

Russell Banks

Quotes

*Writing, Book, Men, People, Reading, Want, Boys, Kids, Reason, Community,
Care, Discipline, War, Years, Home, Attention, Dentist, Motivation, Political,
Weed*

A couple of years I taught in graduate programs at NYU and Columbia, in the early eighties.

~Russell Banks

If you dedicate your attention to discipline in your life you become smarter while you are writing than while you are hanging out with your pals or in any other line of work.

~Russell Banks

John Brown first swam into my vision in the 1960s when I was a political activist in the civil rights movement and the anti-war movement at Chapel Hill, where I went to university.

~Russell Banks

Like Neanderthals, men prefer to hunt alone or, if in a pack, at the head of it. Women, whether in the field or in a campfire, are collaborative, and when they hunt...they work together.

~Russell Banks

Loyalty is weird, it kicks in when you dont expect it and the people who deserve loyalty least seem to get it the most.

~Russell Banks

Lists of books we reread and books we can't finish tell more about us than about the relative worth of the books themselves.

~Russell Banks

For almost anyone who chooses to be a writer, since so very few writers are able to learn a living from their work that is equivalent to the living earned by the average dentist or accountant.

~Russell Banks

Chimpanzees are endangered. Severely.

~Russell Banks

I began as a boy with artistic talent... as a visual artist... I thought that was what I'd become and in my late teens drifted into reading serious literature.

~Russell Banks

And out of a desire essentially to imitate what I was reading, I began to write, like a clever monkey.

~Russell Banks

But on the other hand, I don't actively seek out stories or hunt them down.

~Russell Banks

The United States particularly abandoned Liberia after the end of the Cold War.

~Russell Banks

What I am finding now is that my audience is getting younger as I get older, which is a very good thing as you know - you don't want them to get older as you get older.

~Russell Banks

Let the truth take care of itself, I decided. It's done all right on its own so far.

~Russell Banks

The best thing about writing programs is that it rationalized the apprenticeship of a writer.

~Russell Banks

Storytelling is an ancient and honorable act. An essential role to play in the community or tribe. It's one that I embrace wholeheartedly and have been fortunate enough to be rewarded for.

~Russell Banks

My major allegiance has been to storytelling, not to history.

~Russell Banks

Nobody does anything for one reason.

~Russell Banks

If you dedicate your attention to discipline in your life you become smarter.

~Russell Banks

It's hard to spend years at a time working in total solitude with no reality-check.

~Russell Banks

Although I still occasionally paint and draw, my life has now been shaped by my writing.

~Russell Banks

First of all it's usually women who run these higher primate sanctuaries, rarely men. They are white. They come from privileged backgrounds. They are educated.

~Russell Banks

Motivations are too tangled and complex.

~Russell Banks

Luck can't last a lifetime unless you die young.

~Russell Banks

Much more than memoir; it's history.

~Russell Banks

Choose your agent as carefully as you would choose your accountant or lawyer. Or dentist.

~Russell Banks

And there are people who want to be writers because they love to write.
And they care.

~Russell Banks

I am not a ventriloquist.

~Russell Banks

Our sins describe us, and our prohibitions describe our sins.

~Russell Banks

One hates a person for the same reason one loves him

~Russell Banks

It's hard to know more about a person's life than what that person
wants you to know.

~Russell Banks

If you are born black, it is better to be born now than in any other time
in United States history. My grandson is black. His life is a different life
than if he had been born when I was born.

~Russell Banks

We know that people we love are both good and bad, but we expect
strangers to be one or the other.

~Russell Banks

There is a wonderful intelligence to the unconscious. It's always
smarter than we are.

~Russell Banks

Through writing, through that process, they realize that they become
more intelligent, and more honest and more imaginative than they can

be in any other part of their life.

~Russell Banks

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