

E. B. White

Quotes

*Writing, Men, People, Thinking, Book, New York, Morning, Inspiring, Children,
Life, Country, Funny, Trying, Running, Giving, Dog, Style, Fall, Cities,
Inspirational*

One of the most time-consuming things is to have an enemy.

~E. B. White

It is not often that someone comes along who is a true friend and a good writer.

~E. B. White

All we need is a meteorologist who has once been soaked to the skin without ill effect. No one can write knowingly of the weather who walks bent over on wet days.

~E. B. White

I arise in the morning torn between a desire to improve the world and a desire to enjoy the world. This makes it hard to plan the day.

~E. B. White

As long as there is one upright man, as long as there is one passionate woman, the contagion may spread and the scene is not desolate. Hope is the thing that is left us in a bad time.

~E. B. White

Trust me, Wilbur. People are very gullible. They'll believe anything they see in print.

~E. B. White

Always be on the lookout for the presence of wonder.

~E. B. White

I would feel more optimistic about a bright future for man if he spent less time proving that he can outwit Nature and more time tasting her sweetness and respecting her seniority.

~E. B. White

Books are good company, in sad times and happy times, for books are

people-- people who have managed to stay alive by hiding between the covers of a book.

~E. B. White

The world is full of people who have never, since childhood, met an open doorway with an open mind.

~E. B. White

Genius is more often found in a cracked pot than in a whole one.

~E. B. White

We should all do what, in the long run, gives us joy, even if it is only picking grapes or sorting the laundry.

~E. B. White

English usage is sometimes more than mere taste, judgment and education - sometimes it's sheer luck, like getting across the street.

~E. B. White

Our vegetable garden is coming along well, with radishes and beans up, and we are less worried about revolution that we used to be.

~E. B. White

Reading is the work of the alert mind, is demanding, and under ideal conditions produces finally a sort of ecstasy.

~E. B. White

Familiarity is the thing-the sense of belonging. It grants exemption from all evil, all shabbiness.

~E. B. White

I am always humbled by the infinite ingenuity of the Lord, who can make a red barn cast a blue shadow.

~E. B. White

Prejudice is a great time saver. You can form opinions without having to get the facts.

~E. B. White

Life is like writing with a pen. You can cross out your past but you can't erase it.

~E. B. White

Make the work interesting and the discipline will take care of itself.

~E. B. White

Use the smallest word that does the job.

~E. B. White

Hang on to your hat. Hang on to your hope. And wind the clock, for tomorrow is another day.

~E. B. White

Democracy is the recurrent suspicion that more than half of the people are right more than half of the time.

~E. B. White

In a man's middle years there is scarcely a part of the body he would hesitate to turn over to the proper authorities.

~E. B. White

There is nothing more likely to start disagreement among people or countries than an agreement.

~E. B. White

A despot doesn't fear eloquent writers preaching freedom- he fears a drunken poet who may crack a joke that will take hold.

~E. B. White

Nauseous. Nauseated. The first means "sickening to contemplate"; the second means "sick at the stomach." Do not, therefore, say "I feel nauseous," unless you are sure you have that effect on others.

~E. B. White

I have one share in corporate Earth, and I am nervous about the management.

~E. B. White

Why did you do all this for me?' he asked. 'I don't deserve it. I've never done anything for you.' 'You have been my friend,' replied Charlotte. 'That in itself is a tremendous thing.

~E. B. White

I admire anybody who has the guts to write anything at all.

~E. B. White

I see nothing in space as promising as the view from a Ferris wheel.

~E. B. White

Creation is in part merely the business of forgoing the great and small distractions.

~E. B. White

Early summer days are a jubilee time for birds. In the fields, around the house, in the barn, in the woods, in the swamp - everywhere love and songs and nests and eggs.

~E. B. White

It is quite possible that an animal has spoken to me and that I didn't catch the remark because I wasn't paying attention.

~E. B. White

The city is like poetry; it compresses all life, all races and breeds, into a

small island and adds music and the accompaniment of internal engines.

~E. B. White

Geese are friends to no one, they bad mouth everybody and everything. But they are companionable once you get used to their ingratitude and false accusations.

~E. B. White

A really companionable and indispensable dog is an accident of nature. You can't get it by breeding for it, and you can't buy it with money. It just happens along.

~E. B. White

I am reminded of the advice of my neighbor. "Never worry about your heart till it stops beating.

~E. B. White

Old age is a special problem for me because I've never been able to shed the mental image I have of myself - a lad of about 19.

~E. B. White

In middle life, the human back is spoiling for a technical knockout and will use the flimsiest excuse, even a sneeze, to fall apart.

~E. B. White

Everything in life is somewhere else, and you get there in a car.

~E. B. White

Writing is both mask and unveiling.

~E. B. White

Is there anything in the universe more beautiful and protective than the simple complexity of a spider's web?

~E. B. White

When an American family becomes separated from its toothbrushes and combs and pajamas for a few hours it considers that it has had quite an adventure.

~E. B. White

A poem compresses much in a small space and adds music, thus heightening its meaning.

~E. B. White

Luck is not something you can mention in the presence of self-made men.

~E. B. White

No one can write decently who is distrustful of the reader's intelligence or whose attitude is patronizing.

~E. B. White

A poet dares be just so clear and no clearer... He unzips the veil from beauty, but does not remove it. A poet utterly clear is a trifle glaring.

~E. B. White

I have yet to see a piece of writing, political or non-political, that does not have a slant. All writing slants the way a writer leans, and no man is born perpendicular.

~E. B. White

All writing is communication; creative writing is communication through revelation-it is the Self-escaping into the open.

~E. B. White

I believe in dreams. People should have faith in the songs poets sing.

~E. B. White

Commas in The New Yorker fall with the precision of knives in a circus act, outlining the victim.

~E. B. White

An editor is a person who knows more about writing than writers do but who has escaped the terrible desire to write.

~E. B. White

Writing is an act of faith, not a trick of grammar.

~E. B. White

Salutations; it's just my fancy way of saying hello or good morning

~E. B. White

A good farmer is nothing more nor less than a handy man with a sense of humus.

~E. B. White

A poet's pleasure is to withhold a little of his meaning, to intensify by mystification. He unzips the veil from beauty, but does not remove it.

~E. B. White

The only sense that is common in the long run, is the sense of change and we all instinctively avoid it.

~E. B. White

People are, if anything, more touchy about being thought silly than they are about being thought unjust.

~E. B. White

By helping you, perhaps I was trying to lift up my life a trifle. Heaven knows anyone's life can stand a little of that.

~E. B. White

Life is always rich and steady time when you are waiting for something to happen or to hatch.

~E. B. White

Commuters give the city its tidal restlessness, natives give it solidity and continuity, but the settlers give it passion.

~E. B. White

It is easier for a man to be loyal to his club than to his planet; the bylaws are shorter, and he is personally acquainted with the other members.

~E. B. White

Mother: It's broccoli, dear. --- Child: I say it's spinach, and I say the hell with it.

~E. B. White

The world likes humor, but it treats it patronizingly. It decorates its serious artists with laurel, and its wags with Brussels sprouts.

~E. B. White

All that I hope to say in books, all that I ever hope to say, is that I love the world.

~E. B. White

To perceive Christmas through its wrappings becomes more difficult with every year.

~E. B. White

The essayist is a self-liberated man, sustained by the childish belief that everything he thinks about, everything that happens to him, is of general interest.

~E. B. White

Be obscure clearly! Be wild of tongue in a way we can understand.

~E. B. White

There's no limit to how complicated things can get, on account of one thing always leading to another.

~E. B. White

A writer who waits for ideal conditions under which to work will die without putting a word to paper.

~E. B. White

The circus comes as close to being the world in microcosm as anything I know; in a way, it puts all the rest of show business in the shade.

~E. B. White

I can only assume that your editorial writer tripped over the First Amendment and thought it was the office cat.

~E. B. White

Semi-colons only prove that the author has been to college.

~E. B. White

Once in everyone's life there is apt to be a period when he is fully awake, instead of half-asleep.

~E. B. White

Writing is hard work and bad for the health.

~E. B. White

I don't know which is more discouraging, literature or chickens.

~E. B. White

Books hold most of the secrets of the world, most of the thoughts that men and women have had. And when you are reading a book, you and

the author are alone together-just the two of you.

~E. B. White

Oh, I never look under the hood.

~E. B. White

After all, what's a life, anyway? We're born, we live a little while, we die.

~E. B. White

Children are game for anything. I throw them hard words, and they backhand them over the net. They love words that give them a hard time, provided they are in a context that absorbs their attention.

~E. B. White

A writer's style reveals something of his spirit, his habits, his capacities, his bias...it is the Self escaping into the open.

~E. B. White

Life's meaning has always eluded me and I guess always will. But I love it just the same.

~E. B. White

The world organization debates disarmament in one room and, in the next room, moves the knights and pawns that make national arms imperative.

~E. B. White

Only a person who is congenially self-centered has the effrontery and the stamina to write essays

~E. B. White

The rat had no morals, no conscience, no scruples, no consideration, no decency, no milk of rodent kindness, no compunctions, no higher

feeling, no friendliness, no anything

~E. B. White

I get up every morning determined to both change the world and to have one hell of a good time. Sometimes, this makes planning the day difficult.

~E. B. White

The best writing is rewriting.

~E. B. White

A library is a good place to go when you feel bewildered or undecided, for there in a book, you may have your question answered

~E. B. White

New York is to the nation what the white church spire is to the village - the visible symbol of aspiration and faith, the white plume saying the way is up!

~E. B. White

Thurber did not write the way a surgeon operates, he wrote the way a child skips rope, the way a mouse waltzes.

~E. B. White

A single overstatement, wherever or however it occurs, diminishes the whole, and a carefree superlative has the power to destroy, for the reader, the object of the writer's enthusiasm.

~E. B. White

Before the seed there comes the thought of bloom.

~E. B. White

You're terrific as far as I am concerned.

~E. B. White

Deathlessness should be arrived at in a... haphazard fashion. Loving fame as much as any man, we shall carve our initials in the shell of a tortoise and turn him loose in a peat bog.

~E. B. White

Whatever else an American believes or disbelieves about himself, he is absolutely sure he has a sense of humor.

~E. B. White

new york provides not only a continuing excitation but also a spectacle that is continuing.

~E. B. White

The whole problem is to establish communication with ones self.

~E. B. White

A candidate could easily commit political suicide if he were to come up with an unconventional thought during a presidential tour.

~E. B. White

Well,â€• said Stuart, â€œa misspelled word is an abomination in the sight of everyone.

~E. B. White

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