

Billy Collins

Quotes

Thinking, Writing, Mean, Reading, School, Voice, Memories, Book, Two, Night, Real, Trying, Moving, Light, Children, Poet, Character, Eye, Pleasure, Simple

One of the ridiculous aspects of being a poet is the huge gulf between how seriously we take ourselves and how generally we are ignored by everybody else.

~Billy Collins

A motto I've adopted is, if at first you don't succeed, hide all evidence that you ever tried.

~Billy Collins

The mind can be trained to relieve itself on paper.

~Billy Collins

Poetry is like standing on the edge of a lake on a moonlit night and the light of the moon is always pointing straight at you.

~Billy Collins

Nationalism is a type of insanity in which the boundaries of a land replace God.

~Billy Collins

In the process of simplifying oneself, one often discovers the thing called voice.

~Billy Collins

Write the poem only you can write.

~Billy Collins

But my heart is always propped up in a field on its tripod, ready for the next arrow.

~Billy Collins

But tonight, the lion of contentment has placed a warm heavy paw on my chest.

~Billy Collins

While the novelist is banging on his typewriter, the poet is watching a fly in the windowpane.

~Billy Collins

So many names, there is barely room on the walls of the heart.

~Billy Collins

A sentence starts out like a lone traveler heading into a blizzard at midnight, tilting into the wind, one arm shielding his face, the tails of his thin coat flapping behind him.

~Billy Collins

All they want to do is tie the poem to a chair with a rope and torture a confession out of it. They begin beating it with a hose to find out what it really means.

~Billy Collins

There's a lot of unconscious activity that goes on I think in the composition of a poem.

~Billy Collins

Radio is such a perfect medium for the transmission of poetry, primarily because there just is the voice, there's no visual distraction.

~Billy Collins

No one here likes a wet dog.

~Billy Collins

And I should mention the light which falls through the big windows this time of day italicizing everything it touches.

~Billy Collins

You will always be the bread and the knife, not to mention the crystal goblet andâ€”somehowâ€”the wine.

~Billy Collins

I stared up at the ebbing quarter moon and the stars scattered like a handful of salt across the faraway sky.

~Billy Collins

I think the pleasure of form is that you have a companion with you besides all the poetry you have ever read.

~Billy Collins

Death is what makes life fun.

~Billy Collins

It is as if one by one, the memories you used to harbor decided to retire to the Southern Hemisphere of the brain.

~Billy Collins

I see woefully obscure poetry as simply a kind of verbal rudeness.

~Billy Collins

The trouble with poetry is that it encourages the writing of more poetry.

~Billy Collins

Bugs Bunny is my muse.

~Billy Collins

â€balancing the wish to be lost with the need to be found.

~Billy Collins

I think more influential than Emily Dickinson or Coleridge or Wordsworth on my imagination were Warner Brothers, Merrie Melodies and Looney Tunes cartoons.

~Billy Collins

Humor, for me, is really a gate of departure. Its a way of enticing a reader into a poem so that less funny things can take place later. It really is not an end in itself, but a means to an end.

~Billy Collins

High School is the place where poetry goes to die.

~Billy Collins

One of these days I'm-a make me a book out of you.

~Billy Collins

Often people, when they're confronted with a poem, it's like someone who keep saying 'what is the meaning of this? What is the meaning of this?' And that dulls us to the other pleasures poetry offers.

~Billy Collins

Vade Mecum I want the scissors to be sharp and the table perfectly level when you cut me out of my life and paste me in that book you always carry.

~Billy Collins

life is a loaded gun that looks right at you with a yellow eye.

~Billy Collins

The really authentic thing about humor is that anyone can pretend to be serious. Anyone who's ever had a job - in fact, we're pretending to be serious now, more or less.

~Billy Collins

I thought originally when I was in school and I wanted to be a poet, I knew that poets seemed to be miserable.

~Billy Collins

I was a pretty happy kid, I had to fake it. I had to get into this miserable

character before I wrote poems.

~Billy Collins

Some difficulty is warranted and other difficulty I think is gratuitous. And I think I can tell the difference. There are certainly very difficult poets that I really enjoy reading.

~Billy Collins

I sit in the dark and wait for a little flame to appear at the end of my pencil.

~Billy Collins

All I wanted was to be a pea of being inside the green pod of time.

~Billy Collins

I think my poems are slightly underrated by the word accessible.

~Billy Collins

...pleasure, of course, is a slippery word.... Our pleasures ultimately belong to us, not to the pleasure's source.

~Billy Collins

This love for everyday things, part natural from the wide eye of
Infancy, part a literary calculation

~Billy Collins

I see all of us reading ourselves away from ourselves, straining in
circles of light to find more light until the line of words becomes a trail of
crumbs that we follow across a page of fresh snow.

~Billy Collins

When I wrote I took on the role of the despondent and difficult to
understand person. Whereas in life, I was easy to understand, to the
point of being simple-minded maybe.

~Billy Collins

I see the progress typical in some of my poems as starting with something simple and moving into something more demanding. This is certainly the pattern of weird poetry.

~Billy Collins

The literary world is so full of pretension, and there's such an enormous gap between how seriously poets take themselves and how widely they're ignored by everybody else.

~Billy Collins

It seems only yesterday I used to believe there was nothing under my skin but light. If you cut me I could shine.

~Billy Collins

I knew that poets seemed to be miserable.

~Billy Collins

Until recently, I thought 'occasional poetry' meant that you wrote only occasionally.

~Billy Collins

I could look at you forever and never see the two of us together

~Billy Collins

I love to move like a mouse inside this puzzle for the body, balancing the wish to be lost with the need to be found.

~Billy Collins

It's a good thing to get poetry off the shelves and more into public life.

~Billy Collins

I was able to read poets that were - allowed me to be humorous without

being silly.

~Billy Collins

I could feel the day offering itself to me, and I wanted nothing more than to be in the moment-but which moment? Not that one, or that one, or that one.

~Billy Collins

Form is any aspect of a poem that encourages it to stay whole and not drift off into chaos.

~Billy Collins

When you get a poem [in a public place], it happens to you so suddenly that you don't have time to deploy your anti-poetry deflector shields that were installed in high school.

~Billy Collins

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