

Lucille Clifton

Quotes

*Writing, Children, Eye, Thinking, Fall, Want, Knowing, Mean, People, Black,
Letting Go, Believe, Mama, Art, Kissing, Telling The Truth, Bridges, Wonder,
Crazy, Hymns*

What they call you is one thing. What you answer to is something else.

~Lucille Clifton

In the bigger scheme of things the universe is not asking us to do something, the universe is asking us to be something. And that's a whole different thing.

~Lucille Clifton

Come celebrate with me that every day something has tried to kill me and has failed.

~Lucille Clifton

Poetry is a matter of life, not just a matter of language.

~Lucille Clifton

Every pair of eyes facing you has probably experienced something you could not endure.

~Lucille Clifton

the lesson of the falling leaves the leaves believe such letting go is love
such love is faith such faith is grace such grace is god i agree with the
leaves

~Lucille Clifton

You might as well answer the door, my child, the truth is furiously knocking.

~Lucille Clifton

they ask me to remember but they want me to remember their
memories and I keep on remembering mine

~Lucille Clifton

We cannot create what we can't imagine.

~Lucille Clifton

Even when the universe made it quite clear to me that I was mistaken in my certainties ... I did not break. The shattering of my sureties did not shatter me.

~Lucille Clifton

Things don't fall apart. Things hold. Lines connect in thin ways that last and last and lives become generations made out of pictures and words just kept.

~Lucille Clifton

may you kiss the wind then turn from it certain that it will love your back

~Lucille Clifton

these hips have never been enslaved, they go where they want to go they do what they want to do. these hips are mighty hips. these hips are magic hips

~Lucille Clifton

Say it clear, and it will be beautiful.

~Lucille Clifton

Intellect doesn't translate across cultures; intuition does.

~Lucille Clifton

People wish to be poets more than they wish to write poetry, and that's a mistake. One should wish to celebrate more than one wishes to be celebrated.

~Lucille Clifton

To be a good poet, you must care more about the writing, than the writer.

~Lucille Clifton

You cannot play for safety and make art.

~Lucille Clifton

I keep hearing tree talk water words and i keep knowing what they mean.

~Lucille Clifton

I don't go get a poem. It calls me and I accept it.

~Lucille Clifton

Poems come out of wonder, not out of knowing.

~Lucille Clifton

Children when they ask you why your mama so funny say she is a poet she don't have no sense

~Lucille Clifton

telling the truth about children's lives is radical.

~Lucille Clifton

Tell the truth... maybe just to see clearly, as clearly as possible.

~Lucille Clifton

The end of a thing, is never the end, something is always being born like a year of a baby.

~Lucille Clifton

I am a black woman poet and I sound like one.

~Lucille Clifton

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- Mama Quotes
- Art Quotes
- Kissing Quotes
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- Wonder Quotes
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