

Dennis Potter Quotes

*Writing, People, Believe, Children, Talent, Childhood, Thinking, Metaphor, Art,
Knows, Use, Analysis, Boys, Littles, Eden, Language, Imagination, About
Yourself, Loses, Pain*

Some of the words and symbols and images from childhood will continually be part and parcel of my personality.

~Dennis Potter

I did not fully understand the dread term 'terminal illness' until I saw Heathrow for myself.

~Dennis Potter

We should always look back on our own past with a sort of contempt, as long as the tenderness is there - but please let some of the contempt be there.

~Dennis Potter

Children can write poetry and then, unless they're poets, they stop when reach puberty.

~Dennis Potter

That vision of a common culture is now simply a remote wistfulness.

~Dennis Potter

The trouble with words is that you never know whose mouths they've been in.

~Dennis Potter

A bad act done will fester and create in its own way. It's not only goodness that creates. Bad things create. They have their own yeast.

~Dennis Potter

There's no end to the inventiveness of critics, I tell you. Because they can't write fiction, they put their impulse into their analysis of work.

~Dennis Potter

Children are very cruel, yes. Of course. Children are extraordinarily cruel little creatures.

~Dennis Potter

Religion, you can't a handle on it, you just have to know or not know-people either believe or they don't believe.

~Dennis Potter

Television's Mr. Filth: that's me.

~Dennis Potter

People endure what they endure and they deal with it. It may corrupt them. It may lead them into all sorts of compensatory excesses.

~Dennis Potter

Therapy, as opposed to analysis, is a whole construct of myth, beautiful and creative.

~Dennis Potter

Metaphor is embodied in language.

~Dennis Potter

To love it too much is to obscure and not see what is there.

~Dennis Potter

The knowledge that we have about what it is to be human that we have as a child is something we necessarily must lose.

~Dennis Potter

As adults, we do know more, but we don't know enough. People can be very unthinkingly callous.

~Dennis Potter

Ideals jump across the hierarchies of the printed word.

~Dennis Potter

It is a dangerous thing to have instant access to your emotions.

~Dennis Potter

The loss of Eden is personally experienced by every one of us as we leave the wonder and magic and also the pains and terrors of childhood.

~Dennis Potter

You just don't know writers. They'll use anything, anybody. They'll eat their young.

~Dennis Potter

You have to assert something about yourself in order to be yourself.

~Dennis Potter

The strangest thing that human speech and human writing can do is create a metaphor. That is an amazing leap, is it not?

~Dennis Potter

I haven't had a single moment of terror since they told me [I was dying]. My only regret is to die four pages too soon. If I can finish, then I'm quite happy to go.

~Dennis Potter

Religion has always been the wound, not the bandage.

~Dennis Potter

I think childhood is to everyone a lost land.

~Dennis Potter

A writer helps to show you things you knew but didn't know you knew.

~Dennis Potter

Everything we do has consequences.

~Dennis Potter

Thenowness of everything is absolutely wondrous. [...] If you see the present tense, boy do you see it! And boy can you celebrate it.

~Dennis Potter

I was given talent, and if you are given it, it is your obligation to use it.

~Dennis Potter

Just letting it out is one of the definitions of bad art.

~Dennis Potter

The more my work improves or broadens or widens, the more surely I tame myself.

~Dennis Potter

I believe everybody is responsible for what they do themselves.

~Dennis Potter

Words themselves - the very material of our discourse increasingly take on masks or disguises

~Dennis Potter

God, I'm such a lazy writer - I can't even think up new names.

~Dennis Potter

The thing about imagination is that by the very act of putting it down, there must be some truth in one's own imagination.

~Dennis Potter

I have been aware, from the age of 6, that I had talent.

~Dennis Potter

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