

# Francine Prose Quotes

*Writing, Reading, Book, Literature, Thinking, School, Loss, Grief, Ideas, Class,  
Skills, Children, Fiction, Army, Creative, Expression, Believe, Obsession,  
Information, Mean*

Like most-maybe all- writers, I learned to write by writing and, by example, by reading books.

~Francine Prose

All the elements of good writing depend on the writer's skill in choosing one word instead of another.

~Francine Prose

Reading was like eating alone, with that same element of bingeing.

~Francine Prose

I remember, when I was a little kid, I was good at sports, and I could jump off the high board. And then puberty hit, and suddenly I was looking to boys for direction. I remember that as a great loss.

~Francine Prose

When we humans speak, we are not merely communicating information but attempting to make an impression and achieve a goal.

~Francine Prose

What I love is how pissed off Jane Eyre is. She's in a rage for the whole novel and the payoff is she gets to marry this blind guy who's toasted his wife in the attic." -Angela Argo "Blue Angel

~Francine Prose

A lot of girls who turn into something remarkable start off as irrepressible, confident and a handful.

~Francine Prose

We never believe we're beautiful, no matter how many times we hear it. We never believe it until someone says it in the right way.

~Francine Prose

Like seeing a photograph of yourself as a child, encountering

handwriting that you know was once yours but that now seems only dimly familiar can inspire a confrontation with the mystery of time.

~Francine Prose

I can no more reread my own books than I can watch old home movies or look at snapshots of myself as a child. I wind up sitting on the floor, paralyzed by grief and nostalgia.

~Francine Prose

There are many occasions in literature in which telling is far more effective than showing.

~Francine Prose

I've always found that the better the book I'm reading, the smarter I feel, or, at least, the more able I am to imagine that I might, someday, become smarter.

~Francine Prose

I know a lot of Eastern Europeans, and because of what they have been through and what they have seen, they have an attitude where they are not easily fooled.

~Francine Prose

You aim for what you want and if you don't get it, you don't get it, but if you don't aim, you don't get anything.

~Francine Prose

People see everything through the lens of their obsessions.

~Francine Prose

If we want to write, it makes sense to read—and to read like a writer. If we wanted to grow roses, we would want to visit rose gardens and try to see them the way that a rose gardener would.

~Francine Prose

I think poets are much more dramatic, more theatrical than fiction writers.

~Francine Prose

If things are going well I can easily spend twelve hours a day writing, but not writing writing, just thinking and revising and taking a comma out and putting it back in.

~Francine Prose

Words are the raw material out of which literature is crafted.

~Francine Prose

Traditionally, the love of reading has been born and nurtured in high school English class

~Francine Prose

I work really long days and I work seven day weeks.

~Francine Prose

Fact-checking is so boring compared to writing fiction.

~Francine Prose

I wrote about four novels before I wrote a word of journalism.

~Francine Prose

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