

Langston Hughes Quotes

*Dream, People, Men, Fall, Beautiful, America, White, Morning, Rivers, Rain,
Strong, Song, Thinking, Color, Art, Dark, Book, Black, Running, Sweet*

Hold fast to dreams, for if dreams die, life is a broken-winged bird that cannot fly.

~Langston Hughes

I'm so tired of waiting, aren't you, for the world to become good and beautiful and kind?

~Langston Hughes

The only way to get a thing done is to start to do it, then keep on doing it, and finally you'll finish it.

~Langston Hughes

A world I dream where black or white, Whatever race you be, Will share the bounties of the Earth And every man is free.

~Langston Hughes

When a man starts out to build a world, He starts first with himself

~Langston Hughes

Let America be the dream the dreamers dreamed - Let it be that great strong land of love Where never kings connive nor tyrants scheme That any man be crushed by one above.

~Langston Hughes

I tire so of hearing people say, Let things take their course. Tomorrow is another day. I do not need my freedom when I'm dead. I cannot live on tomorrow's bread.

~Langston Hughes

I have discovered in life that there are ways of getting almost anywhere you want to go, if you really want to go.

~Langston Hughes

Negroes - Sweet and docile, Meek, humble, and kind: Beware the day -

They change their mind.

~Langston Hughes

What happens to a dream deferred? Does it dry up like a raisin in the sun? ... Or does it explode?

~Langston Hughes

Good morning, Revolution: You're the very best friend I ever had. We gonna pal around together from now on

~Langston Hughes

Reach Up Your Hand... and take a star.

~Langston Hughes

An artist must be free to choose what he does, certainly, but he must also never be afraid to do what he might choose.

~Langston Hughes

That Justice is a blind goddess Is a thing to which we black are wise:
Her bandage hides two festering sores That once perhaps were eyes.

~Langston Hughes

Let America be America, where equality is in the air we breathe.

~Langston Hughes

Let the rain kiss you. Let the rain beat upon your head with silver liquid drops. Let the rain sing you a lullaby.

~Langston Hughes

Let the rain sing you a lullaby.

~Langston Hughes

Go home and write / a page tonight. / And let that page come out of you
- / Then, it will be true.

~Langston Hughes

When peoples care for you and cry for you, they can straighten out your soul.

~Langston Hughes

I dream a world... where wretchedness will hang its head and joy, like a pearl, attends the needs of all mankind. Of such I dream, my world!

~Langston Hughes

O, let my land be a land where Liberty Is crowned with no false patriotic wreath, But opportunity is real, and life is free, Equality is in the air we breathe.

~Langston Hughes

Like a welcome summer rain, humor may suddenly cleanse and cool the earth, the air and you.

~Langston Hughes

Beauty for some provides escape, who gain a happiness in eyeing the gorgeous buttocks of the ape or Autumn sunsets exquisitely dying.

~Langston Hughes

Gather quickly Out of darkness All the songs you know And throw them at the sun Before they melt Like snow.

~Langston Hughes

I am the American heartbreak- The rock on which Freedom Stumped its toe.

~Langston Hughes

Democracy will not come Today, this year Nor ever Through compromise and fear.

~Langston Hughes

A dream deferred is a dream denied.

~Langston Hughes

Gather out of star-dust, Earth-dust, Cloud-dust, Storm-dust, And splinters of hail, One handful of dream-dust, Not for sale.

~Langston Hughes

America never was America to me And yet I swear this oath - America will be!

~Langston Hughes

LIBERTY! FREEDOM! DEMOCRACY! True anyhow no matter how many Liars use those words.

~Langston Hughes

Well, I like to eat, sleep, drink, and be in love. I like to work, read, learn, and understand life.

~Langston Hughes

We younger Negro artists who create now intend to express our individual dark-skinned selves without fear or shame. If white people are pleased we are glad. If they aren't it doesn't matter.

~Langston Hughes

I stuck my head out the window this morning and spring kissed me bang in the face.

~Langston Hughes

Life for me ain't been no crystal stair

~Langston Hughes

Looks like what drives me crazy Don't have no effect on you-- But I'm gonna keep on at it Till it drives you crazy, too.

~Langston Hughes

I wish the rent Was heaven sent.

~Langston Hughes

Oh, God of Dust and Rainbows, Help us to see That without the dust the rainbow Would not be.

~Langston Hughes

Road's in front o' me, Nothin' to do but walk.

~Langston Hughes

Life is an egg you have to be patient and careful with it or it will break.

~Langston Hughes

I stay cool, and dig all jive, That's the way I stay alive. My motto, as I live and learn, is Dig and be dug In return.

~Langston Hughes

Folks, I'm telling you, birthing is hard and dying is mean- so get yourself a little loving in between.

~Langston Hughes

I look at my own body With eyes no longer blind- And I see that my own hands can make The world that's in my mind.

~Langston Hughes

Teach us all to do right, Lord, please, and to get along together with that atom bomb on this earth because I do not want it to fall on me-nor Thee-nor anybody living. Amen!

~Langston Hughes

I loved my friend He went away from me There's nothing more to say The poem ends, Soft as it began- I loved my friend.

~Langston Hughes

My soul has grown deep like the rivers.

~Langston Hughes

Life is for the living. Death is for the dead. Let life be like music. And death a note unsaid.

~Langston Hughes

I swear to the Lord, I still can't see, why Democracy means, everybody but me.

~Langston Hughes

Gather up In the arms of your loveâ€”Those who expect No love from above.

~Langston Hughes

For my best poems were all written when I felt the worst. When I was happy, I didn't write anything.

~Langston Hughes

Keep your hand on the plow. Hold on.

~Langston Hughes

The past has been a mint Of blood and sorrow. That must not be True of tomorrow.

~Langston Hughes

Blues had the pulse beat of the people who keep on going.

~Langston Hughes

Politics can be the graveyard of the poet. And only poetry can be his resurrection.

~Langston Hughes

Money and art are far apart.

~Langston Hughes

Humor is when the joke's on you but hits the other fellow first -- before it boomerangs.

~Langston Hughes

When poems stop talking about the moon and begin to mention poverty, trade unions, color, color lines and colonies, somebody tells the police.

~Langston Hughes

I am the darker brother. They send me to eat in the kitchen when company comes, but I laugh, and eat well, and grow strong.

~Langston Hughes

Hang yourself, poet, in your own words. Otherwise, you are dead.

~Langston Hughes

They [the police] learned something from them Harlem riots. They used to beat your head right in public, but now they only beat it after they get you down to the station house.

~Langston Hughes

We build our temples for tomorrow, strong as we know how, and we stand on top of the mountain, free within ourselves.

~Langston Hughes

Out of love, No regrets-- Though the goodness Be wasted forever. Out of love, No regrets-- Though the return Be never.

~Langston Hughes

While over Alabama earth These words are gently spoken: Serve and hate will die unborn. Love and chains are broken.

~Langston Hughes

Life is a big sea full of many fish. I let down my nets and pulled. I'm still pulling.

~Langston Hughes

Everybody should take each other as they are, white, black, Indians, Creole. Then there would be no prejudice, nations would get along.

~Langston Hughes

The rhythm of life is a jazz rhythm

~Langston Hughes

I will not take 'but' for an answer. Negroes have been looking at democracy's 'but' too long.

~Langston Hughes

I am a Negro: Black as the night is black, Black like the depths of my Africa.

~Langston Hughes

Summer was made to give you a taste of what hell is like. Winter was made for landladies to charge high rents and keep cold radiators and make a fortune off of poor tenants.

~Langston Hughes

The depression brought everybody down a peg or two. And the Negroes had but few pegs to fall.

~Langston Hughes

Well, when Christ comes back this time, I hope He comes back mad His own self. I hope He drives the Jim Crows out of their high places, every living last one of them from Washington to Texas.

~Langston Hughes

For poems are like rainbows; they escape you quickly.

~Langston Hughes

Misery is when you heard on the radio that the neighborhood you live in is a slum but you always thought it was home.

~Langston Hughes

Life dosent frighten me at all.

~Langston Hughes

Rest at pale evening... A tall slim tree... Night coming tenderly Black like me

~Langston Hughes

Life is a system of half-truths and lies, Opportunistic, convenient evasion.

~Langston Hughes

Negro blood is sure powerful, because just one drop of black blood makes a colored man. One drop--you are a Negro! . . . Black is powerful.

~Langston Hughes

There is no color line in art.

~Langston Hughes

We Negro writers, just by being black, have been on the blacklist all our lives. Censorship for us begins at the color line.

~Langston Hughes

7 x 7 + love = An amount Infinitely above: 7 x 7 - love.

~Langston Hughes

How still, How strangely still The water is today, It is not good For water To be so still that way. ~ "Sea Calm

~Langston Hughes

There's a certain amount of traveling in a dream deferred.

~Langston Hughes

I will not take "but" for an answer.

~Langston Hughes

What happens to a dream deferred?

~Langston Hughes

Most musicians remain poor. But the music that they make, even if it does not bring them millions, gives millions of people happiness.

~Langston Hughes

Peace We passed their graves: The dead men there, Winners or losers, Did not care. In the dark They could not see Who had gained The victory.

~Langston Hughes

Humor is laughing at what you haven't got when you ought to have it.

~Langston Hughes

Let America be America again. Let it be the dream it used to be.

~Langston Hughes

Whiskey just naturally likes me but beer likes me better.

~Langston Hughes

This morning I paid seventy cents for two little old dried-up slivers of bacon and one cockeyed egg. It took me till noon to get my appetite back.

~Langston Hughes

My seeking has been to explain and illuminate the Negro condition in America and obliquely that of all human kind.

~Langston Hughes

Both of them were very good and kind - the one who went to church and the one who didn't. And no doubt from them I learned to like both Christians and sinners equally well.

~Langston Hughes

I don't dare start thinking in the morning. I don't dare start thinking in the morning. If I thought thoughts in bed, Them thoughts would bust my head-- So I don't dare start thinking in the morning.

~Langston Hughes

The calm, Cool face of the river, Asked me for a kiss

~Langston Hughes

I've known rivers: I've known rivers ancient as the world and older than the flow of human blood in human veins. My soul has grown deep like the rivers.

~Langston Hughes

One of the great difficulties about being a member of a minority race is that so many kindhearted, well-meaning bores gather around to help.

~Langston Hughes

To create a market for your writing you have to be consistent, professional, a continuing writer - not just a one-article or a one-story or a one-book man.

~Langston Hughes

Pleased equally In seeking as in finding, Each detail minding, Old Walt went seeking And finding.

~Langston Hughes

Though you may hear me holler, And you may see me cry-- I'll be dogged, sweet baby, If you gonna see me die.

~Langston Hughes

It has seemed to me that most people are generally good, in every race and in every country where I have been.

~Langston Hughes

Good evening, daddy! Ain't you heard The boogie-woogie rumble Of a dream deferred? Trilling the treble And twining the bass Into midnight ruffles Of cat-gut lace.

~Langston Hughes

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