“Writer to Writer”

**“**The thing is, ‘A writer is somebody for whom writing is more difficult than it is for other people.’[[1]](#endnote-0) For us, ‘Writing is a process of self-discipline you must learn before you can call yourself a writer. There are people who write, but I think they’re quite different from people who must write.’[[2]](#endnote-1) Writers know that ‘The difference between the right word and the almost right word is the difference between lightning and a lightning bug.’[[3]](#endnote-2) Live greatly, for ‘My ideas usually come not at my desk, but in the midst of living,’[[4]](#endnote-3) but ‘I’m really only alive when I’m writing.’[[5]](#endnote-4) You have to embrace that ‘Writing is a socially acceptable form of schizophrenia.’[[6]](#endnote-5) For in reality, ‘A writer is someone who can make a riddle out of an answer,’[[7]](#endnote-6) such as, ‘Why is a raven like a writing desk?’[[8]](#endnote-7) Evermore, ‘The true genius shudders at incompleteness and truly prefers silence to saying something which is not everything it should be.’[[9]](#endnote-8) So, make it count. ‘And by the way, everything in life is writable about if you have the outgoing guts to do it and the imagination to improvise. The worst enemy to creativity is self-doubt.’[[10]](#endnote-9) It’s going to be hard, ‘The profession of book writing makes horse racing seem like a reliable, stable business.’[[11]](#endnote-10) But don’t be afraid to call yourself a writer! ‘Fear of the name increases fear of the thing of the thing itself.’[[12]](#endnote-11) Make failure impossible, for ‘When you have eliminated the impossible, whatever remains, however improbable, must be the truth.’[[13]](#endnote-12) Take risks in your writing, and know that ‘Not all those who wander are lost.’[[14]](#endnote-13) Always remember, ‘There is no certainty, only opportunity.’[[15]](#endnote-14) It is up to you, ‘It is not in the stars to hold our destiny, but in ourselves.’[[16]](#endnote-15) And, ‘We die. That may be the meaning of life. But we do language. That may be the measure of our lives.’[[17]](#endnote-16) While you’re here, ‘Either write something worth reading or do something worth writing.’[[18]](#endnote-17) Keep creating, and ‘May the odds be ever in your favor.’[[19]](#endnote-18)**”**

1. Thomas Mann, *Essays of Three Decades*, 1947 [↑](#endnote-ref-0)
2. Harper Lee, “Interview with Harper Lee, by Roy Newquist”, 1964 [↑](#endnote-ref-1)
3. Mark Twain, Letter to George Bainton, 1888 [↑](#endnote-ref-2)
4. Anais Nin, http://www.brainyquote.com/ [↑](#endnote-ref-3)
5. Tennessee Williams, http://www.brainyquote.com/ [↑](#endnote-ref-4)
6. E.L. Doctorow, http://www.brainyquote.com/ [↑](#endnote-ref-5)
7. Karl Krauss, http://www.brainyquote.com/ [↑](#endnote-ref-6)
8. Lewis Carroll, *Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland*, 1865 [↑](#endnote-ref-7)
9. Edgar Allen Poe, http://www.brainyquote.com/ [↑](#endnote-ref-8)
10. Sylvia Plath, http://www.brainyquote.com/ [↑](#endnote-ref-9)
11. John Steinbeck, Conversations, 1988 [↑](#endnote-ref-10)
12. J.K. Rowling, *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone,* 1997 [↑](#endnote-ref-11)
13. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, *The Sign of the Four*, 1890 [↑](#endnote-ref-12)
14. J.R.R. Tolkien, *Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring*, 1954 [↑](#endnote-ref-13)
15. Alan Moore, *V for Vendetta*, 1982 [↑](#endnote-ref-14)
16. William Shakespeare, *Julius Caesar*, 1599 [↑](#endnote-ref-15)
17. Toni Morrison, Nobel Lecture, 1993 [↑](#endnote-ref-16)
18. Benjamin Franklin, http://www.brainyquote.com/ [↑](#endnote-ref-17)
19. Suzanne Collins, *The Hunger Games*, 2008 [↑](#endnote-ref-18)