

John Edgar Wideman Quotes

*Book, People, Writing, Dream, Thinking, Past, Father, Men, Fighting,
Basketball, Children, Feelings, Might, Race, Years, Important, Giving, Pain, Fall,
Want*

Do not fall asleep in your enemy's dream.

~John Edgar Wideman

A great artist transforms our world, removes scales from our eyes, plugs from our ears, gloves from our fingertips and teaches us to perceive reality differently.

~John Edgar Wideman

As a writer, you don't know what the hell you're doing. You're just doing it. You hope it works out well.

~John Edgar Wideman

I had a deep prejudice against the South. It's taken me many years to get over that, be more open and thoughtful.

~John Edgar Wideman

Good writing is always about things that are important to you, things that are scary to you, things that eat you up.

~John Edgar Wideman

One of the earliest lessons I learned as a child was that if you looked away from something, it might not be there when you looked back.

~John Edgar Wideman

You have to be a minor superhero just to get to be a dignified man, and that's kind of exacerbated for men of color.

~John Edgar Wideman

I believe - what did Faulkner say? "The past is not even past."

~John Edgar Wideman

Books are an attempt to control something that's uncontrollable.

~John Edgar Wideman

That's the beauty and the terror of being human beings: We just have these symbolic languages, these dreams, and that's all it ever is.

~John Edgar Wideman

If Mumia Abu-Jamal has nothing important to say, why are so many powerful people trying to shut him up?

~John Edgar Wideman

Remember that a book is many drafts - mine certainly are. It's improvisation. It's as much jazz and the way we talk and the way I heard people preach coming up as it is writing.

~John Edgar Wideman

I don't tell everything. I want the reader to have the feeling that maybe they know the whole truth, but they don't.

~John Edgar Wideman

I get off on anticipating and waiting much more than I get off on the actual event.

~John Edgar Wideman

If I had only a negative side of things to present, I think I would have much less of a drive to do it. Because what would be the point?

~John Edgar Wideman

My mother loved my father. From my view, she let him get away with too much. It broke my heart to see him in an old people's home and stop being strong and lose his voice.

~John Edgar Wideman

My father combined many of the elements that were feared in the culture, but also he was a warm figure, a figure we needed. We depended on him to give us a little bit of strength and courage.

~John Edgar Wideman

Even in my adult years, when I heard a white person speaking in a Southern accent I was initially suspicious.

~John Edgar Wideman

There are still horrible things that go on because of the myth of race, but we don't have to succumb totally.

~John Edgar Wideman

To be a survivor as an African American man - maybe any man - you have to be pretty tough. Or at least that's what we all understand.

~John Edgar Wideman

Our thoughts, our language, are always at a distance from whatever they're trying to describe. We have other kinds of languages, like mathematics, like music, like art, but there's always that gap.

~John Edgar Wideman

We're dreamers and - since we only have one life, and if we screw up we can get in a world of trouble - we're very intense dreamers.

~John Edgar Wideman

I want to give the evidence in a way that is convincing, but I don't want to cheat.

~John Edgar Wideman

I'm still vulnerable and still weak.

~John Edgar Wideman

I can't pretend that I did one really awful thing - I took a bite out of the apple but now I'm never going to sin again.

~John Edgar Wideman

Things seem to fall apart inevitably.

~John Edgar Wideman

I really dislike it when people talk about "experimental," because any good writer is experimental.

~John Edgar Wideman

Hell, I'm going to play pro basketball. I'm going to maybe be famous. I'm going to write books.

~John Edgar Wideman

Related Links:

- Book Quotes
- People Quotes
- Writing Quotes
- Dream Quotes
- Thinking Quotes
- Past Quotes
- Father Quotes
- Men Quotes
- Fighting Quotes
- Basketball Quotes
- Children Quotes
- Feelings Quotes
- Might Quotes
- Race Quotes
- Years Quotes
- Important Quotes
- Giving Quotes
- Pain Quotes
- Fall Quotes
- Want Quotes