

Creative people, like all people, need encouragement. We also need clarity, focus, mentors and reassurance that what we are doing, while outside what a lot of people around us are doing, matters. This list includes 375 of my favorite inspirational quotes about writing, creating, staying the course, dealing with rejection and craft advice. There's no rhyme or reason to the order. Not all are from writers though quite a few are. The one element they have in common is they can make you pause, ponder and, hopefully, keep going. Read them in order or out of order. Randomly scroll down the list and stop until you find words that speak to you, what you need, wherever you are at in your journey. I hope you enjoy and thank you for signing up to receive the Mary Buckham newsletter!

All the best ~ Mary Buckham

Books aren't written, they're rewritten. Including your own. It is one of the hardest things to accept, especially after the seventh rewrite hasn't quite done it . . .

~Michael Crichton

If you never begin, you'll never know what could have happened if you tried.

~Chris Guillbeau

You must drop the need to be liked if you want an extraordinary life.

~Peter Voogd

Focus on what you need to do, not on what others are doing.

~ Steve Scott

My task...is, by the power of the written word to make you hear, to make you feel - it is, before all, to make you see. That - and no more - and it is everything.

~ Joseph Conrad

Entrepreneurs create new things out of their heads –
and the world we live in right now embraces
entrepreneurs.

~ Joanna Penn

The spirit of creation is the spirit of contradiction. It
is the breakthrough of appearances toward an
unknown reality.

~ Joan Cocteau

Everybody walks past a thousand story ideas every
day. The good writers are the ones who see five or six
of them. Most people don't see any.

~ Orson Scott Card

Don't tell the emotion your reader should feel. Show
it. Big difference in the quality of writing.

~ Demian Farnworth

There is probably no hell for authors in the next
world -- they suffer so much from critics and
publishers in this.

~ C. N. Bovee

Fear of rejection is powerful, because at some point or another we have all been rejected for something, and we never forget the pain.

~ Bryan Hutchinson

Beware of self-indulgence. The romance surrounding the writing profession carries several myths: that one must suffer in order to be creative; that one must be cantankerous and objectionable in order to be bright; that ego is paramount over skill; that one can rise to a level from which one can tell the reader to go to hell. These myths, if believed, can ruin you.

~ David Brin

You need a bit of luck, but you need to put yourself in a position to get lucky by honing your craft, putting your work out there, and being smart about how you reach readers.

~ David Gaughran

An idea is wonderful, but an idea written down is heaven. As a draft, it becomes a physical, tangible manifestation you can refer to and build on.

~ Bryan Hutchinson

Most significant accomplishments arise out of hundreds of mistakes and failures.

~ Ryan Babineaux

Why do writers write? Because it isn't there.

~ Thomas Berger

There will always be people saying you're doing it wrong, you can't do it. It doesn't mean don't listen to people, but you really, truly, deep down inside have to believe you're going to be successful.

~ Bob Mayer

Errands are so effective at killing great projects that a lot of people use them for that purpose. Someone who has decided to write a novel, for example, will suddenly find that the house needs cleaning. People who fail to write novels don't do it by sitting in front of a blank page for days without writing anything. They do it by feeding the cat, going out to buy something they need for their apartment, meeting a friend for coffee, checking email. 'I don't have time to work,' they say. And they don't; they've made sure of that.

~ Paul Graham

I love writing. I love the swirl and swing of words as they tangle with human emotions.

~ James A. Michener

The world may not give you what expect it to. On the other hand, this can be liberating too. You realize that it is up to you to shape your own life and for you to work towards what you want.

~ Henrik Edberg

Men go to far greater lengths to avoid what they fear than to obtain what they desire.

~ Dan Brown, The Da Vinci Code

In truth, the only difference between those who have failed and those who have succeeded lies in the difference of their habits. Good habits are the key to all success. Bad habits are the unlocked door to failure.

~ Og Mandino

People don't procrastinate just to be ornery or because they're irrational. They procrastinate because it makes sense, given how vulnerable they feel to criticism, failure, and their own perfectionism.

~ Niel Fiore

We hold onto memories of rejection because we try to avoid putting ourselves in a position of being rejected again, no matter what type of rejection that might be or from whom.

~ Bryan Hutchinson

Everyone has been made for some particular work, and the desire for that work has been put in every heart.

~ Rumi

Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the ones you did so. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover.

~ Mark Twain

Your work is going to fill a large part of your life, and the only way to be truly satisfied is to do what you believe is great work. And the only way to do great work is to love what you do.

~ Steve Jobs

I have written because it fulfilled me ... I did it for the buzz. I did it for the pure joy of the thing. And if you can do it for joy, you can do it forever.

~ Stephen King

You can't get to adulthood before you go through puberty.

~ Andrew Stanton

To be nobody-but-yourself – in a world which is doing its best, night and day, to make you everybody else – means to fight the hardest battle which any human being can fight; and never stop fighting.

~ E.E. Cummings

Your intuition knows what to write, so get out of the way.

~ Ray Bradbury

Writers need to look into themselves and turn toward the life of the imagination.

~ Stephen King

Mistakes are the portals of discovery.

~ James Joyce

Write what you know. Write what you want to know more about. Write what you're afraid to write about.

~ Cec Murphy

Challenge conventional thinking about life and work.

~ Chris Guillbeau

Very few writers really know what they are doing until they've done it.

~ Anne Lamott

Be consistent in your writing. Make it a habit.

~ Steve Scott

Are you consciously investing in your writing?

~ Bryan Hutchinson

Opportunities are only opportunities if you're taking full advantage of them.

~ Peter Voogd

Planning to write is not writing. Outlining, researching, talking to people about what you're doing, none of that is writing. Writing is writing.

~ E. L. Doctorow

If you wait for inspiration to write; you're not a writer, you're a waiter.

~ Dan Poynter

The purpose of a writer is to keep civilization from destroying itself.

~ Albert Camus

Fiction does not spring into the world fully grown, like Athena. It is the process of writing and rewriting that makes a fiction original, if not profound.

~ John Gardner

Write with the complete palette of emotions.

~ Cindy Lambert

Inspiration is wonderful when it happens, but the writer must develop an approach for the rest of the time.

~ Leonard Bernstein

Do you have hunger and ambition to elevate the game NOW, not a month from now? There will NEVER be the right time.

~ Peter Voogd

You get ideas from daydreaming. You get ideas from being bored. You get ideas all the time.

~ Neil Gaiman

Great works are performed not by strength, but perseverance.

~ Samuel Johnson

Start before you're ready.

~ Steven Pressfield

A professional writer is an amateur who didn't quit.

~ Richard Bach

Almost all good writing begins with terrible first efforts. You need to start somewhere.

~ Anne Lamott

Success rises and falls on who you associate with so make sure you stay aware of your surroundings.

~ Peter Voogd

Amateurs sit and wait for inspiration, the rest of us just get up and go to work.

~ Stephen King

I suck at 99% of stuff, but I go all out on that 1% I'm good at.

~ Gary Vaynerchuk

The only difference between writers and other people is we notice when we're doing it.

~ Neil Gaiman

To live a creative life we must first lose the fear of being wrong.

~ Joseph Chilton Pearce

We write to taste life twice, in the moment and in retrospection.

~ Anais Nin

There is no greater agony than bearing an untold story inside you.

~ Maya Angelou

A hero knows it takes hard work and a long time to get published; a fool thinks it should happen immediately, because he thinks he's a hero already.

~ James Scott Bell

The more you pay attention to the fundamentals and practice the techniques, the closer you are going to get with each draft.

~ Demian Farnworth

Once you embark on a project, things change. You grow. The unexpected occurs. Build in flexibility as needed to allow for what couldn't be anticipated.

~ Jane Friedman

The way to accomplish the assignment of truly living is to engage fully, richly, and deeply in the living of your dreams.

~ S.A.R.K.

Start with the end in mind.

~ Stephen R. Covey

The wise man is one who, knows, what he does not know.

~ Lao Tzu

Attract the right people to your creativity, and part of that process involves gently steering the wrong ones away.

~ Chris Guillbeau

The novelist's ambition is not to do something better than his predecessors but to see what they did not see, say what they did not say.

~ Milan Kundera

Push yourself beyond any fears or limits you set for yourself.

~ C. J. Lyons

If you want it badly enough, and are willing to make some changes in your life to cause it to happen, you too can take over the world.

~ Chris Guillbeau

Writing has laws of perspective, of light and shade just as painting does, or music. If you are born knowing them, fine. If not, learn them. Then rearrange the rules to suit yourself.

~ Truman Capote

Becoming a writer means being creative enough to find the time and the place in your life for writing.

~ Heather Sellers

One should be able to return to the first sentence of a novel and find the resonances of the entire work.

~ Gloria Naylor

All the elements of good writing depend on the writer's skill in choosing one word instead of another.

~ Francine Prose

The writer, like everyone else, is equipped in infancy with a thick padding of things he believes to be true, but which aren't.

~ Jon Franklin

Writing is utter solitude, the descent into the cold abyss of oneself.

~ Franz Kafka

The muscles of writing are not so visible, but they are just as powerful: determination, attention, curiosity, a passionate heart.

~ Natalie Goldberg

When you pursue greatness don't expect others to support you, because you'll represent the courage, strength, and vision they don't yet have.

~ Peter Voogd

Your time is limited so don't waste it living somebody else's life.

~ Steve Jobs

If a true artist were born in a pigpen and raised in a sty, he would still find plenty of inspiration for his work. The only need is the eye to see.

~ Willa Cather

The difference between fiction and reality? Fiction has to make sense.

~ Tom Clancy

Trust your vision, and have an unshakable confidence in what you do; even when everyone else is doubting it.

~ Peter Voogd

Your first draft is perhaps the most important step to completing your project. It's special. No one's ever gotten to the end without the beginning.

~ Bryan Hutchinson

Writing gives you the illusion of control, and then you realize it's just an illusion, that people are going to bring their own stuff into it.

~ David Sedaris

. . . where's the fun in being like everyone else out there?

~ Chris Guillbeau

We have to continually be jumping off cliffs and developing our wings on the way down.

~ Kurt Vonnegut

Don't be satisfied with stories, how things have gone with others. Unfold your own myth.

~ Rumi

Creativity takes courage.

~ Henri Matisse

An idea that is not dangerous is unworthy of being called an idea at all.

~ Oscar Wilde

Strategy is about what we don't do, as well as what we do.

~ Joanna Penn

The more times we have been rejected for anything, the more doubt compounds within us.

~ Bryan Hutchinson

Creativity is allowing yourself to make mistakes. Art is knowing which ones to keep.

~ Scott Adams

You can't use up creativity. The more you use, the more you have.

~ Maya Angelou

Become more intentional in all you do.

~ Peter Voogd

If you're not prepared to be wrong, you'll never come up with anything original.

~ Ken Robinson

. . . every decent writer has been accused of being a waste of talent.

~ Stephen King

. . .it takes a courageous fool to say things that have not been said and to do things that have not been done.

~ Criss Jami

The worst enemy to creativity is self-doubt.

~ Sylvia Plath

We are cups, constantly and quietly being filled. The trick is, knowing how to tip ourselves over and let the beautiful stuff out.

~ Ray Bradbury

You should write because it brings you happiness and fulfillment.

~ Stephen King

The truly creative mind in any field is no more than this: A human creature born abnormally, inhumanly sensitive.

~ Pearl S. Buck

Gaze into the fire, into the clouds, and as soon as the inner voices begin to speak . . . surrender to them.

~ Hermann Hesse

It's a lonely road for those who chose to be remarkable.

~ Chris Guillbeau

Creativity requires the courage to let go of certainties.

~ Erich Fromm

Anxiety is the handmaiden of creativity

~ T.S. Eliot

If critics say your work stinks it's because they want it to stink and they can make it stink by scaring you into conformity with their comfortable little standards.

~ Jack Kerouac

Chance favors the prepared mind.

~ Louis Pasteur

The lyf so short, the craft so long to lerne.

~ Geoffrey Chaucer

The gift are those ideas you think of as you drift to sleep.
The giver is that one you think of when you first awake.

~ Roman Payne

The most important things are the hardest things to say.

~ Stephen King

To be creative means to be in love with life.

~ Osho

The more you write and get your thoughts on paper, or on the screen, or on your blog, the less power the internal nay saying voice has.

~ Bryan Hutchinson

Less than ten percent of writers have a clear idea of where they want to be in five years' time.

~ Bob Mayer

One must still have chaos in oneself to be able to give birth to a dancing star.

~ Friedrich Nietzsche

The true sign of intelligence is not knowledge but imagination.

~ Albert Einstein

Invention, it must be humbly admitted, does not consist in creating out of void but out of chaos.

~ Mary Shelley

The thing is to become a master and in your old age to acquire the courage to do what children did when they knew nothing.

~ Ernest Hemingway

It's not a coincidence that the root of "imagination" is "image."

~ Demian Farnworth

What keeps life fascinating is the constant creativity of the soul.

~ Deepak Chopra

Creativity is an act of defiance.

~ Twyla Tharp

The hardest thing about being a writer is writing. Everything else is great.

~ Bob Mayer

Write while the heat is in you. The writer who postpones the recording of his thoughts uses an iron which has cooled to burn a hole with.

~ Henry David Thoreau

The object isn't to make art, it's to be in that wonderful state which makes art inevitable.

~ Robert Henri

You don't have to live your life the way other people expect you to.

~ Chris Guillbeau

Imagination is the beginning of creation. You imagine what you desire, you will what you imagine and at last you create what you will.

~ George Bernard Shaw

We are made to dream and to live those dreams.

~ S.A.R.K.

To be an artist means never to avert one's eyes.

~Akira Kurosawa

The small details of life often hide a great significance.

~ Margaret Atwood, Alias Grace

There's a big difference between dreams and goals.

~ Chris Guillbeau

Drag your thoughts away from your troubles... by the ears, by the heels, or any other way you can manage it.

~ Mark Twain

It's the greatest peace when I'm in a scene, and it's just me and the character, that's it, that's where I want to live my life.

~ Joss Whedon

Human salvation lies in the hands of the creatively maladjusted.

~ Martin Luther King Jr.

Many goals can be out of your reach without the help of others.

~ Jane Friedman

“Keeping busy” is the remedy for all the ills in America. It's also the means by which the creative impulse is destroyed.

~ Joyce Carol Oates

Cowardice is the most terrible of vices.

~ Mikhail Bulgakov

Writing is refined thinking.

~ Stephen King

Build a habit of learning to gain more and more control of where you put your focus.

~ Henrik Edberg

To live a creative life, we must lose our fear of being wrong.

~ Joseph Chilton Pearce

You don't make art out of good intentions.

~ Gustave Flaubert

Dance above the surface of the world. Let your thoughts lift you into creativity that is not hampered by opinion.

~ Red Haircrow

The writer must be universal in sympathy and an outcast by nature: only then can he see clearly.

~ Julian Barnes

When the creative impulse sweeps over you, grab it. You grab it and honor it and use it, because momentum is a rare gift.

~ Justina Chen

I can always be distracted by love, but eventually I get horny for my creativity.

~ Gilda Radner

To create art with all the passion in one's soul is to live art with all the beauty in one's heart.

~ Aberjhani

Look for a long time at what pleases you, and longer still at what pains you.

~ Colette

Creativity is a continual surprise.

~ Ray Bradbury

Everyone is born a genius, but the process of living de-geniuses them.

~ Richard Buckminster Fuller

You are your own guru.

~ Chris Guillbeau

Clear thinking at the wrong moment can stifle creativity.

~ Karl Lagerfeld

Non-judgment quiets the internal dialogue, and this opens once again the doorway to creativity.

~ Deepak Chopra

Dive again and again into the river of uncertainty.
Create in the dark, only then can you recognize the
light.

~ Jyrki Vainonen

Coincidence is a messenger sent by truth.

~ Jacqueline Winspear

Who says life is fair, where is that written?

~ William Goldman, *The Princess Bride*

Writing great sentences takes work.

~ Demian Farnworth

We can talk and think ourselves out of writing far
easier than allowing ourselves just to write.

~ Bryan Hutchinson

Men go to far greater lengths to avoid what they fear
than to obtain what they desire.

~ Dan Brown, *The Da Vinci Code*

The conventional wisdom is often wrong.

~ Steven D. Levitt

Most people do not listen with the intent to understand; they listen with the intent to reply.

~ Stephen R. Covey

When you see someone putting on his Big Boots, you can be pretty sure that an Adventure is going to happen.

~ A.A. Milne, Winnie-the-Pooh

Little things please little minds.

~ Ken Follett

Let the past hold on to itself and let the present move forward into the future.

~ Douglas Adams

The truth is not always beautiful, nor beautiful words the truth.

~ Lao Tzu

If we were all on trial for our thoughts, we would all be hanged.

~ Margaret Atwood, *Alias Grace*

By giving yourself permission to fail you can weed out bad ideas to get to the place where real work can occur.

~ Ryan Babineaux

A woman must have money and a room of her own if she is to write fiction.

~ Virginia Woolf

Use active verbs and concrete nouns and you will naturally create images. "The buzzard bled." Introduce one, two, or all of the five senses (sight, smell, touch, taste, and sound), and you'll enhance those images: "The screaming buzzard bled.

~ Demian Farnworth

It's not what the world holds for you. It's what you bring to it.

~ L.M. Montgomery, *Anne of Green Gables*

We learn from failure, not from success!

~ Bram Stoker

Nothing is so painful to the human mind as a great and sudden change.

~ Mary Shelley

Adventures are never fun while you're having them.

~ C.S. Lewis

Embrace the stumble, it forces you to imagine greater and explore more possibilities.

~ C. J. Lyons

Either write something worth reading or do something worth writing.

~ Ben Franklin

We are all apprentices in a craft where no one ever becomes a master.

~ Ernest Hemingway

When you try to mimic another writer's style for any reason other than practice, you'll produce nothing but "pale imitations."

~ Stephen King

You must see past the risk and focus on the rewards.

~ Peter Voogd

Don't try to figure out what other people want to hear from you; figure out what you have to say. It's the one and only thing you have to offer.

~ Barbara Kingsolver

Asking a writer what he thinks about criticism is like asking a lamppost what it feels about dogs.

~ John Osborne

To avoid criticism, do nothing, say nothing, be nothing.

~ Elbert Hubbard

Fill your paper with the breathings of your heart.

~ William Wordsworth

One must be drenched in words, literally soaked in them, to have the right ones form themselves into the proper pattern at the right moment.

~ Hart Crane

The best style is the style you don't notice.

~ Somerset Maugham

The maker of a sentence launches out into the infinite and builds a road into Chaos and old Night, and is followed by those who hear him with something of wild, creative delight.

~ Ralph Waldo Emerson

If you don't have the time to read, you don't have the time or the tools to write.

~ Stephen King

To me, the greatest pleasure of writing is not what it's about, but the inner music the words make.

~ Truman Capote

Writing is a struggle against silence.

~ Carlos Fuentes

When something can be read without effort, great effort has gone into its writing.

~ Enrique Jardiel Poncela

Define creativity. Living in possibility and abundance rather than limitation and scarcity.

~ C. J. Lyons

Fear is useless. Faith is necessary. Love is everything.

~ Martin Sheen

The only thing you can make happen is the writing.

~ Bob Mayer

Learn to prioritize writing above all other activities if you want to succeed as a writer.

~ Mary Buckham

A goal is a dream with a deadline.

~ Napoleon Hill

Don't ask first whether creativity is permitted, or would please your teachers or father or some god. You will ruin yourself if you do that.

~ Hermann Hesse

Take some time to really analyze if you're maximizing your time.

~ Peter Voogd

Don't let your dreams be dreams.

~ Jack Johnson

Arriving at one goal is the starting point to another.

~ John Dewey

You should strive to make the reader forget that he or she is reading a story at all.

~ Stephen King

Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world.

~ Harriet Tubman

Imagination is more important than knowledge.

~ Albert Einstein

You don't have to have it all figured out to take the first step.

~ Jane Friedman

Many of the important things we do are accomplished in the discomfort zone.

~ Michael Hyatt

The great and glorious masterpiece of man is to know how to live to purpose.

~ Michel de Montaigne

Most "impossible" goals can be met simply by breaking them down into bite size chunks, writing them down, believing them, and then going full speed ahead as if they were routine.

~ Don Lancaster

Imagination rules the world.

~ Napoleon

Time can be a greedy thing-sometimes it steals the details for itself.~ Khaled Hosseini, *The Kite Runner*

Purpose is what gives life a meaning.

~ C. H. Parkhurst

Wear your superhero cape every day!

~ Mary Buckham

If you ever find that you're the most talented person in the room, you need to find another room.

~ Austin Kleon

Those focused on building something bigger than themselves, and are consistently on purpose are always producing results, not consuming.

~ Peter Voogd

Don't discard the memory of another glorious dream before it can be realized.

~ Bryan Hutchinson

Giving yourself permission to make a mess of things is particularly important if you do any sort of creative work.

~ Ryan Babineaux

Believe that you have it, and you have it.

~ Latin Proverb

The surest way not to fail is to determine to succeed.

~ Richard Brinsley Sheridan

The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes but in having new eyes.

~ Marcel Proust

Our plans miscarry because they have no aim. When a man does not know what harbor he is making for, no wind is the right wind.

~ Seneca

There is only one success--to be able to spend your life in your own way.

~ Christopher Morley

The ability to concentrate and to use your time well is everything if you want to succeed in business--or almost anywhere else for that matter.

~ Lee Iacocca

Thomas Edison dreamed of a lamp that could be operated by electricity, began where he stood to put his dream into action, and despite more than ten thousand failures, he stood by that dream until he made it a physical reality. Practical dreamers do not quit.

~ Napoleon Hill

Take things up a level and exceed the low expectations around you.

~ Chris Guillbeau

The greatest results in life are usually attained by simple means and the exercise of ordinary qualities. These may for the most part be summed in these two: common-sense and perseverance.

~ Owen Feltham

... to truly set ourselves apart, we must learn to be creative amidst chaos.”

~ Jocelyn K. Gleib

Leap, and the net will appear.

~ Julia Cameron

Dreams seldom materialize on their own. ~ Dian Fosse

Description begins in the writer's imagination, but should finish in the reader's. ~ Stephen King

Success is the good fortune that comes from aspiration, desperation, perspiration and inspiration. ~ Evan Esar

At the center of everything we call 'the arts,' and children call 'play,' is something which seems somehow alive." ~ Lynda Barry

Success is the sum of small efforts, repeated day in and day out. ~ Robert Collier

We need to leave behind the safety of our expertise. ~ Jonah Lehrer

Sarcasm is the last refuge of the imaginatively bankrupt. ~ Cassandra Clare, City of Bones

Progress takes the form of practice, refinement of technique, and learning what to use the skills for. ~ Betty Edwards

Reach high, for stars lie hidden in your soul. Dream deep, for every dream precedes the goal. ~ Pamela Vaull Starr

If you want to feel better about your imperfect draft, then acknowledge that it's incomplete and know you will shape it later on. ~ Bryan Hutchinson

Control of consciousness determines the quality of life. ~ Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi

Think it over, think it under.
~ A.A. Milne, Winnie-the-Pooh

Every worthy act is difficult. Ascent is always difficult. Descent is easy and often slippery.
~ Mahatma Gandhi

Shallow men believe in luck, strong men believe in cause and effect.

~ Ralph Waldo Emerson

Much we learn only to forget it again; to stand by the goal, we must traverse all the way to it.

~ Rückert

If you would know the road ahead, ask someone who has traveled it.

~ Chinese Proverb

Do your thing and don't care if they like it.

~ Tina Fey

It is hard to fail, but it is worse never to have tried to succeed.

~ Theodore Roosevelt

The counterfeit innovator is wildly self-confident. The real one is scared to death.

~ Steven Pressfield

Our doubts are traitors, and make us lose the good
we oft might win, by fearing to attempt.

~ William Shakespeare

Unfortunately, as a society, we do not teach our
children that they need to tend carefully the garden
of their minds.

~ Jill Bolte Taylor

Every failure brings with it the seed of an equivalent
success.

~ Napoleon Hill

Buy the ticket, take the ride.

~ Hunter S. Thompson, *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas*

Nothing is a waste of time if you use the experience
wisely.

~ François Auguste René Rodin

Change might not be fast and it isn't always easy. But with time and effort, almost any habit can be reshaped.

~ Charles Duhigg

Write what disturbs you, what you fear, what you have not been willing to speak about. Be willing to be split open.

~ Natalie Goldberg

No one has ever achieved anything from the smallest to the greatest unless the dream was dreamed first.

~ Laura Ingalls Wilder

Ideas are like fish. If you want to catch little fish, you can stay in the shallow water.

~ David Lynch

People don't buy what you do; they buy why you do it. And what you do simply proves what you believe.

~ Simon Senek

We learn wisdom from failure much more than success. We often discover what we will do, by finding out what we will not do.

~ Samuel Smiles

One way to remember who you are is to remember who your heroes are.

~ Steve Jobs

Visualize what you want your reader to experience, and then translate what you see in your mind into words on the page.

~ Stephen King

Your vision of where or who you want to be is the greatest asset you have. Without having a goal it's difficult to score.

~ Paul Arden

Mistakes are the portals of discovery.

~ James Joyce

Only those who dare to fail greatly can ever achieve greatly.

~ John F. Kennedy

Being realistic is the most common path to mediocrity.

~ Will Smith

The skill it takes to produce a sentence . . . the skill of lining events, actions, and objects in a strict logic — is also the skill of creating a world.

~ Stanley Fish

No sentence can be effective if it contains facts alone. It must also contain emotion, image, logic, and promise.

~ Eugene Schwartz

Your sentences don't have to say much. They just have to say the right things. Our imaginations will fill in the blanks.

~ Demian Farnworth

Hold fast to dreams, for if dreams die, life is a broken winged bird that cannot fly.

~ Lanston Hughes

Commitment leads to action. Action brings your dream closer.

~ Marcia Wieder

People who care what others think of them will always be limited to others opinions.

~ Peter Voogd

. . .used to be you needed your agent, you needed your editor, you needed your publisher, you needed the bookseller, you needed the book buyer, you needed the bookstore, to get to the reader. You don't need any of those people now.

~ Bob Mayer

The best way to make your dreams come true is to wake up.

~ Paul Valery

To be . . . successful . . . you have to be stupid. You have to have like this mule-like stupidity, not listen to what other people are saying, just put your head down and do what you're going to do.

~ Terry Gilliam

The key to good description is clarity, both in observation and in writing.

~ Stephen King

Failure is just another way to learn how to do something right.

~ Marian Wright Edelman

You have to be ahead of innovation, not following it.

~ Bob Mayer

The world's most dedicated and talented people can only get so far on their own.

~ Bruce McCabe

The mind of a writer is filled with objections because most writers are afraid of writing something that doesn't make sense, or worse, writing something that comes across as idiotic or is considered arbitrary.

~ Bryan Hutchinson

Being a writer is a very peculiar sort of a job: it's always you versus a blank sheet of paper (or a blank screen) and quite often the blank piece of paper wins.

~ Neil Gaiman

The greatest mistake you can make in life is to continually be afraid you will make one.

~ Elbert Hubbard

. . . the only true power an author has, is to say no. No agent is better than a bad agent, no deal is better than a bad deal.

~ Bob Mayer

The only journey is the journey within.

~ Rainer Maria Rilke

Who looks outside, dreams. Who looks inside,
awakes.

~ Carl Jung

You can be creative only if you love life enough that
you want to enhance its beauty, you want to bring a
little more music to it, a little more poetry to it, a
little more dance to it.

~ Osho

Be not afraid of growing slowly; be afraid only of
standing still.

~ Chinese Proverb

It's where we go, and what we do when we get there,
that tells us who we are.

~ Joyce Carol Oates

Our greatest glory consists not in never falling, but in
rising every time we fall.

~ Oliver Goldsmith

Your state of mind has a huge influence on your confidence and productivity.

~ Bryan Hutchinson

We are either progressing or retrograding all the while; there is no such thing as remaining stationary in this life.

~ James Freeman Clarke

If you want to be a writer, you must do two things above all others: read a lot and write a lot.

~ Stephen King

The first draft reveals the art, revision reveals the artist.

~ Michael Lee

Change and growth take place when a person has risked himself and dares to become involved with experimenting with his own life.

~ Herbert Otto

One can choose to go back toward safety or forward toward growth. Growth must be chosen again and again; fear must be overcome again and again.

~ Abraham Maslow

With terrific people, you win.

~ Bruce McCabe

If we all did the things we are capable of, we would astound ourselves.

~ Thomas Edison

The only thing constant is change.

~ Heraclitus

Success in the affairs of life often serves to hide one's abilities, whereas adversity frequently gives one an opportunity to discover them.

~ Horace

People with many interests live, not only longest, but happiest.

~ George Matthew Allen

. . . give yourself approval and allow yourself to be who you want to be. Don't look for the approval from others. But from yourself.

~ Henrik Edberg

The big problem in publishing is, people want things to stay the same: they're afraid of change.

~ Bob Mayer

What would life be if we had no courage to attempt anything?

~ Vincent van Gogh

Age is an issue of mind over matter. If you don't mind, it doesn't matter.

~ Mark Twain

Experience teaches slowly, and at the cost of mistakes.

~ James A. Froude

It is . . . seldom too late to do what you want to do.

~ Henrik Edberg

The people in your stories are what readers care about the most, so make sure you acknowledge all the dimensions your characters may have.

~ Stephen King

Failure teaches success.

~ Japanese Saying

Against the assault of laughter nothing can stand.

~ Mark Twain

Starting a new writing project is an exciting, mysterious, and sometimes nerve-racking adventure, so try not to limit your process.

~ Bryan Hutchinson

When you are more light-hearted and relaxed then the solution to a situation is often easier to both come up with and implement.

~ Henrik Edberg

It takes time to let go of self-censorship and find your true voice.

~ Joanna Penn

First and foremost, stop using the passive voice. It's the biggest indicator of fear.

~ Stephen King

You can focus on your problems and dwell in suffering and a victim mentality. Or you can focus on the positive in situation, what you can learn from that situation . . .

~ Henrik Edberg

If you don't control your attitude, it controls you.

~ Mary Buckham

Don't go around saying the world owes you a living. The world owes you nothing. It was here first.

~ Mark Twain

Fiction is about raising questions the reader expects to be answered. The how these questions are answered is why we read and why we write.

~ Mary Buckham

Writers should throw back their shoulders, stick out their chins, and put their writing in charge.

~ Stephen King

If you believe you can make a living as a writer, you already have enough ego.

~ David Brin

There is no greater agony than bearing an untold story inside you.

~ Maya Angelou

The story must strike a nerve — in me. My heart should start pounding when I hear the first line in my head. I start trembling at the risk.

~ Susan Sontag

I can shake off everything as I write; my sorrows disappear, my courage is reborn.

~ Anne Frank

Change is certain but we can't let every little spat distract us from our task.

~ Joanna Penn

We have to continually be jumping off cliffs and developing our wings on the way down.

~ Kurt Vonnegut

Be ruthless about protecting writing days, i.e., do not cave in to the endless requests to have 'essential' and 'long overdue' meetings on those days.

~ J.K. Rowling

A person with a new idea is a crank until the idea succeeds.

~ Mark Twain

Keep on beginning and failing. Each time you fail, start all over again, and you will grow stronger until you have accomplished a purpose...not the one you began with perhaps, but one you'll be glad to remember.

~ Anne Sullivan Macy

Tomorrow may be hell, but today was a good writing day, and on the good writing days nothing else matters.

~ Neil Gaiman

If you write (or paint or dance or sculpt or sing, I suppose), someone will try to make you feel lousy about it . . .

~ Stephen King

We shall not cease from exploration
And the end of all our exploring
Will be to arrive where we started
And know the place for the first time.

~ T. S. Elliott

With a finite amount of time and energy, we have to focus on the true reasons why we live this life.

~ Joanna Penn

Most fiction writers have a major bottleneck in their process. That bottleneck is that they don't produce enough first-draft copy.

~ Randy Ingermanson

You have to write the book that wants to be written. And if the book will be too difficult for grown-ups, then you write it for children.

~ Madeleine L'Engle

When you write a book, you spend day after day scanning and identifying the trees. When you're done, you have to step back and look at the forest.

~ Stephen King

A word after a word after a word is power.

~ Margaret Atwood

Let me live, love, and say it well in good sentences.

~ Sylvia Plath

Fantasy is hardly an escape from reality. It's a way of understanding it.

~ Lloyd Alexander

No tears in the writer, no tears in the reader. No surprise in the writer, no surprise in the reader.

~ Robert Frost

You must stay drunk on writing so reality cannot destroy you.

~ Ray Bradbury

Writing is a socially acceptable form of schizophrenia.

~ E.L. Doctorow

Start writing, no matter what. The water does not flow until the faucet is turned on.

~ Louis L'Amour

History will be kind to me for I intend to write it.

~ Winston Churchill

After nourishment, shelter and companionship,
stories are the thing we need most in the world.

~ Philip Pullman

Make up a story . . . For our sake and yours forget
your name in the street; tell us what the world has
been to you in the dark places and in the light. Don't
tell us what to believe, what to fear. Show us belief's
wide skirt and the stitch that unravels fear's caul.

~ Toni Morrison

Stories may well be lies, but they are good lies that
say true things, and which can sometimes pay the
rent.

~ Neil Gaiman

Write what should not be forgotten.

~ Isabel Allende

One always has a better book in one's mind than one can manage to get onto paper.

~ Michael Cunningham

You have to continue writing even when you don't feel like it.

~ Stephan King

Find out the reason that commands you to write; see whether it has spread its roots into the very depth of your heart; confess to yourself you would have to die if you were forbidden to write.

Rainer Maria Rilke

If you do not breathe through writing, if you do not cry out in writing, or sing in writing, then don't write, because our culture has no use for it.

~ Anaïs Nin

Write the kind of story you would like to read. People will give you all sorts of advice about writing, but if you are not writing something you like, no one else will like it either.

~ Meg Cabot

I write to give myself strength. I write to be the characters that I am not. I write to explore all the things I'm afraid of.

~ Joss Whedon

You must write every single day of your life... You must lurk in libraries and climb the stacks like ladders to sniff books like perfumes and wear books like hats upon your crazy heads... may you be in love every day for the next 20,000 days. And out of that love, remake a world.

~ Ray Bradbury

Writing is like sex. First you do it for love, then you do it for your friends, and then you do it for money.

~ Virginia Woolf

No one says a novel has to be one thing. It can be anything it wants to be, a vaudeville show, the six o'clock news, the mumblings of wild men saddled by demons.

~ Ishmael Reed

The reason that fiction is more interesting than any other form of literature, to those who really like to study people, is that in fiction the author can really tell the truth without humiliating himself.

~ Eleanor Roosevelt

When you make music or write or create, it's really your job to have mind-blowing, irresponsible, condomless sex with whatever idea it is you're writing about at the time.

~ Lady Gaga

Optimism is a perfectly legitimate response to failure.

~ Stephen King

Ideas are like rabbits. You get a couple and learn how to handle them, and pretty soon you have a dozen.

~ John Steinbeck

Don't bend; don't water it down; don't try to make it logical; don't edit your own soul according to the fashion. Rather, follow your most intense obsessions mercilessly.

~ Franz Kafka

Writing a book is a horrible, exhausting struggle, like a long bout with some painful illness. One would never undertake such a thing if one were not driven on by some demon whom one can neither resist nor understand.

~ George Orwell

Which of us has not felt that the character we are reading in the printed page is more real than the person standing beside us?

~ Cornelia Funke

You can't wait for inspiration. You have to go after it with a club.

~ Jack London

Tears are words that need to be written.

~ Paulo Coelho

If my doctor told me I had only six minutes to live, I wouldn't brood. I'd type a little faster.

~ Isaac Asimov

The true alchemists do not change lead into gold;
they change the world into words.

~ William H. Gass

Don't give up. Keep plugging away.

~ Demian Farnwort

Do you have a line or quote that inspires you? Let me know
and I will share it. Email me at: mary@marybuckham.com.
I would love to hear from you!

Mary