

John Masefield

Quotes

Men, Life, Stars, Sea, Soul, Heart, Sailing, Home, Mother, Children, May, Death, Years, Spring, Wine, Wise, Love Is, Laughing, Poetry, Imagination

I have seen the Lady April bringing the daffodils, Bringing the springing grass and the soft warm April rain.

~John Masefield

Quinquireme of Nineveh from distant Ophir, Rowing home to haven in sunny Palestine, With a cargo of ivory, And apes and peacocks, Sandalwood, cedarwood, and sweet white wine.

~John Masefield

I hold that when a person dies / His soul returns again to earth; / Arrayed in some new flesh disguise / Another mother gives him birth / With sturdier limbs and brighter brain.

~John Masefield

O lovely lily clean, O lily springing green, O lily bursting white, Dear lily of delight, Spring in my heart agen That I may flower to men.

~John Masefield

I must go down to the sea again, to the lonely sea and the sky; and all I ask is a tall ship and a star to steer her by.

~John Masefield

Men in a ship are always looking up, and men ashore are usually looking down.

~John Masefield

The three foundations of judgement: Bold Design, Constant Practice, and Frequent Mistakes.

~John Masefield

Success is the brand on the brow of the man who aimed too low.

~John Masefield

What am I, Life? A thing of watery salt Held in cohesion by unresting

cells, Which work they know not why, which never halt, Myself unwitting where their Master dwells?

~John Masefield

To most of us the future seems unsure. But then it always has been; and we who have seen great changes must have great hopes.

~John Masefield

All I ask is a tall ship and a star to sail her by.

~John Masefield

Since the printing press came into being, poetry has ceased to be the delight of the whole community of man; it has become the amusement and delight of the few.

~John Masefield

I have seen flowers come in stony places And kind things done by men with ugly faces, And the gold cup won by the worst horse at the races, So I trust, too.

~John Masefield

The days that make us happy make us wise

~John Masefield

It's a warm wind, the west wind, full of birds' cries.

~John Masefield

The distant soul can shake the distant friend's soul and make the longing felt, over untold miles.

~John Masefield

Humans consist of body, mind and imagination. Our bodies are faulty, our minds untrustworthy, but our imagination has made us remarkable.

~John Masefield

There are few earthly things more beautiful than a university a place where those who hate ignorance may strive to know, where those who perceive truth may strive to make others see.

~John Masefield

Once in a century a man may be ruined or made insufferable by praise. But surely once in a minute something generous dies for want of it.

~John Masefield

Man's body is faulty, his mind untrustworthy, but his imagination has made him remarkable.

~John Masefield

State are not made, nor patched; they grow; Grow slow through centuries of pain, And grow correctly in the main; But only grow by certain laws, Of certain bits in certain jaws.

~John Masefield

Life is a long headache in a noisy street.

~John Masefield

God warms his hands at man's heart when he prays.

~John Masefield

God dropped a spark down into everyone, And if we find and fan it to a blaze, It'll spring up and glow, like--like the sun, And light the wandering out of stony ways.

~John Masefield

My road leads me seawards To the white dipping sails.

~John Masefield

Heaven to me's a fair blue stretch of sky, Earth's jest a dusty road.

~John Masefield

The luck will alter and the star will rise.

~John Masefield

It may be that we cease; we cannot tell. Even if we cease, life is a miracle.

~John Masefield

Love is a flame to set the will on fire

~John Masefield

Off Cape Horn there are but two kinds of weather, neither one of them a pleasant kind.

~John Masefield

The corn that makes the holy bread
By which the soul of man is fed,
The holy bread, the food unpriced,
Thy everlasting mercy, Christ.

~John Masefield

Commonplace people dislike tragedy because they dare not suffer and cannot exult.

~John Masefield

The social states of human kinds
Are made by multitudes of minds,
And after multitudes of years
A little human growth appears
Worth having,
even to the soul
Who sees most plain it's not the whole.

~John Masefield

His face was filled with broken commandments.

~John Masefield

Lord, give to me who are old and rougher
The things that little children
suffer, And let keep bright and undefiled
The young years of the little
child.

~John Masefield

Oh some are fond of Spanish wine, and some are fond of French.

~John Masefield

And may we find when ended is the page, Death but a tavern on our pilgrimage.

~John Masefield

Poetry is a mixture of common sense, which not all have, with an uncommon sense, which very few have.

~John Masefield

In this life he laughs longest who laughs last.

~John Masefield

I must go down to the sea again For the call of the running tide It's a wild call and a clear call that may not be denied.

~John Masefield

Only the road and the dawn, the sun, the wind, and the rain, And the watch fire under stars, and sleep, and the road again.

~John Masefield

Love is a flame to burn out human wills, Love is a flame to set the will on fire, Love is a flame to cheat men into mire.

~John Masefield

From '41 to '51 I was my folk's contrary son; I bit my father's hand right through And broke my mother's heart in two.

~John Masefield

But he has gone, A nation's memory and veneration, Among the radiant, ever venturing on, Somewhere, with morning, as such spirits will.

~John Masefield

When Life knocks at the door no one can wait,
When Death makes his arrest we have to go.

~John Masefield

The Lord who gave us Earth and Heaven
Takes that as thanks for all He's given.
The book he lent is given back
All blotted red and smutted black.

~John Masefield

Man with his burning soul
Has but an hour of breath
To build a ship of Truth
In which his soul may sail-
Sail on the sea of death.
For death takes toll
Of beauty, courage, youth,
Of all but Truth.

~John Masefield

People who leave their own time out of their work
cannot be surprised if their time fails to find them interesting.

~John Masefield

Life's battle is a conquest for the strong;
The meaning shows in the defeated thing.

~John Masefield

Life, a beauty chased by tragic laughter.

~John Masefield

I have seen dawn and sunset on moors and windy hills
Coming in solemn beauty like slow old tunes of Spain.

~John Masefield

Most roads lead men homewards, My road leads me forth

~John Masefield

All the great things of life are swiftly done,
Creation, death, and love the double gate.
However much we dawdle in the sun
We have to hurry at

the touch of Fate.

~John Masefield

Death opens unknown doors. It is most grand to die.

~John Masefield

All ye that pass by! While we least think it he prepares his Mate. Mate,
and the King's pawn played, it never ceases, Though all the earth is
dust of taken pieces.

~John Masefield

It ought to have gangsters, and aeroplanes and a lot of automatic
pistols.

~John Masefield

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