

Tracy Kidder Quotes

*Writing, People, Book, Thinking, Believe, Giving, Two, Want, Ocean, Enough,
Way, Teacher, House, Care, Needs, Humanity, Strange, Weapons, Airplane,
Struggle*

The hardest thing was learning to write. I was 13, and the only writing I had done was for Social Studies. It consisted of copying passages right out of the encyclopedia

~Tracy Kidder

Writing is revision. All prose responds to work.

~Tracy Kidder

Don't worry about being worried. You're heading out on an adventure and you can always change your mind along the way and try something else.

~Tracy Kidder

You do the right thing even if it makes you feel bad. The purpose of life is not to be happy but to be worthy of happiness.

~Tracy Kidder

The combination of domesticity and wildness - that's a deep expression

~Tracy Kidder

among a coward's weapons, cynicism is the nastiest of all

~Tracy Kidder

Things were here before you and will be here after you're gone. The geographic features, especially, give you a sense of your own place in the world and in time

~Tracy Kidder

I know that to write you have to have stories you want to tell. You have to keep your mind alive, and you have to work hard.

~Tracy Kidder

Continuity is one of the things I like about New England.

~Tracy Kidder

I never planned on doing a book about Paul Farmer or his organization. I met him in Haiti when I was on a magazine assignment. It's almost like his story sort of fell in my lap.

~Tracy Kidder

When I select a topic, it's usually a commitment of two to three years of my life

~Tracy Kidder

Public education rests precariously on the skill and virtue of the people at the bottom of the institutional pyramid.

~Tracy Kidder

In order to go on with our lives, we are always capable of making the ominous into the merely strange.

~Tracy Kidder

What I like about non-fiction is that it covers such a huge territory. The best non-fiction is also creative

~Tracy Kidder

If you had an essentially happy childhood, that tends to dwell with you.

~Tracy Kidder

In a very basic way, a prominent landmark such as Mt. Holyoke tells you where you are. They let you know that you're not the first person in a place

~Tracy Kidder

I'm going to a commune in Vermont and will deal with no unit of time shorter than a season.

~Tracy Kidder

The only real nation is humanity

~Tracy Kidder

...Attempts at imitation would put the emphasis where it didn't belong. The goal was to improve the lives of others, not oneself.

~Tracy Kidder

What interests me is trying to catch the reflection of the human being on the page. I'm interested in how ordinary people live their lives

~Tracy Kidder

I want my prose to be as clear as a pane of glass.

~Tracy Kidder

That's when I feel most alive, he told me once on an airplane, when I'm helping people.

~Tracy Kidder

You can write about anything, and if you write well enough, even the reader with no intrinsic interest in the subject will become involved.

~Tracy Kidder

I wrote a novel about the combat experiences I didn't have in Vietnam.

~Tracy Kidder

God gives us humans everything we need to flourish, but he's not the one who's supposed to divvy up the loot. That charge was laid upon us

~Tracy Kidder

At first, I spend about four hours a day writing. Toward the end of a book, I spend up to 16 hours a day on it, because all I want to do is make it good and get it done.

~Tracy Kidder

I tell beginning readers to read a lot and write a lot. If you want to write a book, find a subject that's really worth the time and effort you'll put in.

~Tracy Kidder

Obviously, computers have made differences. They have fostered the development of spaceships- as well as a great increase in junk mail.

~Tracy Kidder

The goofiness of radicals thinking they have to dress in Guatemalan peasant clothes. The poor don't want you to look like them. They want you to dress in a suit and go get them food and water. Comma.

~Tracy Kidder

People say you cant teach writing, but I think thats nonsense.

~Tracy Kidder

I always want to write something better than the last book.

~Tracy Kidder

I think if the writing comes too easily, it shows - it's usually hard to read.

~Tracy Kidder

Curing yourself of obsessive compulsive disorder by going to a strip club is pretty strange.

~Tracy Kidder

My big struggle is how people can not care, erase, not remember.

~Tracy Kidder

I've gotta keep life and computers separate, or else I'm gonna go mad.

~Tracy Kidder

Being a professional writer is not an easy way to make a living.

~Tracy Kidder

The ocean doesn't care about you. It makes your boat feel tiny. The oceans are great promoters of religion, or at least of humility-but not in everyone.

~Tracy Kidder

If you live in the same small place long enough, something you don't like is bound to happen

~Tracy Kidder

When writers stop believing in their own stories, readers tend to sense it.

~Tracy Kidder

... "You may not see the ocean, but right now we are in the middle of the ocean, and we have to keep swimming.

~Tracy Kidder

I do believe that enduring geological features are important, though I don't think I can be clear about exactly why.

~Tracy Kidder

Related Links:

- Writing Quotes
- People Quotes
- Book Quotes
- Thinking Quotes
- Believe Quotes
- Giving Quotes
- Two Quotes
- Want Quotes
- Ocean Quotes
- Enough Quotes
- Way Quotes
- Teacher Quotes
- House Quotes
- Care Quotes
- Needs Quotes
- Humanity Quotes
- Strange Quotes
- Weapons Quotes
- Airplane Quotes
- Struggle Quotes