

Muriel Rukeyser

Quotes

Poetry, World, War, Ideas, Reality, Morning, Poetry Is, Sacrifice, Thinking, Stories, Self, Flight, Long, Emotional, Peace, Source, Order, Trying, Writing, Action

What would happen if one woman told the truth about her life? The world would split open.

~Muriel Rukeyser

The universe is made of stories, not of atoms.

~Muriel Rukeyser

However confused the scene of our life appears, however torn we may be who now do face that scene, it can be faced, and we can go on to be whole.

~Muriel Rukeyser

As we live our truths, we will communicate across all barriers, speaking for the sources of peace. Peace that is not lack of war, but fierce and positive.

~Muriel Rukeyser

Breathe-in experience, breathe-out poetry.

~Muriel Rukeyser

The journey is my home.

~Muriel Rukeyser

The sources of poetry are in the spirit seeking completeness.

~Muriel Rukeyser

If we look long enough and hard enough ... we will begin to see the connections that bind us together, and when we recognize those connections, we will begin to change the world.

~Muriel Rukeyser

If there were no poetry on any day in the world, poetry would be invented that day. For there would be an intolerable hunger.

~Muriel Rukeyser

Reality is the completion of experience.

~Muriel Rukeyser

Never to despise in myself what I have been taught to despise. Nor to despise the other. Not to despise the it. To make this relation with the it: to know that I am it.

~Muriel Rukeyser

A work of art is one through which the consciousness of the artist is able to give its emotions to anyone who is prepared to receive them.

~Muriel Rukeyser

The fear of poetry is an indication that we are cut off from our own reality.

~Muriel Rukeyser

The world is made up of Stories, not Atoms.

~Muriel Rukeyser

I hear the singing of the lives of women. They clear mystery, the offering, and pride.

~Muriel Rukeyser

My lifetime listens to yours.

~Muriel Rukeyser

Nourish beginnings, let us nourish beginnings. Not all things are blest, but the seeds of all things are blest. The blessing is in the seed.

~Muriel Rukeyser

Let us not fear the hidden. Or each other.

~Muriel Rukeyser

Exchange is creation.

~Muriel Rukeyser

Dreams are the sources of action, the meeting and the end, a resting place among the flight of things.

~Muriel Rukeyser

Women in drudgery knew They must be one of four: Whores, artists, saints, and wives. There are composite lives that women always live

~Muriel Rukeyser

What three things can never be done? / Forget. Keep silent. Stand alone

~Muriel Rukeyser

Always our wars have been our confessions of weakness

~Muriel Rukeyser

Flight is intolerable contradiction.

~Muriel Rukeyser

No one wants to read poetry. You have to make it impossible for them to put the poem down--impossible for them to stop reading it, word after word. You have to keep them from closing the book.

~Muriel Rukeyser

Outrage and possibility are in all the poems we know.

~Muriel Rukeyser

dogma and shrinking from the external world are at one limit of the range of belief. At the other are science and poetry and, indeed, reality.

~Muriel Rukeyser

The process of writing a poem represents work done on the self of the poet, in order to make form.

~Muriel Rukeyser

All the poems of our lives are not yet made.

~Muriel Rukeyser

The universe of poetry is the universe of emotional truth. Our material is in the way we feel and the way we remember.

~Muriel Rukeyser

the truth of a poem is its form and its content, its music and its meaning are the same.

~Muriel Rukeyser

The world is not made of molecules, the world is made of stories.

~Muriel Rukeyser

One writes in order to feel.

~Muriel Rukeyser

Poetry is, above all, an approach to the truth of feeling.

~Muriel Rukeyser

Beware of those who talk about sacrifice.

~Muriel Rukeyser

Hollywood works continually to keep its standard of contempt for the audience.

~Muriel Rukeyser

I remember mother saying : Inventors are like poets, a trashy lot

~Muriel Rukeyser

Those who speak of our culture as dead or dying have a quarrel with life, and I think they cannot understand its terms, but must endlessly

repeat the projection of their own desires.

~Muriel Rukeyser

I am haunted by interrupted acts, introspective as a leper, enchanted by a repulsive clew, a gross and fugitive movement of the limbs. Is this the love that shook the lights to flame?

~Muriel Rukeyser

I speak to you. You speak to me. Is that fragile?

~Muriel Rukeyser

I am working out the vocabulary of my silence.

~Muriel Rukeyser

Whatever can happen to anyone can happen to me.

~Muriel Rukeyser

A world is to be fought for, sung, and built: Love must imagine the world.

~Muriel Rukeyser

Try to live as if there were a God

~Muriel Rukeyser

I lived in the first century of world wars. Most mornings I would be more or less insane.

~Muriel Rukeyser

There is also, in any history, the buried, the wasted, and the lost.

~Muriel Rukeyser

I will try to be non-violent one more day this morning, waking the world away in the violent day.

~Muriel Rukeyser

Not all things are blest, but the seeds of all things are blest.

~Muriel Rukeyser

We sit here, very different each from the other, until the passion arrives to give us our equality, to make us part of the play, to make the play part of us.

~Muriel Rukeyser

Punctuation is biological. It is the physical indication of the body-rhythms which the reader is to acknowledge.

~Muriel Rukeyser

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