

Vikram Seth Quotes

*Thinking, Writing, Book, People, Inspiration, Long, Important, Should, World,
Eye, Novel, Reading, Needs, Found, Games, Prayer, Frustration, Too Late,
Sleep, Mean*

I sometimes seem to myself to wander around the world merely accumulating material for future nostalgias.

~Vikram Seth

Don't put things off till it's too late. You are the DJ of your fate.

~Vikram Seth

Put your backbone where your wishbone is.

~Vikram Seth

The thing about inspiration is that it takes your mind off everything else.

~Vikram Seth

And an equation is the same whether it's written in red or green ink

~Vikram Seth

I certainly think its very important that writers as citizens - not necessarily as writers, but just as ordinary citizens - should talk about things that matter to them.

~Vikram Seth

What is the difference between my life and my love? One gets me low, the other lets me go.

~Vikram Seth

I think it's possible to be multi-rooted, rather like a banyan tree, without being deracinated.

~Vikram Seth

I think if something is worth doing, it's worth doing well. And worth thinking about it as well.

~Vikram Seth

To not be able to love the one you love is to have your life wrenched away.

~Vikram Seth

Every object strives for its proper place. A book seeks to be near its truest admirer. Just as this helpless moth seeks to be near the candle that infatuates him.

~Vikram Seth

For a writer, obsession is a good substitute for self-discipline.

~Vikram Seth

I am certainly not allergic to causes - particularly on subjects such as religious intolerance.

~Vikram Seth

Poetry, I think, intensifies the reader's experience. If it's a humorous facet of the story, poetry makes it more exuberant. If it's a sad facet, poetry can make it more poignant.

~Vikram Seth

In life's brief game to be a winner A man must have...oh yes, above All else, of course, someone to love.

~Vikram Seth

I'm not sure anyone can understand a whole life, even their own.

~Vikram Seth

Is it not love that knows how to make smooth things rough and rough things smooth?

~Vikram Seth

Think of many things. Never place your happiness in one person's power. Be just to yourself.

~Vikram Seth

I don't think anyone should be banned. If you don't like a book, set it aside.

~Vikram Seth

God save us from people who mean well.

~Vikram Seth

So many Indian novels, quite unfairly, do not get the prominence they should because they have been written in a language other than English.

~Vikram Seth

I need my natural laziness to be counteracted by obsession in order to do anything.

~Vikram Seth

I have a reputation for being hermitlike. I'm not. I'm just obsessed with my work.

~Vikram Seth

Good music is good music, but it has to be good.

~Vikram Seth

I often feel newspapers are just filling up space. Of course, I also know people who write really long books.

~Vikram Seth

I rarely listen to music while writing. If I don't like it, it bothers me, and if I like it, it absorbs me so much I can't write.

~Vikram Seth

You have to learn a few things, which you do along the way, but

basically, poetry is a matter of the ear. Iambic pentameters or what constitutes a stanza comes naturally - your ears will know.

~Vikram Seth

I just love music - by no stretch of the imagination am I professionally competent.

~Vikram Seth

It's not the gods But our own hearts We need to fear. The evil starts Against all odds Not there but here.

~Vikram Seth

Boredom provides a stronger inclination to write than anything.

~Vikram Seth

Fiction basically is a form of gossip where you want to enter other people's lives, the lives of people you don't know, and you want to know what's going to happen to them.

~Vikram Seth

It is exciting to write about the present once one gets beyond the trivia of the moment. As a time to live in, as a time to think about, the present is intriguing.

~Vikram Seth

There are plenty of good Indian writers in English, and none of us feel we are carrying the burden of being a poster boy.

~Vikram Seth

Dear though the reader might be, I'd be silly to cater to what the reader wanted.

~Vikram Seth

I want my books to sell, to be read. I'm not interested in being obscure.

~Vikram Seth

Why do writers, say, give up a job in economics and decide to write poetry? Or, why do they give up a job in a bank and decide to paint, like Krishan Khanna? They want to convey something.

~Vikram Seth

Those books of mine that are remunerative - I'm not talking about poetry here - take years to write, and I am never sure they'll be successful. So writing is a risk in more senses than one.

~Vikram Seth

I don't think people give Indian society enough credit. We may not like to talk much about things but we do, basically, want to live and let live.

~Vikram Seth

You know, I can imagine not writing a novel and writing poetry only.

~Vikram Seth

You can talk good ideas out of existence.

~Vikram Seth

I think goodness is about how person behaves to person, and also person to world, to nature.

~Vikram Seth

Of course, the greater one's need, the greater one's propensity to be mesmerized.

~Vikram Seth

I don't pick and choose subjects or settings; they pick and choose me.

~Vikram Seth

I simply seem to drift. But I sort of allow the drift, because it has a kind

of check - it forces me to work harder at what I'm interested in.

~Vikram Seth

In spite of all temptations of belonging to many nations, I've remained an Indian.

~Vikram Seth

In a painting, you can't make out whether the artist painted the left eye before the right eye. In Chinese calligraphy, you can see the progression of the artist's stroke.

~Vikram Seth

And the process of reading is such a private one. I once came into a room where a friend of mine was reading one of my books, and he clicked his tongue impatiently and shooed me off.

~Vikram Seth

I tend to follow a scattershot approach to reading a lot of very diverse subjects interest me, and I'm quite happy to read stuff on any of them.

~Vikram Seth

My eyes close. I am here and not here. A waking nap? A flight to the end of the galaxy and perhaps a couple of billion light-years beyond?

~Vikram Seth

You get your inspiration - suggestions - wherever you have to, even from your mother.

~Vikram Seth

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