

Gene Wolfe

Quotes

Thinking, Men, Writing, Believe, People, Children, Two, Mind, Real, Want, Space, Stories, Matter, Book, Dream, Mean, Spring, Talking, Past, Novel

You never learn how to write a novel. You just learn how to write the novel that you're writing.

~Gene Wolfe

Imagine a man who stands before a mirror; a stone strikes it, and it falls to ruin all in an instant. And the man learns that he is himself, and not the mirrored man he had believed himself to be.

~Gene Wolfe

People don't want other people to be people.

~Gene Wolfe

Weak people believe what is forced on them. Strong people what they wish to believe, forcing that to be real.

~Gene Wolfe

Knowledge is soon changed, then lost in the mist, an echo half-heard.

~Gene Wolfe

There is no limit to stupidity. - Space itself is said to be bounded by its own curvature, but stupidity continues beyond infinity.

~Gene Wolfe

My definition of good literature is that which can be read by an educated reader, and reread with increased pleasure.

~Gene Wolfe

Ambiguity is necessary in some of my stories, not in all. In those, it certainly contributes to the richness of the story. I doubt that thematic closure is never attainable.

~Gene Wolfe

Evolution teaches us the original purpose of language was to ritualize men's threats and curses, his spells to compel the gods;

communication came later.

~Gene Wolfe

All time exists. That is the truth.... If the future did not exist now, how could we journey toward it? If the past does not exist still, how could we leave it behind?

~Gene Wolfe

We believe that we invent symbols. The truth is that they invent us; we are their creatures, shaped by their hard, defining edges.

~Gene Wolfe

Before you ask more questions, think about whether you really want to know the answers.

~Gene Wolfe

All novels are fantasies. Some are more honest about it.

~Gene Wolfe

You do not characterize by telling the reader about the character. You do it by showing the character thinking, speaking and acting in a characteristic way. You simply show it and shut up.

~Gene Wolfe

So powerful is the charm of words, which for us reduces to manageable entities all the passions that would otherwise madden and destroy us.

~Gene Wolfe

Hope is a psychological mechanism unaffected by external realities.

~Gene Wolfe

You seem to think that the only genuine existence evil can have is conscious existence - that no one is evil unless he admits it to himself. I disagree.

~Gene Wolfe

That we are capable only of being what we are remains our unforgivable sin.

~Gene Wolfe

We have treatments for disturbed persons, Nicholas. But, at least for the time being, we have no treatment for disturbing persons.

~Gene Wolfe

...in some situations winning consist[s] of disentangling oneself.

~Gene Wolfe

Science has so accustomed us to devising and accepting theories to account for the facts we observe, however fantastic, that our minds must begin their manufacture before we are aware of it.

~Gene Wolfe

I don't think anyone is more intrinsically holy. People experience God in many ways; and it seems to me that God does what the rest of us do: He chooses the means that best gets His message across.

~Gene Wolfe

Men to whom wine had brought death long before lay by springs of wine and drank still, too stupefied to know their lives were past.

~Gene Wolfe

When a gift is deserved, it is not a gift but a payment.

~Gene Wolfe

What a man knows hardly matters. It is what he does.

~Gene Wolfe

Religion and science have always been matters of faith in something. It

is the same something.

~Gene Wolfe

All of us... when we think we are talking most intimately to someone else, are actually addressing an image we have of the person to whom we believe we speak.

~Gene Wolfe

...I rejoiced in the flaws that made her more real to me

~Gene Wolfe

There's a certain kind of lonely man who rejects love, because he believes that anyone who offers it wouldn't be a lover worth having.

~Gene Wolfe

Do not start a story unless you have an ending in mind. You can change the story's ending if you wish, but you should always have a destination.

~Gene Wolfe

There is no magic. There is only knowledge, more or less hidden.

~Gene Wolfe

God is the nest we build together.

~Gene Wolfe

Men are said to desire women, Severian. Why do they despise the women they obtain?

~Gene Wolfe

He's not rewarding us by talking to us. He's talking to us because He has something to say to us directly, as opposed to the things He says to all humanity.

~Gene Wolfe

Have a short story feature two situations, and then let them solve each other.

~Gene Wolfe

I was trapped in admiration for what I had once admired, as a fly in amber remains the captive of some long-vanished pine.

~Gene Wolfe

A youthful American voice isn't particularly challenging - I've been a young American, and they're all around me. I can walk from my house to Barrington High School.

~Gene Wolfe

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