

Karl Shapiro

Quotes

*Sleep, Soul, Men, Important, Finals, Tomorrow, Lying, Poet, Crime, Play,
Innocent, Credit, Children, Dream, Innocence, Modern, Seeing, Race, Two
Sides, Voice*

Haul up the flag, you mourners, Not half-mast but all the way; The funeral is done and disbanded; The devil's had the final say.

~Karl Shapiro

Poetry is innocent, not wise. It does not learn from experience, because each poetic experience is unique.

~Karl Shapiro

But with exquisite breathing you smile, with satisfaction of love, And I touch you again as you tick in the silence and settle in sleep.

~Karl Shapiro

To make the child in your own image is a capital crime, for your image is not worth repeating. The child knows this and you know it. Consequently you hate each other.

~Karl Shapiro

The proverbist knows nothing of the two sides of a question. He knows only the roundness of answers.

~Karl Shapiro

Already old, the question Who shall die? Becomes unspoken Who is innocent?

~Karl Shapiro

The body, what is it, Father, but a sign To love the force that grows us, to give back What in Thy palm is senselessness and mud?

~Karl Shapiro

Poetry is not a way of saying things; it's a way of seeing things.

~Karl Shapiro

How something important happens is the business of historians and newspapers, the effect it has is the business of philosophers and

writers and especially poets.

~Karl Shapiro

Poets of course are even more unpredictable than other writers, overwhelmed as they are by the moment they inhabit and finding it difficult to connect yesterday with tomorrow.

~Karl Shapiro

Self-knowledge is a dangerous thing, tending to make man shallow or insane.

~Karl Shapiro

Keelhaul the poets in the vestry chairs.

~Karl Shapiro

The good poet sticks to his real loves, to see within the realm of possibility. He never tries to hold hands with God or the human race.

~Karl Shapiro

Lawyers love paper. They eat, sleep and dream paper. They turn paper into gold, and their files are colorful and their language neoclassical and calligraphically bewigged.

~Karl Shapiro

A man's house is his stage. Others walk on to play their bit parts. Now and again a soliloquy, a birth, an adultery.

~Karl Shapiro

My soul is now her day, my day her night, So I lie down, and so I rise.

~Karl Shapiro

Every war is its own excuse. That's why they're all surrounded with ideals. That's why they're all crusades.

~Karl Shapiro

Leo Connellan has retained his soul and voice in Provincetown and Other Poems.

~Karl Shapiro

The modern essay has regained a good deal of its literary status in our time, much to the credit of Joseph Epstein.

~Karl Shapiro

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