

Robert Hayden

Quotes

*Discovery, Slavery, Muzzle, Art, Ivory, Heart, Order, Home, Night, Evil, Lonely,
Definitions, New Day, Beautiful, Kindness, Talking, Men, Dark, Dance,
Differences*

As you continue writing and rewriting, you begin to see possibilities you hadn't seen before. Writing a poem is always a process of discovery.

~Robert Hayden

Art is not escape, but a way of finding order in chaos, a way of confronting life.

~Robert Hayden

I believe it's true that one person can make a difference. But how much more difference 100 people make, or rather 99.

~Robert Hayden

We must not be frightened nor cajoled into accepting evil as deliverance from evil. We must go on struggling to be human, though monsters of abstractions police and threaten us.

~Robert Hayden

This freedom, this liberty, this beautiful and terrible thing, needful to man as air, usable as earth.

~Robert Hayden

[My poetry is] a way of coming to grips with reality . . . a way of discovery and definition. It is a way of solving for the unknowns.

~Robert Hayden

As well have a talon as a finger, a muzzle as a mouth, as well have a hollow as a heart.

~Robert Hayden

Your presence was shore where I rested/ released from the hoodoo of that dance, where I spoke/ with my true voice again.

~Robert Hayden

Harriet Tubman, woman of earth, whipscarred, a summoning, a

shinning

~Robert Hayden

Sundays too my father got up early and put his clothes on in the blueblack cold, then with cracked hands that ached from labor in the weekday weather made banked fire blazes. No one ever thanked him.

~Robert Hayden

It seemed to me as we were talking about Christ rising from the dead, the sun popped over the mountain. That was indicative of Christ rising - a new day. It just makes sense.

~Robert Hayden

Standing to America, bringing home black gold, black ivory, black seed.

~Robert Hayden

Midnight Special on a sabre track moving moving, first stop Mercy and the last Hallelujah.

~Robert Hayden

Shuttles in the rocking loom of history, the dark ships move, the dark ships move, their bright ironical names like jests of kindness on a murderer's mouth

~Robert Hayden

What did I know, what did I know of love's austere and lonely offices?

~Robert Hayden

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