Kurt Vonnegut’s Advice to Writers:
1. Find a subject you care about
2. Do not ramble, though
3. Keep it simple
4. Have guts to cut
5. Sound like yourself
6. Say what you mean
7. Pity the readers

Every complaint is a little story the mind makes up that you completely believe in.
– Eckhart Tolle (1948 - )

Half of what I say is meaningless, but I say it just to reach you, Julia.
– Lyric by John Lennon in his song to his Mother, Julia (1940 - 1980)

Those who do not have power over the story that dominates their lives, the power to retell it, rethink it, deconstruct it, joke about it, and change it as times change, truly are powerless because they cannot think new thoughts.
– Salman Rushdie (1947 - )

From the moment I picked up your book until I laid it down, I was convulsed with laughter. Some day I intend reading it.
– Groucho Marx (1890 - 1977)

We are lonesome animals. We spend all our life trying to be less lonesome. One of our ancient methods is to tell a story begging the listener to say — and to feel — "Yes, that’s the way it is, or at least that’s the way I feel it. You’re not as alone as you thought.
– John Steinbeck (1902 - 1968)

Your days are scrolls. Write on them that which you wish remembered.
– Rabbi Bachya Ibn Pakuda, (early 11th century)
We learn from history that we do not learn from history.
– Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel, Philosopher (1770 - 1831)

Why does anybody tell a story? It does indeed have something to do with faith. Faith that
the universe has meaning, that our little human lives are not irrelevant, that what we
choose or say or do matters, matters cosmically.
– Madeleine L’Engle (1918 - 2007)

The trouble with telling a good story is that it invariably reminds the other fellow
of a dull one.
– Sid Caesar, Comedian (1922 - )

If all the world’s a stage, where is the audience sitting?
– George Carlin, Comedian (1937 – 2008)

All the world’s a stage,
And all the men and women merely players;
They have their exits and their entrances,
And one man in his time plays many parts,
His acts being seven ages. At first, the infant,
Mewling and puking in the nurse’s arms.
Then the whining schoolboy, with his satchel
And shining morning face, creeping like snail
Unwillingly to school. And then the lover,
Sighing like furnace, with a woeful ballad
Made to his mistress’ eyebrow. Then a soldier,
Full of strange oaths and bearded like the pard,
Jealous in honor, sudden and quick in quarrel,
Seeking the bubble reputation
Even in the cannon’s mouth. And then the justice,
In fair round belly with good capon lined,
With eyes severe and beard of formal cut,
Full of wise sayings and modern instances;
And so he plays his part. The sixth age shifts
Into the lean and slippered pantaloon,
With spectacles on nose and pouch on side;
His youthful hose, well saved, a world too wide
For his shrunk shank, and his big manly voice,
Turning again toward childish treble, pipes
And whistles in his sound. Last scene of all,
That ends this strange eventful history,
Is second childishness and mere oblivion,
Sans teeth, sans eyes, sans taste, sans everything.
– William Shakespeare (1654 - 1616)
The truth about stories is, that’s all we are.
    – Thomas King, Native American author

You have to be careful with the stories you tell. And you have to watch out for the stories you are told.
    – Thomas King, Native American author

‘I am’ is reportedly the shortest sentence in the English language. Could it be that ‘I do’ is the longest?
    – George Carlin, Comedian (1937 – 2008)

The words you speak become the house you live in.
    – Hafez (1315 - 1390)

God made man because he loves stories.
    – Rabbi Nachman of Breslov (1772 - 1810)

Every death of an elder is as if an entire library had been burned to the ground.
    – African Proverb

Death is an ascension to a better library.
    – John Donne (1572 - 1631)

It’s all storytelling, you know. That’s what journalism is all about.
    – Tom Brokaw

Fairy tales do not tell children the dragons exist. Children already know that dragons exist. Fairy tales tell the children the dragons can be killed.
    – G. K. Chesterton

“Yah Teh Hey Sho Na,” Apache greeting meaning, “Walk In Beauty, My Friend”

Scars have the strange power to remind us that our past is real.
    – Cormac McCarthy

There are children who are told they are too sensitive, and there are adults who believe sensitivity is a problem that can be fixed in the way that crooked teeth can be fixed and made straight. And when these two come together you get a fairytale, a kind of a story with hopelessness in it.
    – Lynda Barry, cartoonist and author (1956 -)

Those who dream by day are cognizant of many things which escape those who dream only by night.
    – Edgar Allan Poe (1809 - 1849), poet, author, inventor of detective fiction genre
If you want your children to be brilliant, read them fairy tales. If you want them to be geniuses, read them more fairy tales.

– Albert Einstein

Historically, the most terrible things - war, genocide, and slavery - have resulted not from disobedience, but from obedience.

– Howard Zinn, historian and author (1922 - 2010)

Your purpose is to make your audience see what you saw, hear what you heard, feel what you felt. Relevant detail, couched in concrete, colorful language, is the best way to recreate the incident as it happened and to picture it for the audience.

– Dale Carnegie, writer/lecturer (1888 - 1955)

For the survivor who chooses to testify, it is clear: his duty is to bear witness for the dead and the living. He has no right to deprive future generations of a past that belongs to our collective memory. To forget would be not only dangerous but offensive; to forget the dead would be akin to killing them a second time.

– Elie Wiesel, author and Holocaust survivor, (1928 -)

When in doubt tell the truth. It will confound your enemies and astound your friends.

– Mark Twain

The naked truth is always better than the best-dressed lie.

– Ann Landers, advice columnist

More than kisses, letters mingle souls.

– John Donne

No two snowflakes, no two voice patterns, and no two fingerprints are exactly alike. No two human beings – even so called “identical twins” – were ever exactly alike. Ask your dog if any two people smell exactly alike. He’ll tell you, “No way!” Each of us is a one-of-a-kind story, an unrepeated mini universe. That is the basis of the Hebrew teaching, “Whoever destroys a soul, it is considered as if he destroyed an entire world. And whoever saves a life, it is considered as if he saved an entire world.”

– Mishnah Sanhedrin 4:5; Babylonian Talmud Tractate Sanhedrin 37a

The children almost broken by this world become the adults most likely to change it.

– Frank Warren, founder PostSecret