

Carl Sandburg Quotes

*Men, Literature, People, Writing, Life, Book, Dream, Poetry, Night, War, Years,
Two, Children, Inspirational, Long, Song, Moon, America, World, Giving*

Yesterday and tomorrow cross and mix on the skyline. The two are lost in a purple haze. One forgets, one waits.

~Carl Sandburg

Time is the coin of your life. It is the only coin you have, and only you can determine how it will be spent. Be careful lest you let other people spend it for you.

~Carl Sandburg

There is an eagle in me that wants to soar.

~Carl Sandburg

Life is like an onion. You peel it off one layer at a time, and sometimes you weep.

~Carl Sandburg

Poetry is the synthesis of hyacinths and biscuits.

~Carl Sandburg

Love your neighbor as yourself but don't take down your fence.

~Carl Sandburg

It is necessary ... for a man to go away by himself ... to sit on a rock ... and ask, 'Who am I, where have I been, and where am I going?'

~Carl Sandburg

Let the gentle bush dig its root deep and spread upward to split the boulder.

~Carl Sandburg

Money is power, freedom, a cushion, the root of all evil, the sum of blessings.

~Carl Sandburg

The fog comes on little cat feet. It sits looking over the harbor and city on silent haunches and then moves on.

~Carl Sandburg

A baby is God's opinion that life should go on.

~Carl Sandburg

Poetry is a packsack of invisible keepsakes.

~Carl Sandburg

The secret of happiness is to admire without desiring.

~Carl Sandburg

Time is the coin of life. Only you can determine how it will be spent.

~Carl Sandburg

There is an eagle in me that wants to soar, and there is a hippopotamus in me that wants to wallow in the mud.

~Carl Sandburg

Nothing happens unless first we dream.

~Carl Sandburg

Under the harvest moon, When the soft silver Drips shimmering Over the garden nights, Death, the gray mocker, Comes and whispers to you As a beautiful friend Who remembers.

~Carl Sandburg

Poetry is an echo, asking a shadow to dance.

~Carl Sandburg

I'm an idealist. I don't know where I'm going, but I'm on my way.

~Carl Sandburg

Nearly all the best things that came to me in life have been unexpected, unplanned by me.

~Carl Sandburg

Slang is a language that rolls up its sleeves, spits on its hands and goes to work.

~Carl Sandburg

By night the skyscraper looms in the smoke and the stars and has a soul.

~Carl Sandburg

Let a joy keep you. Reach out your hands and take it when it runs by.

~Carl Sandburg

To be a good loser is to learn how to win.

~Carl Sandburg

If [America] forgets where she came from, if the people lose sight of what brought them along, if she listens to the deniers and mockers, then will begin the rot and dissolution.

~Carl Sandburg

Poetry is a mystic, sensuous mathematics of fire, smoke-stacks, waffles, pansies, people, and purple sunsets.

~Carl Sandburg

Every blunder behind us is giving a cheer for us, and only for those who were willing to fail are the dangers and splendors of life.

~Carl Sandburg

Time is the coin of your life. You spend it. Do not allow others to spend it for you.

~Carl Sandburg

Yesterday is done. Tomorrow never comes. Today is here. If you don't know what to do, sit still and listen. You may hear something. Nobody knows.

~Carl Sandburg

If the facts are against you, argue the law. If the law is against you, argue the facts. If the law and the facts are against you, pound the table and yell like hell

~Carl Sandburg

In these times you have to be an optimist to open your eyes when you awake in the morning.

~Carl Sandburg

Two bubbles found they had rainbows on their curves. They flickered out saying: "It was worth being a bubble, just to have held that rainbow thirty seconds.

~Carl Sandburg

Anger is the most impotent of passions. It effects nothing it goes about, and hurts the one who is possessed by it more than the one against whom it is directed.

~Carl Sandburg

Poetry is the opening and closing of a door, leaving those who look through to guess about what is seen during the moment.

~Carl Sandburg

Our lives are like a candle in the wind.

~Carl Sandburg

The fog comes on little cat feet.

~Carl Sandburg

Hog butcher for the world, Tool maker, stacker of wheat, Player with railroads and the nation's freight handler; Stormy, husky, brawling, City of big shoulders.

~Carl Sandburg

All we need to begin with is a #â€Ž dream that we can do better than before. All we need to have is faith, and that dream will come true. All we need to do is act, and the time for action is now.

~Carl Sandburg

Back of every mistaken venture and defeat is the laughter of wisdom, if you listen.

~Carl Sandburg

Come clean with a child heart Laugh as peaches in the summer wind
Let rain on a house roof be a song Let the writing on your face be a
smell of apple orchards on late June.

~Carl Sandburg

An ambition is a little creeper that creeps and creeps in your heart night
and day, singing a little song, "Come and find me, come and find me."

~Carl Sandburg

Calling it off comes easy enough if you haven't told the girl you are
smitten with her.

~Carl Sandburg

The moon is a friend for the lonesome to talk to.

~Carl Sandburg

When I was writing pretty poor poetry, this girl with midnight black hair
told me to go on.

~Carl Sandburg

The squeaky wheel gets the grease but the quacking duck gets shot.

~Carl Sandburg

A politician should have three hats. One for throwing into the ring, one for talking through, and one for pulling rabbits out of if elected.

~Carl Sandburg

I wrote poems in my corner of the Brooks Street station. I sent them to two editors who rejected them right off. I read those letters of rejection years later and I agreed with those editors.

~Carl Sandburg

Now is the time. It is never too late to start something.

~Carl Sandburg

Arithmetic is where numbers fly like pigeons in and out of your head.

~Carl Sandburg

The single clenched fist lifted and ready, Or the open asking hand held out and waiting. Choose: For we meet by one or the other.

~Carl Sandburg

It is the business of little minds to shrink.

~Carl Sandburg

Drum on your drums, batter on your banjos, sob on the long cool winding saxophones. Go to it, O jazzmen.

~Carl Sandburg

Poetry is the silence and speech between a wet struggling root of a flower and a sunlit blossom of that flower.

~Carl Sandburg

Be careful with your words, once they are said, they can only be

forgiven, not forgotten.

~Carl Sandburg

In the night the cabbages catch at the moon, the leaves drip silver, the rows of cabbages are a series of little silver waterfalls in the moon.

~Carl Sandburg

Time is the coin of our live. We must take care how we spend it.

~Carl Sandburg

I won't take my religion from any man who never works except with his mouth.

~Carl Sandburg

Poetry is any page from a sketchbook of outlines of a doorknob with thumb-prints of dust, blood, dreams.

~Carl Sandburg

Valor is a gift. Those having it never know for sure whether they have it until the test comes.

~Carl Sandburg

There is a wolf in me... - I keep this wolf because the wilderness gave it to me and the wilderness will not let it go.

~Carl Sandburg

I never made a mistake in grammar but one in my life and as soon as I done it I seen it.

~Carl Sandburg

Who else speaks for the Family of Man? They are in tune and step with constellations of universal law.

~Carl Sandburg

Man is a long time coming. Man will yet win. Brother may yet line up with brother: This old anvil laughs at many broken hammers. There are men who can't be bought.

~Carl Sandburg

Arithmetic is numbers you squeeze from your head to your hand to your pencil to your paper till you get the answer.

~Carl Sandburg

There are dreams stronger than death. Men and women die holding these dreams.

~Carl Sandburg

Beware of advice-even this.

~Carl Sandburg

We had two grand antique professors who had been teaching at Lombard since before I was born.

~Carl Sandburg

Poetry is a phantom script telling how rainbows are made and why they go away.

~Carl Sandburg

Who am I, where have I been, and where am I going?

~Carl Sandburg

Ashes to ashes, dust to dust, if the women don't get you then the whiskey must.

~Carl Sandburg

Poetry is a search for syllables to shoot at the barriers of the unknown and the unknowable.

~Carl Sandburg

I knew I would read all kinds of books and try to get at what it is that makes good writers good. But I made no promises that I would write books a lot of people would like to read.

~Carl Sandburg

A liar is a liar and lives on the lies he tells and dies in a life of lies.

~Carl Sandburg

Money buys everything except love, personality, freedom, immortality, silence, peace.

~Carl Sandburg

Strange things blow in through my window on the wings of the night wind and I don't worry about my destiny.

~Carl Sandburg

There will be a rusty gun on the wall, sweetheart, The rifle grooves curling with flakes of rust. A spider will make a silver string nest in the darkest, warmest corner of it.

~Carl Sandburg

Sometime they'll give a war and nobody will come.

~Carl Sandburg

In democracy both a deep reverence and a sense of the comic are requisite.

~Carl Sandburg

There is a warning love sends and the cost of it is never written till long afterward.

~Carl Sandburg

You remember some bedrooms you have slept in. There are bedrooms you like to remember and others you would like to forget.

~Carl Sandburg

Such a Big miracle in such a tiny baby. Big things often have small beginnings A baby is God's opinion that life should go on.

~Carl Sandburg

Poetry is the journal of a sea animal living on land, wanting to fly in the air.

~Carl Sandburg

The sea speaks a language polite people never repeat. It is a colossal scavenger slang and has no respect.

~Carl Sandburg

To never see a fool you lock yourself in your room and smash the looking-glass.

~Carl Sandburg

Here is the difference between Dante, Milton, and me. They wrote about hell and never saw the place. I wrote about Chicago after looking the town over for years and years.

~Carl Sandburg

One of the greatest necessities in America is to discover creative solitude.

~Carl Sandburg

The machine yes the machine never wastes anybody's time never watches the foreman never talks back.

~Carl Sandburg

To those who had ordered them to death, one of them said: "We die because the people are asleep and you will die because the people will awaken."

~Carl Sandburg

Ordering a man to write a poem is like commanding a pregnant woman to give birth to a red-headed child.

~Carl Sandburg

Men of ideas vanish when freedom vanishes.

~Carl Sandburg

What if they gave a war and nobody came?

~Carl Sandburg

I can remember only a few of the strange and curious words now dead but living and spoken by the English people a thousand years ago.

~Carl Sandburg

There have been as many varieties of socialists as there are wild birds that fly in the woods and sometimes go up and on through the clouds.

~Carl Sandburg

I have in later years taken to Euclid, Whitehead, Bertrand Russell, in an elemental way.

~Carl Sandburg

Poetry is the harnessing of the paradox of earth cradling life and then entombing it.

~Carl Sandburg

I learned you can't trust the judgment of good friends.

~Carl Sandburg

The wind bit hard at Valley Forge one Christmas. Soldiers tied rags on their feet. Red footprints wrote on the snow...

~Carl Sandburg

I make it clear why I write as I do and why other poets write as they do. After hundreds of experiments I decided to go my own way in style and see what would happen.

~Carl Sandburg

There was always the consolation that if I didn't like what I wrote I could throw it away or burn it.

~Carl Sandburg

Poetry is a sky dark with a wild-duck migration.

~Carl Sandburg

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