

Gwendolyn Brooks

Quotes

*People, Writing, Men, Thinking, Life, Black, Running, Children, Flower, World,
Art, Minorities, Goes On, Clumsiness, Poetry Is, Moments, Littles, Reading,
Important, Fighting*

Do not desire to fit in. Desire to oblige yourselves to lead.

~Gwendolyn Brooks

We don't ask a flower any special reason for its existence. We just look at it and are able to accept it as being something different from ourselves.

~Gwendolyn Brooks

I believe we should all know each other, we human carriers of so many pleasurable differences. To not know is to doubt, to shrink from, sidestep or destroy.

~Gwendolyn Brooks

Reading is important - read between the lines. Don't swallow everything.

~Gwendolyn Brooks

We are each other's harvest; we are each other's business; we are each other's magnitude and bond.

~Gwendolyn Brooks

Don't let anyone call you a minority if you're black or Hispanic or belong to some other ethnic group. You're not less than anybody else.

~Gwendolyn Brooks

I think there are things for all of us to do as long as we're here and we're healthy.

~Gwendolyn Brooks

Books are meat and medicine and flame and flight and flower steel, stitch, cloud and clout, and drumbeats on the air.

~Gwendolyn Brooks

Truth-tellers are not always palatable. There is a preference for candy

bars.

~Gwendolyn Brooks

Exhaust the little moment. Soon it dies. And be it gash or gold it will not come again in this identical guise.

~Gwendolyn Brooks

What I'm fighting for now in my work... for an expression relevant to all manner of blacks, poems I could take into a tavern, into the street, into the halls of a housing project.

~Gwendolyn Brooks

Even if you are not ready for day it cannot always be night.

~Gwendolyn Brooks

Already I am no longer looked at with lechery or love.

~Gwendolyn Brooks

There can be no whiter whiteness than this one: An insurance man's shirt on its morning run.

~Gwendolyn Brooks

This is the urgency: Live! and have your blooming in the noise of the whirlwind.

~Gwendolyn Brooks

I know that the Black emphasis must be not against white but FOR Black.

~Gwendolyn Brooks

She was learning to love moments. To love moments for themselves.

~Gwendolyn Brooks

It is brave to be involved. To be not fearful to be unresolved.

~Gwendolyn Brooks

Writing is a delicious agony.

~Gwendolyn Brooks

Art hurts. Art urges voyages - and it is easier to stay at home.

~Gwendolyn Brooks

One reason cats are happier than people is that they have no newspapers.

~Gwendolyn Brooks

I felt that I had to write. Even if I had never been published, I knew that I would go on writing, enjoying it and experiencing the challenge.

~Gwendolyn Brooks

Good health is a duty to yourself, to your contemporaries, to your inheritors, to the progress of the world.

~Gwendolyn Brooks

Poetry is life distilled.

~Gwendolyn Brooks

Art is a refining and evocative translation of the materials of the world.

~Gwendolyn Brooks

As you get older, you find that often the wheat, disentangling itself from the chaff, comes out to meet you.

~Gwendolyn Brooks

With melted opals for my milk, Pearl-leaf for my cracker.

~Gwendolyn Brooks

I am interested in telling my particular truth as I have seen it.

~Gwendolyn Brooks

Live not for Battles Won. Live not for The-End-of-the-Song. Live in the along.

~Gwendolyn Brooks

Be yourself. Don't imitate other poets. You are as important as they are.

~Gwendolyn Brooks

When you use the term minority or minorities in reference to people, you're telling them that they're less than somebody else.

~Gwendolyn Brooks

I am a writer perhaps because I am not a talker.

~Gwendolyn Brooks

Be careful what you swallow. Chew!

~Gwendolyn Brooks

Each body has its art.

~Gwendolyn Brooks

Goodness begins simply with the fact of life itself.

~Gwendolyn Brooks

I like the concentration, the crush; I like working with language, as others like working with clay, or notes.

~Gwendolyn Brooks

What shall I give my children? who are poor, / Who are adjudged the leastwise of the land...

~Gwendolyn Brooks

And if sun comes / How shall we greet him? / Shall we not dread him, /
Shall we not fear him / After so lengthy a / Session with shade?

~Gwendolyn Brooks

A writer should get as much education as possible, but just going to
school is not enough; if it were, all owners of doctorates would be
inspired writers.

~Gwendolyn Brooks

Abortions will not let you forget. You remember the children you got that
you did not get.

~Gwendolyn Brooks

What, what am I to do with all of this life?

~Gwendolyn Brooks

Exhaust the little moment / Soon it dies.

~Gwendolyn Brooks

When I start writing a poem, I don't think about models or about what
anybody else in the world has done.

~Gwendolyn Brooks

We are each other's magnitude and bond.

~Gwendolyn Brooks

I am a writer perhaps because I am not a talker. It has always been
hard for me to say exactly what I mean in speech But if I have written a
clumsiness, I may erase it.

~Gwendolyn Brooks

We real cool. We Left school. We Lurk late. We Strike straight. We Sing
sin. We Thin gin. We Jazz June. We Die soon.

~Gwendolyn Brooks

It is brave to be involved

~Gwendolyn Brooks

The poetry is myself.

~Gwendolyn Brooks

First fight. Then fiddle.

~Gwendolyn Brooks

I don't like the idea of the black race being diluted out of existence. I like the idea of all of us being here.

~Gwendolyn Brooks

I think it must be lonely to be God. Nobody loves a master. No.

~Gwendolyn Brooks

I swear to keep the dead upon my mind, / Disdain for all time to be overglad.

~Gwendolyn Brooks

... sometimes you have to deal / Devilishly with drowning men in order to swim them to shore.

~Gwendolyn Brooks

I don't want people running around saying Gwen Brooks's work is intellectual. That makes people think instantly about obscurity. It shouldn't have to mean that, but it often seems to.

~Gwendolyn Brooks

The music is in minors.

~Gwendolyn Brooks

Nothing could stop Mississippi.

~Gwendolyn Brooks

beware the easy griefs / that fool and fuel nothing.

~Gwendolyn Brooks

Life must be aromatic. There must be scent, somehow there must be some.

~Gwendolyn Brooks

To be in love is to touch things with a lighter hand. In yourself you stretch, you are well.

~Gwendolyn Brooks

It frightens me to realize that, if I had died before the age of fifty, I would have died a 'Negro' fraction.

~Gwendolyn Brooks

Do not be afraid of no, Who has so far, so very far to go.

~Gwendolyn Brooks

Very early in life I became fascinated with the wonders language can achieve. And I began playing with words.

~Gwendolyn Brooks

My last defense / Is the present tense.

~Gwendolyn Brooks

Life for my child is simple, and is good.

~Gwendolyn Brooks

There are no magics or elves / Or timely godmothers to guide us. We are lost, must / Wizard a track through our own screaming weed.

~Gwendolyn Brooks

I tell poets that when a line just floats into your head, don't pay attention 'cause it probably has floated into somebody else's head.

~Gwendolyn Brooks

I shall create! If not a note, a hole./If not an overture, a desecration.

~Gwendolyn Brooks

No man can give me any word but Wait.

~Gwendolyn Brooks

I've always thought of myself as a reporter.

~Gwendolyn Brooks

People are so in need, in need of help. People want so much that they do not know.

~Gwendolyn Brooks

at a certain moment in social proceedings, I am on FIRE to leave: I have a leaving-FIT.

~Gwendolyn Brooks

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