

Quotations from Vivian Johnson's Classroom

The quotations on the following pages are representative of those Vivian Johnson puts on the walls of her classroom as part of her efforts to immerse her students in writing and reading.

“Poetic topics are not limited to love, seasons, flowers, and rainbows. Poetry can be about anything – any subject, any theme, in any voice.”

Nancie Atwell

“For me reading is the equivalent of breathing chocolate air. It’s pure, instantaneous pleasure.”

Nancie Atwell

“There’s nothing better for you – not broccoli, not an apple a day, not aerobic exercise. In terms of the whole rest of your life, in terms of making you smart in all ways, there’s nothing better. Top-ranking scientists and mathematicians are people who read a lot. Top-ranking historians and researchers are people who read a lot. It’s like money in the bank in terms of the rest of your life, but it also helps you escape from the rest of your life and live experiences you can only dream of. Most importantly, along with writing, it’s the best way I know to find out who you are, what you care about, and what kind of person you want to become.”

Nancie Atwell

***In the Middle: New Understanding
About Writing, Reading, and Learning***

“The job of the poem is to capture the moment, not to explain it.”

Ralph Fletcher

**Carlos Fuentes once said,
“Writing is a struggle against
silence.” In one sense, silence
is the last thing you’ll find in
most schools; yet the silence
that surrounds telling the truth
and expressing emotion is
pervasive. Poetry is one way to
shatter this silence....**

Georgia Heard
For the Good of the Earth and Sun

**“Writing free verse is like
playing tennis with the net
down.”**

Robert Frost

**“The only people who ever
become writers are readers.”**

Andrew Hudgins

**“My notebook is who I am:
everything I want to remember
as a writer, reader, thinker,
listener, observer of the world
around me.”**

Linda Rief

“The difference in the almost right word and the exactly right word is the difference between lightning and the lightning bug.”

Mark Twain

“Roam around in books; find what really speaks to you. I’ll make you a promise: The more you read, the better you’ll write.”

X.J. Kennedy