I'd stopped expecting my father to father.

~Andre Dubus

I have always known that writing fiction had little effect on the world; that if it did, young men would not have gone to war after The Iliad.

~Andre Dubus

I read poetry every day. I love the boiled down essence of poetry. I look for poetry in prose. In a way that evocative.

~Andre Dubus

My mother was making \$135 a week, but she had resilience and imagination. She might take frozen vegetables, cook them with garlic, onion and Spam, and it would taste like a four-star dinner.

~Andre Dubus

I wonder if politicians know less about the land, now that they campaign by air.

~Andre Dubus

I know I learn a lot from the students in my class and I'm not just saying that to sound like some generous teacher.

~Andre Dubus

People fascinate the hell out of me. I never get tired of watching people, listening to people. The best part is not getting up in front of people but meeting people.

~Andre Dubus

Even a day writing badly for me is 10 times better than a day where I don't write at all.

~Andre Dubus

For the twenty million Americans who are hungry tonight, for the homeless freezing tonight, literature is as useless as a knowledge of astronomy.

~Andre Dubus

For ritual allows those who cannot will themselves out of the secular to perform the spiritual, as dancing allows the tongue-tied man a ceremony of love.

~Andre Dubus

Writers have to be careful not to confuse personal attention with the attention that's going towards the book.

~Andre Dubus

I love the earth too much to contemplate a life apart from it, although I believe in that life.

~Andre Dubus

I truly believe the art's larger than the artist. Who cares about John Steinbeck? I care about the Joad family.

~Andre Dubus

I was always a sensitive, sweet kid, but I got brutalized and I became brutal. And frankly, I don't think it was my natural makeup. I don't think its anyone's natural makeup to be a violent brawler.

~Andre Dubus

What is art if not a concentrated and impassioned effort to make something with the little we have, the little we see?

~Andre Dubus

I love short stories because I believe they are the way we live. They are what our friends tell us, in their pain and joy, their passion and rage, their yearning and their cry against injustice.

~Andre Dubus

Years later I would hear my father say the divorce had left him dating his children. That still meant picking us up every Sunday for a matinee and, if he had the money, an early dinner somewhere.

~Andre Dubus

The truth is life is full of joy and full of great sorrow, but you can't have one without the other.

~Andre Dubus

Romance dies hard, because its very nature is to want to live.

~Andre Dubus

We receive and we lose, and we must try to achieve gratitude; and with that gratitude to embrace with whole hearts whatever of life that remains after the losses.

~Andre Dubus

I think the writer's job is to paint the gray because no life is clearly defined.

~Andre Dubus

Don't outline your stories. A lot of fiction workshops say you should. I say the opposite. I quote Grace Paley: "We write what we don't know we know."

~Andre Dubus

That was the source of my vanity and my cowardice: always I believed everyone was watching me.

~Andre Dubus

I love short stories because I believe they are the way we live.

~Andre Dubus

It is not hard to live through a day, if you can live through a moment.

~Andre Dubus

Talent is cheap. What really matters is discipline.

~Andre Dubus

I really think that if there's any one enemy to human creativity, especially creative writing, it's self-consciousness.

~Andre Dubus

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