

# Brenda Ueland

## Quotes

*Writing, Thinking, People, Listening, Children, Self, Creativity, Love You, Ideas,  
Believe, Creative, Talking, Imagination, Two, Attitude, Long, Work, Inspiration,  
Inspirational, Mean*

Since you are like no other being ever created since the beginning of time, you are incomparable.

~Brenda Ueland

This is what I learned: that everybody is talented, original and has something important to say.

~Brenda Ueland

I will tell you what I have learned myself. For me, a long five or six mile walk helps. And one must go alone and every day.

~Brenda Ueland

Work freely and rollickingly as though you were talking to a friend who loves you. Mentally (at least three or four times a day) thumb your nose at all know-it-alls, jeerers, critics, doubters.

~Brenda Ueland

When we are listened to, it creates us, makes us unfold and expand. Ideas actually begin to grow within us and come to life.

~Brenda Ueland

We are always afraid to start something that we want to make very good, true, and serious.

~Brenda Ueland

I learned that you should feel when writing, not like Lord Byron on a mountain top, but like child stringing beads in kindergarten, - happy, absorbed and quietly putting one bead on after another.

~Brenda Ueland

The tragedy of bold, forthright, industrious people is that they act so continuously without much thinking, that it becomes dry and empty.

~Brenda Ueland

the death of any loved parent is an incalculable lasting blow. Because no one ever loves you again like that.

~Brenda Ueland

Families are great murderers of the creative impulsive, particularly husbands.

~Brenda Ueland

Writing is the action of thinking, just as drawing is the action of seeing and composing music is the action of hearing.

~Brenda Ueland

Inspiration comes to us slowly and quietly . prime it with a little solitude.

~Brenda Ueland

No writing is a waste of time - no creative work where the feelings, the imagination, the intelligence must work. With every sentence you write, you have learned something. It has done you good.

~Brenda Ueland

the only way to become a better writer is to become a better person.

~Brenda Ueland

The best way to know the Truth or Beauty is to try to express it.

~Brenda Ueland

The imagination needs moodling,--long, inefficient happy idling, dawdling and puttering.

~Brenda Ueland

Creative power flourishes only when I am living in the present.

~Brenda Ueland

Advertising companies hire the very brightest, wittiest young people to

write for them. Not one single sentence of it is worth repeating. Why? Because it wasn't meant.

~Brenda Ueland

...writing is not a performance but a generosity.

~Brenda Ueland

Sometimes I think of life as a process where everybody is discouraging and taking everybody else down a peg or two.

~Brenda Ueland

The true self is always in motion like music, a river of life, changing, moving, failing, suffering, learning, shining.

~Brenda Ueland

It is so conceited and timid to be ashamed of one's mistakes. Of course they are mistakes. Go on to the next.

~Brenda Ueland

Everybody is talented because everybody who is human has something to express.

~Brenda Ueland

The writer has a feeling and utters it from his true self. The reader reads it and is immediately infected and has exactly the same feeling. This is the whole secret of enchantment and fascination.

~Brenda Ueland

If I did not wear torn pants, orthopedic shoes, frantic disheveled hair, that is to say, if I did not tone down my beauty, people would go mad. Married men would run amuck.

~Brenda Ueland

Everybody is original, if he tells the truth, if he speaks from himself. But

it must be from his \*true\* self and not from the self he thinks he \*should\* be.

~Brenda Ueland

All children have creative power.

~Brenda Ueland

It is only by expressing all that is inside that purer and purer streams come.

~Brenda Ueland

Consistency is the horror of the world.

~Brenda Ueland

Even if I knew for certain that I would never have anything published again, and would never make another cent from it, I would still keep on writing.

~Brenda Ueland

We are always doing something, talking, reading, listening to the radio, planning what next. The mind is kept naggingly busy on some easy, unimportant external thing all day.

~Brenda Ueland

Write a true, careless, slovenly impulsive, honest diary every day of your life.

~Brenda Ueland

And the true listener is much more beloved, magnetic than the talker, and he is more effective and learns more and does more good

~Brenda Ueland

...at last I understood that writing was this: an impulse to share with other people a feeling or truth that I myself had.

~Brenda Ueland

it is when you are really living in the present-working, thinking, lost, absorbed in something you care about very much, that you are living spiritually.

~Brenda Ueland

You know, I have come to think listening is love, that's what it really is.

~Brenda Ueland

we like fixed rules because that ends thinking and we can rest. But there is no resting place down here.

~Brenda Ueland

Try to discover your true, honest, untheoretical self.

~Brenda Ueland

When we commit ourselves to writing for some part of each day, we are happier, more enlightened, alive, light-hearted and generous to everyone else. Even our health improves.

~Brenda Ueland

So remember these two things: you are talented and you are original. Be sure of that. I say this because self-trust is one of the very most important things in writing.

~Brenda Ueland

Be bold, free, and truthful.

~Brenda Ueland

Think of yourself as incandescent power, illuminated perhaps and forever talked to by God and his messengers.

~Brenda Ueland

If only I had a wife!" I used to think, "who could stay home and keep the children happy, why I could support six of them. A cinch.

~Brenda Ueland

We are too ready (women especially) not to stand by what we have said or done.

~Brenda Ueland

We start out in our lives as little children, full of light and the clearest vision.

~Brenda Ueland

The only good teachers for you are those friends who love you, who think you are interesting, or very important, or wonderfully funny.

~Brenda Ueland

We should all know this: that listening, not talking, is the gifted and great role, and the imaginative role.

~Brenda Ueland

You have to hold your audience in writing to the very end-much more than in talking, when people have to be polite and listen to you.

~Brenda Ueland

Inspiration does not come like a blot, nor is it kinetic energy striving, but it comes to us slowly and quietly all the time.

~Brenda Ueland

If we don't act at all (express our imaginings either in work or a changing personality, so that we can learn and think again something better) we certainly rot.

~Brenda Ueland

Of course, in fairness, I must remind you of this: that we writers are the

most lily-livered of all craftsmen. We expect more, for the most peewee efforts, than any other people.

~Brenda Ueland

You Do Not Know Is in You" an Inexhaustible Fountain of Ideas. Another reason for writing a diary is to discover that the ideas in you are an inexhaustible fountain.

~Brenda Ueland

Duty should be a byproduct.

~Brenda Ueland

Know that it is good to work. Work with love and think of liking it when you do it.

~Brenda Ueland

... to paint with oil paints for the first time ... is like trying to make something exquisitely accurate and microscopically clear out of mud pies with boxing gloves on.

~Brenda Ueland

... the great artists ... do not want security, egoistic or materialistic.

~Brenda Ueland

There is that American pastime known as "kidding" - with the result that everyone is ashamed and hangdog about showing the slightest enthusiasm or passion or sincere feeling about anything.

~Brenda Ueland

The only way to write well, so that people believe what we say and are interested or touched by it, is to slough off all pretentiousness and attitudinizing.

~Brenda Ueland



The only way to love a person is...by listening to them and seeing and believing in the god, in the poet, in them. For by doing this, you keep the god and the poet alive and make it flourish.

~Brenda Ueland

Everyone knows how people who laugh easily create us by their laughter,--making us think of funnier and funnier things.

~Brenda Ueland

... the spirit, I think, is a stream, a fountain, and must be continually poured out, for only if it is poured out will more and clearer streams come.

~Brenda Ueland

Your motto: Be Bold, Be Free, Be Truthful.

~Brenda Ueland

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