

Paul Engle

Quotes

*Writing, Horse, Iowa, July, Boys, Reading Poetry, Country, School, Children,
Grief, Abundance, Religious, Battle, Ordinary, Art, Way, Rewriting, Tragedy,
Fire, Church Bells*

Poetry is ordinary language raised to the Nth power. Poetry is boned with ideas, nerved and blooded with emotions, all held together by the delicate, tough skin of words.

~Paul Engle

A barn with cattle and horses is the place to begin Christmas; after all, that's where the original event happened, and that same smell was the first air that the Christ Child breathed.

~Paul Engle

The sharpest memory of our old-fashioned Christmas eve is my mother's hand making sure I was settled in bed.

~Paul Engle

Poetry is ordinary language raised to the Nth power.

~Paul Engle

Verse is not written, it is bled; Out of the poet's abstract head. Words drip the poem on the page; Out of his grief, delight and rage.

~Paul Engle

Other families bought automobiles; we had a horse-headed hitching post in front of our house and drove horses.

~Paul Engle

I grew up in the prolonged survival of the great age of the horse, with harness and saddle and sleigh bells and horse pictures, not as antiques but the facts of our lives.

~Paul Engle

Writing is like this -- you dredge for the poem's meaning the way police dredge for a body. They think it is down there under the black water, they work the grappling hooks back and forth.

~Paul Engle

You come to know the aches and vanities and tastes and intrigues of an entire neighborhood at a drug store.

~Paul Engle

To eat in the same room where food is cooked - that is the way to thank the Lord for His abundance.

~Paul Engle

Without vision you don't see, and without practicality the bills don't get paid.

~Paul Engle

Writing is rewriting what you have rewritten.

~Paul Engle

Corncobs are the greatest fire-making tinder.

~Paul Engle

All poetry is an ordered voice, one which tries to tell you about a vision in the un-visionary language of farm, city, and love.

~Paul Engle

When your first marriage goes into tragedy, you become very battle-scarred... I even thought of suicide. Luckily, I had known some happy marriages.

~Paul Engle

I had been warned about Jews by my gentile friends - they did terrible things with knives to boys.

~Paul Engle

Human life is too difficult for people.

~Paul Engle

I wanted to write poetry almost a little more than I wanted to eat.

~Paul Engle

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