

Mary Ruefle

Quotes

*Lonely, Time, Secret, Writing, Fall, Reading, Giving, Long, Poet, World, Protect,
Metaphor, Trying, Sentimental, Youth, Mind, Events, Silence, Exceed,
Childhood*

I have become an orchid washed in on the salt white beach. Memory, what can I make of it now that might please you- this life, already wasted and still strewn with miracles?

~Mary Ruefle

A poem is a finished work of the mind, it is not the work of a finished mind.

~Mary Ruefle

We are all one question, and the best answer seems to be loveâ€™”a connection between things.

~Mary Ruefle

In life, the number of beginnings is exactly equal to the number of endings ... In poetry, the number of beginnings so far exceeds the number of endings that we cannot even conceive of it.

~Mary Ruefle

in the beginning William Shakespeare was a baby, and knew absolutely nothing. He couldn't even speak.

~Mary Ruefle

I'm lucky enough to occasionally be able to do something I love - write poems - and unlucky enough that what I love confuses and overwhelms me.

~Mary Ruefle

Art has always been aware of itself as art.

~Mary Ruefle

In our marginal existence, what else is there but this voice within us, this great weirdness we are always leaning forward to listen to?

~Mary Ruefle

The origins of poetry are clearly rooted in obscurity, in secretiveness, in incantation, in spells that must at once invoke and protect, tell the secret and keep it.

~Mary Ruefle

In the end I would rather wonder than know

~Mary Ruefle

Words have a love for each other, a desire that culminates in poetry.

~Mary Ruefle

There is a world which poets cannot seem to enter. It is the world everybody else lives in. And the only thing poets seem to have in common is their yearning to enter this world.

~Mary Ruefle

Irreverence is a way of playing hooky and remaining present at the same time.

~Mary Ruefle

Something unpronounceable followed by a long silence points out my life is becoming a landscape.

~Mary Ruefle

A poem is a neutrino - mainly nothing - it has no mass and can pass through the earth undetected.

~Mary Ruefle

the wasting of time is the most personal, most private, most intimate form of conversation with oneself, as well as with another.

~Mary Ruefle

It is the first experience you ever had of reading a decent poem: 'Oh, somebody else is lonely, too!'

~Mary Ruefle

People, the people we really love, where did they come from? What did we do to deserve them?

~Mary Ruefle

Every creative act is an act of hypocrisy and violence. You may have to think about it for a while, but I am sure you can discover your own.

~Mary Ruefle

Although all poets aspire to be birds, no bird aspires to be a poet.

~Mary Ruefle

The words secret and sacred are siblings.

~Mary Ruefle

Poetry is sentimental to begin with. To write a sentimental poem is an act of redundancy.

~Mary Ruefle

I hated childhood / I hate adulthood / And I love being alive.

~Mary Ruefle

[On filling out a grant application:] I seek an extended period of time, free from all distractions, so that I might be free to be distracted.

~Mary Ruefle

There's a difference between being alone and being lonely. Writers know that. I have never met a writer who does not crave to be alone. We have to be alone to do what we do.

~Mary Ruefle

Metaphor is not, and never has been, a mere literary term. It is an event.

~Mary Ruefle

My happiness is marred only by my failure to attain it.

~Mary Ruefle

The industrial world destroys nature not because it doesn't love it but because it is not afraid of it.

~Mary Ruefle

Every time it starts to snow, I would like to have sex.

~Mary Ruefle

I study nature so as not to do foolish things.

~Mary Ruefle

I like to read because it kills me.

~Mary Ruefle

Yes, the mistrust of poetry has a long history, for a variety of reasons, but they all come down to sentiment and invention over fact and truth. Figurative language is suspicious.

~Mary Ruefle

All of the heroes you see falling down were filmed trying to stand up.

~Mary Ruefle

If we knew the value of suffering, we would ask for it.

~Mary Ruefle

I remember being so young I thought all artists were famous.

~Mary Ruefle

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