

# Norman Lock Quotes

*Writing, Character, Fiction, Stories, Voice, Believe, Purpose, Reading, Pieces,  
Use, Drama, Ideas, Giving, Intelligent, Humans, Viewpoints, Country, Religious,  
Views, Theatre*

A first-person voice helps to ensure the uniformity and cohesiveness of the narrative; it gathers unto itself incidents and characters in its unstoppable progress toward the story's end.

~Norman Lock

I don't know about ground rules; but I create the world that arrives with the characters or situation or voice in my head that instigates the piece, whatever form it may take.

~Norman Lock

The persona in my stories may be truer to my "real" self than any alleged objective, factual "I" that I could replicate for the purposes of storytelling.

~Norman Lock

I used to teach writing in a federal prison, and for my students' benefit, I would liken the narrative use of this highly personal point of view to a boxer's getting in close to his opponent.

~Norman Lock

My fondness for extended monologue might have been encouraged by two decades of writing stage and radio dramas.

~Norman Lock

I tell myself that, regardless of what source I draw on, I'm writing a new work for reasons peculiar to me and not an adaptation, and so feel, in the end, justified in singing it my way.

~Norman Lock

Eventually, I came to believe, stupidly, that I had exhausted that story's "original" form with its single use. I went on to other stories, other forms and genres.

~Norman Lock

I admitted that I did not understand life. What I meant was that I am bewildered by human hearts and motivations, including my own.

~Norman Lock

I very much like the idea of the unreliable narrator. Shaping my fictions as monologues - by introducing the "I" - allows me to be as unreliable as I like.

~Norman Lock

For me, fiction's great gift - to writer and reader, alike - is freedom.

~Norman Lock

I'm too ambitious to give another man credit, even if that other man is only myself in disguise.

~Norman Lock

When I was awarded a fellowship in poetry by the National Endowment for the Arts (for "Alphabets"), I felt myself suddenly (vaingloriously) equal to my Crow, which would be - I knew at once - Rat.

~Norman Lock

I do seem to favor a deathbed confession as the occasion for my dramatic monologues.

~Norman Lock

It may be old hat, but I see no reason to close off what is for me a fruitful subject of inquiry, especially so for one, like me, who is very much interested in creating stories and novels of ideas.

~Norman Lock

Each piece of writing I undertake, whether a story, novel, play, or poem, begins with an image.

~Norman Lock

I haven't the stature to critique one of our literature's great novels, Tobias; and I'm not one of those who believe *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* needs critiquing for literary or social reasons.

~Norman Lock

I had hoped to be a poet, and for a long time I tried to write poetry. My first published pieces were poems.

~Norman Lock

I do believe we are actors in our own dramas, which, moment by moment, we ourselves write; that we are characters in our own fictions or those devised for us by someone or something else.

~Norman Lock

Metaphysics notwithstanding, I also insert myself in my fictions for no loftier purpose than to give me pleasure: to see myself performing onstage.

~Norman Lock

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