

Delmore Schwartz

Quotes

*Morning, Years, Literature, School, Age, Love, Country, Iceberg, Profound,
Way, Memories, Seven, Luck, Rivers, Existentialism, Pleasure, Knowing, Real,
Father, Mean*

Time is the school in which we learn, time is the fire in which we burn.

~Delmore Schwartz

Existentialism means that no one else can take a bath for you.

~Delmore Schwartz

What was the freedom to which the adult human being rose in the morning, if each act was held back or inspired by the overpowering ghost of a little child?

~Delmore Schwartz

Even paranoids have real enemies.

~Delmore Schwartz

Major writing is to say that which has been seen, so that it need never be said again; so that which has been seen increases, changes in reality, in being.

~Delmore Schwartz

Love is the most difficult and dangerous form of courage. Courage is the most desperate, admirable and noble kind of love.

~Delmore Schwartz

Poetry must be as new as foam & old as rock.

~Delmore Schwartz

Order and disorder, form and formless must have profound psychological roots, nervous roots.

~Delmore Schwartz

How could I think the brief years were enough To prove the reality of endless love?

~Delmore Schwartz

And hence the poet must seek to be essentially anonymous, He must die a little death each morning, He must swallow his toad and study his vomit as Baudelaire studied la charogne of Jeanne Duval.

~Delmore Schwartz

The Jew is at once alienated and indestructible; he is in exile from his own country and in exile even from himself, yet he survives the annihilating fury of history.

~Delmore Schwartz

Love is the tact of every good, The only warmth, the only peace.

~Delmore Schwartz

All literature is an effort at the formal character of the epigram.

~Delmore Schwartz

What does long life avail? The best seats at the funerals of friends.

~Delmore Schwartz

I admired my father very much... at the age of sixteen. But now I see that he was a brutal and cruel man, - but not without remorse, and that was what tortured us, his alternations.

~Delmore Schwartz

At the moment I'm so exhausted that I feel like cutting my throat, so the next news may well be that I am across the river and under the trees: what is the meaning and purpose of life? Death.

~Delmore Schwartz

I got married the second time in the way that, when a murder is committed, crackpots turn up at the police station to confess the crime.

~Delmore Schwartz

I am of Russian-Jewish distraction.

~Delmore Schwartz

Literature doesn't matter! The only thing that matters is money and getting your teeth fixed!

~Delmore Schwartz

Literary Party: A traffic jam of the lost waiting for the ferry across the Styx.

~Delmore Schwartz

Is it not clear that a reviewer's psyche, like an iceberg, is seven-eighths beneath the surface?

~Delmore Schwartz

I always cause those who are near to me more suffering than pleasure.

~Delmore Schwartz

I am a book I neither wrote nor read.

~Delmore Schwartz

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