

Nikki Giovanni

Quotes

*People, Thinking, Writing, Black, Book, Want, School, Needs, Inspiring, Trying,
World, Art, Love, Children, Hip Hop, Life, Jobs, Believe, Giving, Years*

Deal with yourself as a individual, worthy of respect and make everyone else deal with you the same way.

~Nikki Giovanni

She knows who she is, because she knows who she isn't.

~Nikki Giovanni

Mistakes are a fact of life. It is the response to the error that counts.

~Nikki Giovanni

The only way you can grow is to let yourself make mistakes and create contradictions. As we learn new things, some of our old attitudes will change.

~Nikki Giovanni

We are strong enough to stand tall tearlessly, we are brave enough to bend to cry, and we are sad enough to know that we must laugh again.

~Nikki Giovanni

We have a world to conquer...one person at a time...starting with ourselves.

~Nikki Giovanni

You must be unintimidated by your own thoughts.

~Nikki Giovanni

We love because it's the only true adventure.

~Nikki Giovanni

I want to be clear about this. If you wrote from experience, you'd get maybe one book, maybe three poems. Writers write from empathy.

~Nikki Giovanni

Once you know who you are, you don't have to worry anymore.

~Nikki Giovanni

Show me someone not full of herself and I'll show you a hungry person.

~Nikki Giovanni

The unwillingness to try is worse than any failure.

~Nikki Giovanni

Mistakes are a fact of life. If you are willing to be wrong then you have earned the right to be right.

~Nikki Giovanni

We obviously need the truth. We're living in a country of lies.

~Nikki Giovanni

Now, everything I do, I do because I want to. And I believe the best is yet to come.

~Nikki Giovanni

I really don't think life is about the I-could-have-beens. Life is only about the I-tried-to-do. I don't mind the failure but I can't imagine that I'd forgive myself if I didn't try.

~Nikki Giovanni

We are better than we think and not yet what we want to be.

~Nikki Giovanni

If i can't have what i want . . . then my job is to want what i've got and be satisfied that at least there is something more to want

~Nikki Giovanni

Poetry and music are very good friends. Like mommies and daddies and strawberries and cream - they go together.

~Nikki Giovanni

We write because we believe the human spirit cannot be tamed and should not be trained.

~Nikki Giovanni

There're two people in the world that are not likeable: a master and a slave.

~Nikki Giovanni

The poet can only write the poems; it takes the reader to complete the meaning.

~Nikki Giovanni

We need to make sure our children travel to see things. Not necessarily long distances but at least out of the neighborhood. On a train. A boat. An airplane.

~Nikki Giovanni

Daddy says the world is a drum tight and hard and I told him I'm gonna beat out my own rhythm.

~Nikki Giovanni

I would put books on par with chocolate, because a good book is delicious.

~Nikki Giovanni

the world is not a pleasant place to be without someone to hold and be held by.

~Nikki Giovanni

go barefoot and be warm all the time not only when you go to bed and sleep

~Nikki Giovanni

VISIBILITY - You've got to find a way to make people know you're there

~Nikki Giovanni

I love you because no two snowflakes are alike, and it is possible, if you stand tippy-toe, to walk between the raindrops.

~Nikki Giovanni

A lot of people refuse to do things because they don't want to go naked, don't want to go without guarantee. But that's what's got to happen. You go naked until you die.

~Nikki Giovanni

A white face goes with a white mind. Occasionally a black face goes with a white mind. Very seldom a white face will have a black mind.

~Nikki Giovanni

The more you love someone the more he wants from you and the less you have to give since you've already given him your love.

~Nikki Giovanni

No one needs to teach you to be mean; we need to be taught to be kind.

~Nikki Giovanni

Hip-hop is a cultural expression - it's embracing.

~Nikki Giovanni

Who I really am keeps surprising me.

~Nikki Giovanni

Some say we are responsible for those we love. Others know we are responsible for those who love us.

~Nikki Giovanni

Art is not for the cultivated taste. It is to cultivate taste.

~Nikki Giovanni

You do what you can with what you have. You have to work the edges whatever they are. The main thing is keeping your integrity.

~Nikki Giovanni

Schools should be integrated by race and by class.

~Nikki Giovanni

Love is the offspring of spiritual affinity and unless that affinity is created in a moment, it will not be created for years or even generations.

~Nikki Giovanni

Follow your image as far as you can no matter how useless you think it is. Push yourself.

~Nikki Giovanni

Everything will change. The only question is growing up or decaying.

~Nikki Giovanni

Violence is like money in the bank; it's only helpful if you don't have to use it.

~Nikki Giovanni

Black love is black wealth

~Nikki Giovanni

Floating to shore...riding a low moon...on a slow cloud.

~Nikki Giovanni

Art offers sanctuary to everyone willing to open their Hearts as well as their Eyes.

~Nikki Giovanni

Everybody that loves freedom loves Harriet Tubman because she was determined not only to be free, but to make free as many people as she could.

~Nikki Giovanni

We eat up artists like there's going to be a famine at the end.

~Nikki Giovanni

Life is a process where people mix and match, fall apart and come back together.

~Nikki Giovanni

White people really deal more with God and black people with Jesus.

~Nikki Giovanni

If you were a pure bolt of fire-cutting the skies I'd touch you-risking my life-not because I'm brave or strong, but because I'm fascinated by what the outcome would be.

~Nikki Giovanni

I am so hip even my errors are correct

~Nikki Giovanni

I don't have a life-style, I have a life.

~Nikki Giovanni

I am a huge fan of the Black woman. I never hesitate to recommend her when times are bad or things go wrong.

~Nikki Giovanni

Poets can tell the truth as they see it. It's the author's story, the author's voice.

~Nikki Giovanni

I think one of the nicest things that we created as a generation was just the fact that we could say, 'Hey, I don't like white people.'

~Nikki Giovanni

Life is a marvelous, transitory adventure.

~Nikki Giovanni

War is not a jobs program.

~Nikki Giovanni

Libraries...house our dreams.

~Nikki Giovanni

If you don't understand yourself you don't understand anybody else.

~Nikki Giovanni

I'm glad I understand that while language is a gift, listening is a responsibility. (U.S. poet and writer, 1943-)

~Nikki Giovanni

If you're a writer, the answer to everything is yes.

~Nikki Giovanni

I have not tried to tell the people anything. I have shared my views with the people but I have not tried to lead or correct them, assuming they need correction.

~Nikki Giovanni

It is not who you attend school with but who controls the school you attend.

~Nikki Giovanni

When younger, I thought one of the particulars of being "Homo sapiens" was to communicate. I have not learned not to, though I am cautious when I try.

~Nikki Giovanni

BEFORE YOU JUMP OFF A BRIDGE OR HANG YOURSELF OR BE UNHAPPY PLEASE CONSIDER: LIVE FOR YOURSELF; THOSE WHO HATE YOU HAVE NO PURCHASE

~Nikki Giovanni

If I could come back as anything - I'd be a bird, first, but definitely the command key is my second choice.

~Nikki Giovanni

There is no such thing as writer's block. There is only not enough information. If you can't write, learn something.

~Nikki Giovanni

I move on feeling and have learned to distrust those who don't.

~Nikki Giovanni

Just as nature abhors a vacuum, humans resist change. Change will occur; vacuums will be filled.

~Nikki Giovanni

[My] Books are like puppies and children: you love each one for different reasons. I don't actually have a favorite because, if I were honest, I'm always more excited about what is coming.

~Nikki Giovanni

Sacred cows make very poor gladiators.

~Nikki Giovanni

Rage is to writers what water is to fish.

~Nikki Giovanni

There are things you stand up for because it's right.

~Nikki Giovanni

In the name of peace They waged the wars ain't they got no shame

~Nikki Giovanni

Favorite poems are like favorite children. We definitely have them but we never tell as the others would have their feelings hurt.

~Nikki Giovanni

If now isn't a good time for the truth I don't see when we'll get to it.

~Nikki Giovanni

And like an unfaithful mate, once a car has let you down you never sort of trust it again.

~Nikki Giovanni

We must invest in tomorrow. And pay our teachers for teaching as we pay our coaches for coaching.

~Nikki Giovanni

Don't want to be near you for the thoughts we share but the words we never have to speak.

~Nikki Giovanni

What's the difference between dragging a black man behind a truck in Jasper, Texas, and beating a white boy to death in Wyoming because he's gay?

~Nikki Giovanni

We black women are the single group in the West intact. And anybody

can see we're pretty shaky. We are, however (all praises), the only group that derives its identity from itself.

~Nikki Giovanni

Black love is Black wealth and they'll probably talk about my hard childhood and never understand that all the while I was quite happy

~Nikki Giovanni

Ever been kidnapped by a poet if i were a poet i'd kidnap you put you in my phrases and meter.

~Nikki Giovanni

You must invent your own games and teach us old ones how to play.

~Nikki Giovanni

Poetry is like air. It's one of the necessary things. Everyone benefits from poetry. And as you know, poetry is international. There are only two things that are truly international, poetry and wine.

~Nikki Giovanni

Baseball is already the world's most tranquil sport. It is probably the only active sport where you are not seriously required to be alive to play.

~Nikki Giovanni

Nina Simone's music is incredibly honest. That's like saying, "Why does Jesus' word still stay around?" It's incredibly honest and it's good.

~Nikki Giovanni

Nothing improves your writing, I think, as much as your keeping writing.

~Nikki Giovanni

Who I am really keeps surprising me.

~Nikki Giovanni

But nonviolence was never for the oppressor; it was for the oppressed.

~Nikki Giovanni

You're only as good as your last book.

~Nikki Giovanni

I'm an old storyteller. I tell the story. It's about the story.

~Nikki Giovanni

I am proud of the hip hop generation. They are good business people and, actually, good people.

~Nikki Giovanni

School buildings should be opened and used twenty four hours a day.

~Nikki Giovanni

I've not learned the acceptable way of saying you fascinate me...I've not even learned how to say I like you without frightening people away-

~Nikki Giovanni

i hope i die warmed by the life that i tried to live

~Nikki Giovanni

I think that too many strangers were in her [Nina Simone's] life, and not enough people that she knew and loved.

~Nikki Giovanni

Being Black and poor is, I think, radically different from being anything else and poor. Poor, to most Blacks, is a state of mind. Those who accept it are poor; those who struggle are middle class.

~Nikki Giovanni

One stands, in fact, in awe of the Constitution of the United States, though it is an idea and not quite a reality.

~Nikki Giovanni

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