

# John Ciardi

## Quotes

*Men, Writing, Beer, Civilization, Character, Mean, Inspirational, Boys, Art, Needs, Poetry, Funny, Get Up, War, Mind, Father, Sleep, Reading, Happens, Way*

There's nothing wrong with sobriety in moderation.

~John Ciardi

The day will happen whether or not you get up.

~John Ciardi

Let our love be like an arch- two weaknesses leaning together to form one strength.

~John Ciardi

Gentility is what is left over from rich ancestors after the money is gone.

~John Ciardi

You don't have to suffer to be a poet; adolescence is enough suffering for anyone.

~John Ciardi

Men marry what they need. I marry you.

~John Ciardi

Fermentation and civilization are inseparable.

~John Ciardi

Written by a sponge dipped in warm milk and sprinkled with sugar.

~John Ciardi

The reader deserves an honest opinion. If he doesn't deserve it, give it to him anyhow.

~John Ciardi

The classroom should be an entrance into the world, not an escape from it.

~John Ciardi

Love is the word used to label the sexual excitement of the young, the habituation of the middle-aged, and the mutual dependence of the old.

~John Ciardi

Modern art is what happens when painters stop looking at girls and persuade themselves that they have a better idea.

~John Ciardi

You have to fall in love with hanging around words.

~John Ciardi

Every game ever invented by mankind, is a way of making things hard for the fun of it!

~John Ciardi

A good question is never answered. It is not a bolt to be tightened into place but a seed to be planted and to bear more seed toward the hope of greening the landscape of idea.

~John Ciardi

Poetry lies its way to the truth.

~John Ciardi

A university is what a college becomes when the faculty loses interest in the students.

~John Ciardi

Fermentation equals civilization.

~John Ciardi

Early to bed and early to rise probably indicates unskilled labor.

~John Ciardi

Intelligence recognizes what has happened. Genius recognizes what

will happen.

~John Ciardi

Patience is the art of caring slowly.

~John Ciardi

It is easy enough to praise men for the courage of their conviction. I wish I could teach the sad young of this mealy generation the courage of their convictions.

~John Ciardi

What has any poet to trust more than the feel of the thing? Theory concerns him only until he picks up his pen, and it begins to concern him again as soon as he lays it down.

~John Ciardi

A man is what he does with his attention and mine is not for sale.

~John Ciardi

The constitution gives every American the inalienable right to make a damn fool of himself.

~John Ciardi

A neighborhood is a residential area that is changing for the worse.

~John Ciardi

Boys are the cash of war.

~John Ciardi

A carbonated wine foisted upon Americans (who else would drink it?) by winery ad agencies as a way of getting rid of inferior champagne by mixing it with inferior burgundy.

~John Ciardi

A dollar saved is a quarter earned.

~John Ciardi

Every parent is at some time the father of the unreturned prodigal, with nothing to do but keep his house open to hope.

~John Ciardi

Boys are the cash of war. Whoever said: we're not free spenders- doesn't know our like.

~John Ciardi

The public library is the most dangerous place in town

~John Ciardi

Spontaneous is what you get after the seventeenth draft.

~John Ciardi

To read a poem with no thought in mind but to paraphrase it into a single, simple and usually high-minded prose statement is the destruction of poetry.

~John Ciardi

Tell me how much a nation knows about its own language, and I will tell you how much that nation knows about its own identity.

~John Ciardi

Nothing goes further toward a man's liberation than the act of surviving his need for character.

~John Ciardi

The thing about cats, as you may find, Is that no one knows what they have in mind.

~John Ciardi

The success of the poem is determined not by how much the poet felt in writing it, but by how much the reader feels in reading it.

~John Ciardi

General rules have been legislated into being by past masters.

~John Ciardi

I have one head that wants to be good, And one that wants to be bad.  
And always, as soon as I get up, One of my heads is sad.

~John Ciardi

I'm smiled out, talked out, quipped out, socialized so far from any being,  
I need the weight of mortal silences to get realized back into myself.

~John Ciardi

Who could believe an ant in theory? A giraffe in blueprint? Ten  
thousand doctors of what's possible Could reason half the jungle out of  
being.

~John Ciardi

A savage is simply a human organism that has not received enough  
news from the human race.

~John Ciardi

Honesty: The ability to resist small temptations.

~John Ciardi

**Related Links:**

- Men Quotes
- Writing Quotes
- Beer Quotes
- Civilization Quotes
- Character Quotes
- Mean Quotes
- Inspirational Quotes
- Boys Quotes
- Art Quotes
- Needs Quotes
- Poetry Quotes
- Funny Quotes
- Get Up Quotes
- War Quotes
- Mind Quotes
- Father Quotes
- Sleep Quotes
- Reading Quotes
- Happens Quotes
- Way Quotes