

Naomi Shihab Nye

Quotes

*Thinking, Writing, World, People, Children, Hands, Book, Mother, Long, Home,
Father, Fire, Kindness, Reading, Light, Want, Sometimes, Morning, Shoes,
Mirrors*

I love the solitude of reading. I love the deep dive into someone else's story, the delicious ache of a last page.

~Naomi Shihab Nye

Before you know kindness as the deepest thing inside, you must know sorrow as the other deepest thing.

~Naomi Shihab Nye

Poetry calls us to pause. There is so much we overlook, while the abundance around us continues to shimmer, on its own.

~Naomi Shihab Nye

There is a place to stand where you can see so many lights you forget you are one of them.

~Naomi Shihab Nye

... the real heroes of race and culture would always be the people who stepped out of their own line to make a larger circle.

~Naomi Shihab Nye

This is the world I want to live in. The shared world.

~Naomi Shihab Nye

You know, those of us who leave our homes in the morning and expect to find them there when we go back - it's hard for us to understand what the experience of a refugee might be like.

~Naomi Shihab Nye

Being good felt like a heavy coat, so I took it off.

~Naomi Shihab Nye

Before you know what kindness really is you must lose things, feel the future dissolve in a moment like salt in a weakened broth.

~Naomi Shihab Nye

Energy is everything. Rubbing happy and sad together creates energy.

~Naomi Shihab Nye

only kindness that raises its head from the crowd of the world to say it is I you have been looking for, and then goes with you everywhere like a shadow or a friend.

~Naomi Shihab Nye

I am looking for the human who admits his flaws Who shocks the adversary By being kinder not stronger What would that be like? We don't even know

~Naomi Shihab Nye

Sometimes there's no one to listen to what you really might like to say at a certain moment. The paper always listens.

~Naomi Shihab Nye

Where we live in the world is never one place. Our hearts, those dogged mirrors, keep flashing us moons before we are ready for them.

~Naomi Shihab Nye

Later our dreams begin catching fire around the edges, they burn like paper, we wake with our hands full of ash.

~Naomi Shihab Nye

When allowed to return to the class, your feelings of humility and lonesomeness will render you a much finer student and person.

~Naomi Shihab Nye

I want to be famous in the way a pulley is famous, or a buttonhole, not because it did anything spectacular, but because it never forgot what it could do.

~Naomi Shihab Nye

It was terrible when a single conversation with someone determined your whole future relationship.

~Naomi Shihab Nye

I keep thinking, we teach children to use language to solve their disputes. We teach them not to hit and fight and bite. Then look what adults do!

~Naomi Shihab Nye

Being alive is a common road. It's what we notice makes us different.

~Naomi Shihab Nye

The hands are churches that worship the world.

~Naomi Shihab Nye

What did exclusivity ever have to offer but a distorted, unrealistic view of the world? People who stuck only to their own kind were scared people.

~Naomi Shihab Nye

I say yes when I mean no and the wrinkle grows.

~Naomi Shihab Nye

Facts interest me less than the trailing smoke of stories.

~Naomi Shihab Nye

Because sometimes I live in a hurricane of words and not one of them can save me.

~Naomi Shihab Nye

I'm writing mostly to thank you for living you eighty years and to tell you I love you and think of you often.

~Naomi Shihab Nye

Read, Read, and then Read some more. Always Read. Find the voices that speak most to YOU. This is your pleasure and blessing, as well as responsibility!

~Naomi Shihab Nye

I'm not interested in who suffered the most. I'm interested in people getting over it.

~Naomi Shihab Nye

Getting over what you did to me is not why I get out of bed anymore.

~Naomi Shihab Nye

A poem is a cup of words open to the sky and wind in a bucket.

~Naomi Shihab Nye

Poetry [is] more necessary than ever as a fire to light our tongues.

~Naomi Shihab Nye

you will never catch up. Walk around feeling like a leaf know you could tumble at any second. Then decide what to do with your time. --The Art of Disappearing

~Naomi Shihab Nye

why are we so monumentally slow?

~Naomi Shihab Nye

The thousands small birds of January in their smooth soaring cloud finding the trees.

~Naomi Shihab Nye

our limbs which had already traveled far beyond her world, carrying the click of distances in the smooth, untroubled soles of their shoes.

~Naomi Shihab Nye

I support all people on earth who have bodies like and unlike my body.

~Naomi Shihab Nye

I can never see fashion models, lean angular cheeks, strutting hips and blooming hair, without thinking of the skulls at the catacombs in Lima, Peru.

~Naomi Shihab Nye

Mystery: Everything felt better before you got there than when you actually got there. When you actually got there, you didn't quite have the energy to be there.

~Naomi Shihab Nye

I want to be someone making music/with my coming.

~Naomi Shihab Nye

I do think that all of us think in poems.

~Naomi Shihab Nye

I think the job of writing and literature is to encourage each one of us to believe that we're living in a story.

~Naomi Shihab Nye

I support all people on earth who have bodies like and unlike my body, skins and moles and old scars, secret and public hair, crooked toes. I support those who have done nothing large.

~Naomi Shihab Nye

My mother used to tell me when I went somewhere, "Please leave your foolishness at home." But how could I do that? It was stuck on me.

~Naomi Shihab Nye

We dropped our troubles into the lap of the storyteller, and they turned into someone else's.

~Naomi Shihab Nye

The writing of Kathleen McGookey shines more brightly than most fine things we feel pleasure to read. Celebrate it!

~Naomi Shihab Nye

Maybe when your mother died young, you became instantly old.

~Naomi Shihab Nye

We all find ourselves involved in projects or activities that confound us-when or why did I say I would do this? What was I thinking? I needed a poem for myself that said-pause longer. Think again.

~Naomi Shihab Nye

We start out as little bits of disconnected dust.

~Naomi Shihab Nye

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