

Yvor Winters

(1900-1968)

from "Dedication for a Book of Criticism" (1934)

He who learns may feed on lies:  
He who understands is wise.  
He who understands the great  
Joins them in their own estate:  
Grasping what they had to give,  
Adds his strength that they may live.

Strong the scholar is to scan  
What is permanent in man;  
To detect his form and kind  
And preserve the human mind;  
By the type himself to guide,  
Universal wisdom bide.