

Dorianne Laux

Quotes

Writing, Children, Thinking, Book, Voice, Morning, Trying, Simple, Moving, Struggle, Important, Rain, Night, Students, World, Art, Heart, Distance, Speak,

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You've traveled this far on the back of every mistake.

~Dorianne Laux

Good writing works from a simple premise: your experience is not yours alone, but in some sense a metaphor for everyone's.

~Dorianne Laux

That's how it is sometimes--God comes to your window, all bright light and black wings, and you're just too tired to open it.

~Dorianne Laux

A poem is like a child; at some point we have to let it go and trust that it will make its own way in the world.

~Dorianne Laux

Every good poem asks a question, and every good poet asks every question.

~Dorianne Laux

Every poem I write falls short in some important way. But I go on trying to write the one that won't.

~Dorianne Laux

I have always loved too much, or not enough.

~Dorianne Laux

We continue to speak, if only in whispers, to something inside us that longs to be named.

~Dorianne Laux

We're all writing out of a wound, and that's where our song comes from. The wound is singing. We're singing back to those who've been wounded.

~Dorianne Laux

Maybe it's what we don't say/that saves us.

~Dorianne Laux

Who you are contributes to your poetry in a number of important ways, but you shouldn't identify with your poems so closely that when they are cut, you're the one that bleeds.

~Dorianne Laux

Tinted Distances is a tender meditation that reveals a careful eye and steady devotion to elegy and ode.

~Dorianne Laux

You are not your poetry. Your self-esteem shouldn't depend on whether you publish, or whether some editor or writer you admire thinks you're any good.

~Dorianne Laux

When you have worked with people all day who have so little and struggle to make it stretch, who live outside the rarefied, you are humbled.

~Dorianne Laux

I don't know if we ever have enough distance to "see" our own trajectory. We're in the muddled middle of it. Who knows what will last, what poems will take hold of the imaginations of the future.

~Dorianne Laux

If trees could speak they wouldn't

~Dorianne Laux

I'm not the only person in the world who is suffering. I'm trying to talk to the world, responding to those voices.

~Dorianne Laux

The more that accrues, the more depth, weight, and breadth we can bring to the poems, which we then need to throw overboard so we don't sink.

~Dorianne Laux

I love people and psychology. As a writer, I'm not so interested in Fred getting from the living room to the car. I want to go inside Fred's soul and play there.

~Dorianne Laux

I try to avoid calling myself a poet because I think that's something someone else has to call you. It's like bragging.

~Dorianne Laux

I feel deep gratitude for the life poetry has allowed me to live. I know the life I could have lived without it. Both on the physical plain, and the soul plain. Poetry helps us endure.

~Dorianne Laux

I would say my life experiences are my poetry, whether I'm writing about those actual, factual experiences or not.

~Dorianne Laux

W.S Merwin says "after three days of rain" and I write "After Twelve Days of Rain." I like his quietude. I admire his ability to be simple without being simplistic.

~Dorianne Laux

The students always, always surprise me.

~Dorianne Laux

I also have my backpack of the tried-and-true, and because it is new to [my students], it becomes fresh to me again as well.

~Dorianne Laux

I share my life experiences as a poet with my students. My poetic difficulties, joys, struggles and discoveries. If I read a new poem or essay or book I'm excited about, I bring it in.

~Dorianne Laux

I am the flesh boat of my experiences, we all are , my feelings, thoughts, desires and dreams are captured in my body's pliant cells, fastened onto my DNA.

~Dorianne Laux

There is so much about the process of writing that is mysterious to me, but this one thing I've found to be true: writing begets writing.

~Dorianne Laux

There's no word for what Young does, only for what he accomplishes-the capturing of small, daily miracles.

~Dorianne Laux

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