

Tobias Wolff

Quotes

*Writing, People, Stories, Boys, Struggle, Self, Believe, Teaching, Littles,
Inspirational, Real, Work, Love, Fall, Time, Thinking, Memories, Best Short,
Dream, Our Lives*

Time, which is your enemy in almost everything in this life, is your friend in writing.

~Tobias Wolff

We are made to persist. that's how we find out who we are.

~Tobias Wolff

Fearlessness in those without power is maddening to those who have it.

~Tobias Wolff

One of the things that draws writers to writing is that they can get things right that they got wrong in real life by writing about them.

~Tobias Wolff

A piece of writing is a dangerous thing," he said. "It can change your life.

~Tobias Wolff

The beauty of a fragment is that it still supports the hope of brilliant completeness.

~Tobias Wolff

Real maturity is the ability to imagine the humanity of every person as fully as you believe in your own humanity.

~Tobias Wolff

Most of us dont live lives that lend themselves to novelistic expression, because our lives are so fragmented.

~Tobias Wolff

Because I don't have to be careful of people's feelings when I teach literature, and I do when I'm teaching writing.

~Tobias Wolff

You have to be kind of clued into them, they are a world of their own, and most people find them disappointing because the best short stories are not constructed like novels.

~Tobias Wolff

Memory is funny. Once you hit a vein the problem is not how to remember but how to control the flow.

~Tobias Wolff

Everything has to be pulling weight in a short story for it to be really of the first order.

~Tobias Wolff

You felt it as a depth of ease in certain boys, their innate, affable assurance that they would not have to struggle for a place in the world; that is already reserved for them.

~Tobias Wolff

It's probably why I'm a short story writer. I tend to remember things in the past in narrative form, in story form, and I grew up around people who told stories all the time.

~Tobias Wolff

But a lot of writers - and I'm one of them - do tend to feel dissatisfied. It makes you a little hard to live with, but it's a goad and does keep you alert and restless.

~Tobias Wolff

Work for most people is really very social, and the actual thinking is often done in community.

~Tobias Wolff

Like so many writers I started writing stories because I didn't have much time for anything else.

~Tobias Wolff

I believe that the short story is as different a form from the novel as poetry is, and the best stories seem to me to be perhaps closer in spirit to poetry than to novels.

~Tobias Wolff

Writers cannot let themselves be servants of the official mythology. They have to, whatever the cost, say what truth they have to say.

~Tobias Wolff

There's no right way to tell all stories, only the right way to tell a particular story.

~Tobias Wolff

I love Chekhov. I could go on all day about him.

~Tobias Wolff

Reasons always came with a purpose, to give the appearance of a struggle between principle and desire. Principle had power only until you found what you had to have.

~Tobias Wolff

We each after a while have to become reconciled to what it is that our talents and appetites lead us to.

~Tobias Wolff

There are writers who do start doing the same thing again and again and almost inevitably fall into self-parody.

~Tobias Wolff

To be a writer you need to see things as they are, and to see things as they are you need a certain basic innocence.

~Tobias Wolff

I was giving up--being realistic, as people liked to say, meaning the same thing. Being realistic made me feel bitter.

~Tobias Wolff

Want! You must want something. What do you want?

~Tobias Wolff

One of the last courses I taught was on the Russian short story, which I love.

~Tobias Wolff

There's a joy in writing short stories, a wonderful sense of reward when you pull certain things off.

~Tobias Wolff

You don't teach information in a writing workshop.

~Tobias Wolff

The human heart is a dark forest.

~Tobias Wolff

One can imagine a world without essays. It would be a little poorer, of course, like a world without chess, but one could live in it.

~Tobias Wolff

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