

# Anne Stevenson

## Quotes

*Thinking, Friends, Writing, Poet, Art, Feelings, Children, Book, Criticism,  
Should, Poetry, Mind, Rain, Fun, Used, Half, Water, Silence, Science, Soul*

Peter Lucas and I live in Durham but spend a great of time in North Wales, where we have a cottage in the mountains, and in Vermont, USA, with my sister - who is a children's writer married to a poet.

~Anne Stevenson

Each word bears its weight, so you have to read my poems quite slowly.

~Anne Stevenson

Blackbirds are the cellos of the deep farms.

~Anne Stevenson

The sea is as near as we come to another world.

~Anne Stevenson

A poem might be defined as thinking about feelings - about human feelings and frailties.

~Anne Stevenson

I married a young Englishman in Cambridge in 1955 and have lived in Britain every since.

~Anne Stevenson

There's no friend like someone who has known you since you were five.

~Anne Stevenson

There is far too much literary criticism of the wrong kind. That is why I never could have survived as an academic.

~Anne Stevenson

Poets should ignore most criticism and get on with making poetry.

~Anne Stevenson

Yes, I do often write poems from the mind, but I hope I don't ignore feelings and emotions.

~Anne Stevenson

I like rhyme because it is memorable, I like form because having to work to a pattern gives me original ideas.

~Anne Stevenson

I am now seventy, rather glad, really, that I won't live to see the horrors to come in the 21st century.

~Anne Stevenson

Sylvia Plath was just a month and a half older than I, and when she committed suicide I was only 30 - and very shocked and sorry. I never knew her personally.

~Anne Stevenson

Blake has always been a favorite, the lyrics, not so much the prophetic books, but I suppose Yeats influenced me more as a young poet, and the American, Robert Frost.

~Anne Stevenson

I dislike literary jargon and never use it. Criticism has only one function and that is to help readers read and understand literature. It is not a science, it is an aid to art.

~Anne Stevenson

I don't like poetry that just slaps violent words on a canvas, as it were.

~Anne Stevenson

I have always made my own rules, in poetry as in life - though I have tried of late to cooperate more with my family. I do, however, believe that without order or pattern poetry is useless.

~Anne Stevenson

Mind led body to the edge of the precipice. They stared in desire at the naked abyss. If you love me, said mind, take that step into silence. If you love me, said body, turn and exist.

~Anne Stevenson

I think a poet, like a painter, should be a craftsman.

~Anne Stevenson

I write, or used to write, to explain to myself situations I couldn't otherwise solve or understand. Meditation comes very naturally to me.

~Anne Stevenson

I remain loyal to Bach, Mozart, Beethoven and Schubert in music and to Shakespeare and Jane Austen in literature.

~Anne Stevenson

democracy is dying. We are ruled by faceless bureaucrats and lecherous puritans. ... You think about it. 'All right for me but not for you' is their philosophy.

~Anne Stevenson

My soul, how will I recognize you if we meet?

~Anne Stevenson

There comes a time when you have to trust your own judgment, when you must close your eyes and let your instinct rule you.

~Anne Stevenson

I did know Ted Hughes and I partly wrote the book to explain to myself and others the complexities of a marriage that was for six years wonderfully productive of poetry and then ended in tragedy.

~Anne Stevenson

When everything is for 'fun' nothing is for the good.

~Anne Stevenson

A hobbyhorse can be a tiring ride for nonenthusiasts.

~Anne Stevenson

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