

June Jordan Quotes

*Children, Thinking, Mean, Names, America, Men, Heart, Fighting, Father,
Believe, Political, Hurt, White, Beautiful, Hate, Telling The Truth, Justice,
Country, Motherhood, Determination*

Bisexuality means I am free and I am as likely to want to love a woman as I am likely to want to love a man, and what about that? Isn't that what freedom implies?

~June Jordan

We are the ones we've been waiting for.

~June Jordan

To tell the truth is to become beautiful, to begin to love yourself, value yourself. And that's political, in its most profound way.

~June Jordan

Poetry is a political act because it involves telling the truth.

~June Jordan

Like a lot of Black women, I have always had to invent the power my freedom requires.

~June Jordan

We do not deride the fears of prospering white America. A nation of violence and private property has every reason to dread the violated and the deprived.

~June Jordan

Maybe the purpose of being here, wherever we are, is to increase the durability and occasions of love among and between peoples.

~June Jordan

Overall, white men run America. From nuclear armaments to the filth and jeopardy of New York City subways to the cruel mismanagement of health care, is there anything to boast about?

~June Jordan

Body and soul, Black America reveals the extreme questions of

contemporary life, questions of freedom and identity: How can I be who I am?

~June Jordan

To tell the truth is to become beautiful.

~June Jordan

If you are free, you are not predictable and you are not controllable.

~June Jordan

In the process of telling the truth about what you feel or what you see, each of us has to get in touch with himself or herself in a really deep, serious way.

~June Jordan

I am not wrong: Wrong is not my name

~June Jordan

I do believe that the analogy for bisexuality is a multicultural, multi-ethnic, multiracial world view. Bisexuality follows from such a perspective and leads to it, as well.

~June Jordan

I am a stranger, learning to love the strangers around me

~June Jordan

There are two ways to worry words. One is hoping for the greatest possible beauty in what is created. The other is to tell the truth.

~June Jordan

The first function of poetry is to tell the truth, to learn how to do that, to find out what you really feel and what you really think

~June Jordan

Let me just say, at once: I am not now nor have I ever been a white man. And, leaving aside the joys of unearned privilege, this leaves me feeling pretty good.

~June Jordan

Americans have begun to understand that trouble does not start somewhere on the other side of town. It seems to originate inside the absolute middle of the homemade cherry pie.

~June Jordan

To begin is no more agony than opening your hand.

~June Jordan

As a poet and writer, I deeply love and I deeply hate words.

~June Jordan

To believe is to become what you believe.

~June Jordan

Freedom is indivisible, and either we are working for freedom or you are working for the sake of your self-interests and I am working for mine.

~June Jordan

That attitude that fighting is probably not fair, but you have to defend yourself anyway and damage the enemy, has been profoundly consequential as far as my political activism goes.

~June Jordan

A democratic state is not proven by the welfare of the strong but by the welfare of the weak.

~June Jordan

Revolution always unfolds inside an atmosphere of rising expectations.

~June Jordan

But, based on my friendship with Evie as young mothers, I started going on freedom rides in 1966.

~June Jordan

I think I have come to a place where I'm able to feel more comfortable about being honest.

~June Jordan

That a little child will lead us back to the child we will always be, vulnerable and wanting and hurting for love and for beauty.

~June Jordan

In the name of motherhood and fatherhood and education and good manners, we threaten and suffocate and bind and ensnare and bribe and trick children into wholesale emulation of our ways.

~June Jordan

Like running trying to live a good life has to hurt a little bit, or we're not running hard enough, not really trying.

~June Jordan

As a poet and writer, I deeply love and I deeply hate words. I love the infinite evidence and change and requirements and possibilities of language.

~June Jordan

Consequently, most of us really exist at the mercy of other people's formulations of what's important.

~June Jordan

The purpose of polite behavior is never virtuous. Deceit, surrender, and concealment these are not virtues. The goal of the mannerly is comfort,

per se.

~June Jordan

To rescue our children we will have to let them save us from the power we embody: we will have to trust the very difference that they forever personify.

~June Jordan

As I am a poet I express what I believe, and I fight against whatever I oppose, in poetry.

~June Jordan

My heart is not peripheral to me.

~June Jordan

The United States Supreme Court, once a reliable if ultimate recourse for progressive and even revolutionary grievances, has become a retrograde wellspring for enormous economic and social distress.

~June Jordan

If we even tolerate any oppression of gay and lesbian Americans, if we join those who would intrude upon the choices of our hearts, then who among us shall be free?

~June Jordan

I care because I want you to care about me. I care because I have become aware of my absolute dependency upon you, whoever you are, for the outcome of my social, my democratic experience.

~June Jordan

Sometimes we become so sophisticated we have to read the New York Times in order to figure out whether it's a hot or a rainy day.

~June Jordan

My father was very intense, passionate and over-the-top. He was my hero and my tyrant.

~June Jordan

The neglected legacy of the Sixties is just this: unabashed moral certitude, and the purity -- the incredibly outgoing energy -- of righteous rage.

~June Jordan

I am working never to be late again.

~June Jordan

It means to educate myself incessantly about the world around me.

~June Jordan

What tyranny could exceed a tyranny that dictates to the human heart?

~June Jordan

The music of language became extremely important to me, and obvious to me. By the time I was seven I was writing myself. I was a poet

~June Jordan

I am the history of the rejection of who I am

~June Jordan

I believe that love is the single, true prosperity of any moment.

~June Jordan

We survive our love because we go on loving.

~June Jordan

The thing about genius is it will never yield to circumstances. Genius regards what's given as the beginning of its need to find or devise something else.

~June Jordan

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