



ILLUMINATIONS

Great Writers on Writing

Anne Sexton

“

Being a teacher is listening. In a journal, one must listen to oneself. The main reason I never kept a journal before was I didn't want anything but a poem 'to last.' But I'm willing to make the leap, the experiment, not because I'll write a good journal. No, in fact, I'll let it be as sloppy as I am. But I think the experiment, journal and all, will teach me how to teach. [...] All the while crying 'me, me, me.' To fail is a little daily death. When I get good at it perhaps I will learn to listen. When there is less me in this journal I will have won. The Dostoevsky, the Kafka, the Faulkner in the kids will have won. I am a selfish person. I need to learn. I am a stubborn person. The class, the life of it, will teach me or destroy me. I'll take a chance on it. I don't want to be a 'safe poet' or a 'safe person.' I don't want to be dead.

”