

A. R. Ammons

Quotes

*Wonderful, Way, Mean, Hundred, Answers, Sight, Reading, Law, Life, World,
Taken, Return, Self, Lines, Add, Real, Firsts, Universe, Imagine, What Is Poetry*

Only silence perfects silence.

~A. R. Ammons

I am grateful for - though I can't keep up with - the flood of articles, theses, and textbooks that mean to share insight concerning the nature of poetry.

~A. R. Ammons

Anything looked at closely becomes wonderful.

~A. R. Ammons

Is it not careless to become too local when there are four hundred billion stars in our galaxy alone.

~A. R. Ammons

Attend to mushrooms and all other things will answer up.

~A. R. Ammons

Everything is discursive opinion instead of direct experience.

~A. R. Ammons

A poem generated by its own laws may be unrealized and bad in terms of so-called objective principles of taste, judgement, deduction.

~A. R. Ammons

You have your identity when you find out, not what you can keep your mind ON, but what you can't keep your mind OFF.

~A. R. Ammons

Poetry leads us to the unstructured sources of our beings, to the unknown, and returns us to our rational, structured selves refreshed.

~A. R. Ammons

Things go away to return, brightened for the passage

~A. R. Ammons

In nature there are few sharp lines

~A. R. Ammons

I have reached no conclusions, have erected no boundaries, shutting out and shutting in, separating inside from outside: I have drawn no lines

~A. R. Ammons

Once every five hundred years or so, a summary statement about poetry comes along that we can't imagine ourselves living without

~A. R. Ammons

Though I have looked everywhere / I can find nothing lowly / in the universe.

~A. R. Ammons

For though we often need to be restored to the small, concrete, limited, and certain, we as often need to be reminded of the large, vague, unlimited, unknown

~A. R. Ammons

If we ask a vague question, such as, 'What is poetry?' we expect a vague answer, such as, 'Poetry is the music of words,' or 'Poetry is the linguistic correction of disorder.'

~A. R. Ammons

The poet exposes himself to the risk. All that has been said about poetry, all that he has learned about poetry, is only a partial assurance.

~A. R. Ammons

If a poem is each time new, then it is necessarily an act of discovery, a chance taken, a chance that may lead to fulfillment or disaster

~A. R. Ammons

I take the walk to be the externalization of an interior seeking so that the analogy is first of all between the external and the internal.

~A. R. Ammons

The white sun like a moth on a string circles the southpole.

~A. R. Ammons

Definition, rationality, and structure are ways of seeing, but they become prisons when they blank out other ways of seeing.

~A. R. Ammons

What destruction have I been blessed by?

~A. R. Ammons

There's something to be said in favor of working in isolation in the real world.

~A. R. Ammons

If the greatest god is the stillness all the motions add up to, then we must ineluctably be included.

~A. R. Ammons

Probably all the attention to poetry results in some value, though the attention is more often directed to lesser than to greater values

~A. R. Ammons

One can't have it both ways and both ways is the only way I want it.

~A. R. Ammons

That's a wonderful change that's taken place, and so most poetry today is published, if not directly by the person, certainly by the enterprise of the poet himself, working with his friends.

~A. R. Ammons

Each poem in becoming generates the laws by which it is generated:
extensions of the laws to other poems never completely take.

~A. R. Ammons

The walk liberating, I was released from forms, from the perpendiculars,
straight lines, blocks, boxes, binds of thought into the hues, shadings,
rises, flowing bends and blends of sight.

~A. R. Ammons

It's not a love of poetry readings that attracts those who do come to
them but theater.

~A. R. Ammons

The wonderful workings of the world: wonderful, wonderful: I'm
surprised half the time

~A. R. Ammons

To be saved is here, local and mortal

~A. R. Ammons

I have a life that did not become, that turned aside and stopped,
astonished

~A. R. Ammons

Related Links:

- Wonderful Quotes
- Way Quotes
- Mean Quotes
- Hundred Quotes
- Answers Quotes
- Sight Quotes
- Reading Quotes
- Law Quotes
- Life Quotes
- World Quotes
- Taken Quotes
- Return Quotes
- Self Quotes
- Lines Quotes
- Add Quotes
- Real Quotes
- Firsts Quotes
- Universe Quotes
- Imagine Quotes
- What Is Poetry Quotes