

William Faulkner

Quotes

*Men, Writing, Thinking, People, Long, Art, Dream, Book, Artist, Life, Trying,
Believe, Littles, Lying, Mean, Moving, Past, Heart, Children, Running*

Never be afraid to raise your voice for honesty and truth and compassion against injustice and lying and greed. If people all over the world...would do this, it would change the earth.

~William Faulkner

You cannot swim for new horizons until you have courage to lose sight of the shore.

~William Faulkner

To understand the world, you must first understand a place like Mississippi.

~William Faulkner

Unless you're ashamed of yourself now and then, you're not honest

~William Faulkner

We must be free not because we claim freedom, but because we practice it.

~William Faulkner

Given the choice between the experience of pain and nothing, I would choose pain.

~William Faulkner

Don't do what you can do - try what you can't do.

~William Faulkner

There is no such thing as bad whiskey. Some whiskeys just happen to be better than others. But a man shouldn't fool with booze until he's fifty; then he's a damn fool if he doesn't.

~William Faulkner

Memory believes before knowing remembers. Believes longer than recollects, longer than knowing even wonders.

~William Faulkner

To live anywhere in the world today and be against equality because of race or color is like living in Alaska and being against snow.

~William Faulkner

Always dream and shoot higher than you know you can do. Don't bother just to be better than your contemporaries or predecessors. Try to be better than yourself.

~William Faulkner

I believe man will not merely endure, he will prevail...because he has a spirit capable of compassion and sacrifice and endurance.

~William Faulkner

Facts and truth really don't have much to do with each other.

~William Faulkner

A mule will labor ten years willingly and patiently for you, for the privilege of kicking you once.

~William Faulkner

The past is never dead. It's not even past.

~William Faulkner

The best job that was ever offered to me was to become a landlord in a brothel. In my opinion it's the perfect milieu for an artist to work in.

~William Faulkner

Our most treasured family heirloom are our sweet family memories. The past is never dead, it is not even past.

~William Faulkner

You should approach Joyce's Ulysses as the illiterate Baptist preacher

approaches the Old Testament: with faith.

~William Faulkner

The writer's only responsibility is to his art...If a writer has to rob his mother, he will not hesitate; the 'Ode on a Grecian Urn' is worth any number of old ladies.

~William Faulkner

You don't love because: you love despite; not for the virtues, but despite the faults.

~William Faulkner

Tomorrow night is nothing but one long sleepless wrestle with yesterday's omissions and regrets.

~William Faulkner

Clocks slay time... time is dead as long as it is being clicked off by little wheels; only when the clock stops does time come to life.

~William Faulkner

Nothing can destroy the good writer. The only thing that can alter the good writer is death. Good ones don't have time to bother with success or getting rich.

~William Faulkner

A gentleman accepts the responsibility of his actions and bears the burden of their consequences.

~William Faulkner

You like orchids?... Nasty things. Their flesh is too much like the flesh of men, their perfume has the rotten sweetness of corruption.

~William Faulkner

Civilization begins with distillation

~William Faulkner

Be scared. You can't help that. But don't be afraid.

~William Faulkner

Mississippi begins in a lobby of a Memphis, Tennessee hotel and extends south to the Gulf of Mexico

~William Faulkner

There are some things for which three words are three too many, and three thousand words that many words too less.

~William Faulkner

Well, between Scotch and nothin', I suppose I'd take Scotch. It's the nearest thing to good moonshine I can find.

~William Faulkner

For every Southern boy fourteen years old, not once but whenever he wants it, there is the instant when it's still not yet two o'clock on that July afternoon in 1863...

~William Faulkner

Truth; that long clean clear simple undeniable unchallengeable straight and shining line, on one side of which black is black and on the other white is white, has now become an angle, a point of view.

~William Faulkner

Pouring out liquor is like burning books.

~William Faulkner

An artist is a creature driven by demons. He don't know why they choose him and he's usually too busy to wonder why.

~William Faulkner

A man is the sum of his misfortunes. One day you'd think misfortune would get tired but then time is your misfortune

~William Faulkner

The salvation of the world is in man's suffering.

~William Faulkner

A bus station is where a bus stops. A train station is where a train stops. On my desk, I have a work stationâ€¦!

~William Faulkner

And I will look down and see my murmuring bones and the deep water like wind, like a roof of wind, and after a long time they cannot distinguish even bones upon the lonely and inviolate sand.

~William Faulkner

We have to start teaching ourselves not to be afraid.

~William Faulkner

The aim of every artist is to arrest motion, which is life, by artificial means and hold it fixed so that a hundred years later, when a stranger looks at it, it moves again since it is life.

~William Faulkner

It is not proof that I sought. I, of all men, know that proof is but a fallacy invented by man to justify to himself and his fellows his own crass lust and folly.

~William Faulkner

My ideal job? Landlord of a bordello! The company's good and the mornings are quiet, which is the best time to write.

~William Faulkner

One of the saddest things is that the only thing that a man can do for

eight hours a day, day after day, is work. You can't eat...nor make love for eight hours...

~William Faulkner

The books I read are the ones I knew and loved when I was a young man and to which I return as you do to old friends.

~William Faulkner

My own experience has been that the tools I need for my trade are paper, tobacco, food, and a little whisky.

~William Faulkner

Wonder. Go on and wonder.

~William Faulkner

It's all now you see: tomorrow began yesterday and yesterday won't be over until tomorrow.

~William Faulkner

Don't be 'a writer'. Be writing.

~William Faulkner

Because no battle is ever won he said. They are not even fought. The field only reveals to man his own folly and despair, and victory is an illusion of philosophers and fools.

~William Faulkner

The best fiction is far more true than any journalism.

~William Faulkner

I'd have wasted a lot of time and trouble before I learned that the best way to take all people, black or white, is to take them for what they think they are, then leave them alone.

~William Faulkner

Time is a fluid condition which has no existence except in the momentary avatars of individual people. There is no such thing as was - only is.

~William Faulkner

The end of wisdom is to dream high enough to lose the dream in the seeking of it.

~William Faulkner

Always dream and shoot higher than you know you can do.

~William Faulkner

The work never matches the dream of perfection the artist has to start with.

~William Faulkner

War and drink are the two things man is never too poor to buy.

~William Faulkner

The last sound on the worthless earth will be two human beings trying to launch a homemade spaceship and already quarreling about where they are going next.

~William Faulkner

No battle is ever won ... victory is an illusion of philosophers and fools.

~William Faulkner

The poet's voice need not merely be the record of man, it can be one of the props, the pillars to help him endure and prevail.

~William Faulkner

...the reason for living was to get ready to stay dead a long time.

~William Faulkner

Like a fellow running from or toward a gun ain't got time to worry whether the word for what he is doing is courage or cowardice.

~William Faulkner

Don't bother just to be better than others. Try to be better than yourself.

~William Faulkner

Perhaps they were right putting love into books. Perhaps it could not live anywhere else.

~William Faulkner

Believe that man will not merely endure; he will prevail.

~William Faulkner

There is that might-have-been which is the single rock we cling to above the maelstrom of unbearable reality.

~William Faulkner

A writer needs three things, experience, observation, and imagination, any two of which, at times any one of which, can supply the lack of the others.

~William Faulkner

It is assumed that anyone who makes a million dollars has a unique gift, though he might have made it off some useless gadget.

~William Faulkner

I love Virginians because Virginians are all snobs and I like snobs. A snob has to spend so much time being a snob that he has little time left to meddle with you.

~William Faulkner

Only when the clock stops does time come to life

~William Faulkner

...how false the most profound book turns out to be when applied to life.

~William Faulkner

He has never been known to use a word that might send a reader to the dictionary.

~William Faulkner

Gratitude is a quality similar to electricity: it must be produced and discharged and used up in order to exist at all.

~William Faulkner

The only environment the artist needs is whatever peace, whatever solitude, and whatever pleasure he can get at not too high a cost.

~William Faulkner

We cannot choose freedom established on a hierarchy of degrees of freedom, on a caste system of equality like military rank. We must be free not because we claim freedom, but because we practice it.

~William Faulkner

A writer must teach himself that the basest of all things is to be afraid.

~William Faulkner

No man can cause more grief than that one clinging blindly to the vices of his ancestors.

~William Faulkner

There is no such thing as a bad whisky. Some whiskies just happen to be better than others.

~William Faulkner

It is the writer's privilege to help man endure by lifting his heart.

~William Faulkner

Talk, talk, talk: the utter and heartbreaking stupidity of words.

~William Faulkner

If a story is in you, it has to come out.

~William Faulkner

Get it down. Take chances. It may be bad, but that's the only way you can do anything really good.

~William Faulkner

This is a free country. Folks have a right to send me letters, and I have a right not to read them.

~William Faulkner

I know now that what makes a fool is an inability to take even his own good advice.

~William Faulkner

The only thing worth writing about is the human heart in conflict with itself

~William Faulkner

The artist doesn't have time to listen to the critics. The ones who want to be writers read the reviews, the ones who want to write don't have the time to read reviews.

~William Faulkner

How often have I lain beneath rain on a strange roof, thinking of home.

~William Faulkner

A writer is congenitally unable to tell the truth and that is why we call

what he writes fiction.

~William Faulkner

The quality an artist must have is objectivity in judging his work, plus the honesty and courage not to kid himself about it.

~William Faulkner

There is something about jumping a horse over a fence, something that makes you feel good. Perhaps it's the risk, the gamble. In any event it's a thing I need.

~William Faulkner

When I have one martini, I feel bigger, wiser, taller. When I have a second, I feel superlative. When I have more, there's no holding me.

~William Faulkner

There is no such thing as was - only is. If was existed, there would be no grief or sorrow.

~William Faulkner

I feel like a wet seed wild in the hot blind earth.

~William Faulkner

Every man has a different idea of what's beautiful, and it's best to take the gesture, the shadow of the branch, and let the mind create the tree.

~William Faulkner

Everyone in the South has no time for reading because they are all too busy writing.

~William Faulkner

Your illusions are a part of you like your bones and flesh and memory.

~William Faulkner

When my horse is running good, I don't stop to give him sugar.

~William Faulkner

I knew that nobody but a luckless man could ever need a doctor in the face of a cyclone.

~William Faulkner

People need trouble - a little frustration to sharpen the spirit on, toughen it.

~William Faulkner

I never know what I think about something until I read what I've written on it.

~William Faulkner

I am not one of those women who can stand things.

~William Faulkner

Related Links:

- Men Quotes
- Writing Quotes
- Thinking Quotes
- People Quotes
- Long Quotes
- Art Quotes
- Dream Quotes
- Book Quotes
- Artist Quotes
- Life Quotes
- Trying Quotes
- Believe Quotes
- Littles Quotes
- Lying Quotes
- Mean Quotes
- Moving Quotes
- Past Quotes
- Heart Quotes
- Children Quotes
- Running Quotes