

Wisława Szymborska

Quotes

Thinking, Writing, Inspiration, World, Two, People, Firsts, Different, Tiny, Book, Reality, Easier, Usual, Clouds, Knows, Believe, Hands, Choices, Night, Poet

I prefer the absurdity of writing poems to the absurdity of not writing poems.

~Wisława Szymborska

Whether you want it or not, your genes have a political past, your skin a political tone. your eyes a political color. ... you walk with political steps on political ground.

~Wisława Szymborska

I have sympathy for young people, for their growing pains, but I balk when these growing pains are pushed into the foreground, when you make these young people the only vehicles of life's wisdom.

~Wisława Szymborska

You can find the entire cosmos lurking in its least remarkable objects.

~Wisława Szymborska

Let the people who never find true love keep saying that there's no such thing. Their faith will make it easier for them to live and die.

~Wisława Szymborska

At the very beginning of my creative life I loved humanity. I wanted to do something good for mankind. Soon I understood that it isn't possible to save mankind.

~Wisława Szymborska

This terrifying world is not devoid of charms, of the mornings that make waking up worthwhile.

~Wisława Szymborska

I'm old-fashioned and think that reading books is the most glorious pastime that humankind has yet devised.

~Wisława Szymborska

Any knowledge that doesn't lead to new questions quickly dies out: it fails to maintain the temperature required for sustaining life.

~Wisława Szymborska

All is mine but nothing owned, nothing owned for memory, and mine only while I look.

~Wisława Szymborska

Such certainty is beautiful, but uncertainty is more beautiful still

~Wisława Szymborska

It's just not easy to explain to someone else what you don't understand yourself.

~Wisława Szymborska

No day copies yesterday, no two nights will teach what bliss is in precisely the same way, with precisely the same kisses.

~Wisława Szymborska

When I pronounce the word Future, the first syllable already belongs to the past. When I pronounce the word Silence, I destroy it.

~Wisława Szymborska

In every tragedy, an element of comedy is preserved. Comedy is just tragedy reversed.

~Wisława Szymborska

I like being near the top of a mountain. One can't get lost here.

~Wisława Szymborska

The joy of writing. The power of preserving. Revenge of a mortal hand.

~Wisława Szymborska

Even boredom should be described with gusto. How many things are

happening on a day when nothing happens?

~Wisława Szymborska

There is so much Everything that Nothing is hidden quite nicely

~Wisława Szymborska

Every beginning is only a sequel, after all, and the book of events is always open halfway through.

~Wisława Szymborska

I don't know the role I'm playing. I only know it's mine, non-convertible.

~Wisława Szymborska

Loveless work, boring work, work valued only because others haven't got even that much, however loveless and boring - this is one of the harshest human miseries.

~Wisława Szymborska

I slide my arm from under the sleeper's head and it is numb, full of swarming pins, on the tip of each, waiting to be counted, the fallen angels sit.

~Wisława Szymborska

Somewhere out there the world must have an end.

~Wisława Szymborska

I am who I am. A coincidence no less unthinkable than any other.

~Wisława Szymborska

Though I may deny poets their monopoly on inspiration, I still place them in a select group of Fortune's darlings.

~Wisława Szymborska

Something doesn't start at its usual time. Something doesn't happen as

it should. Someone was always, always here, then suddenly disappeared and stubbornly stays disappeared.

~Wisława Szymborska

Keep up the good work, if only for a while, if only for the twinkling of a tiny galaxy.

~Wisława Szymborska

No one feels good at four in the morning. If ants feel good at four in the morning â€”three cheers for the ants.

~Wisława Szymborska

Generally speaking, life is so rich and full of variety; you have to remember all the time that there is a comical side to everything.

~Wisława Szymborska

And whatever I do will become forever what I've done.

~Wisława Szymborska

No one in my family has ever died of love. What happened, happened, but nothing myth-inspiring.

~Wisława Szymborska

Poetic talent doesn't operate in a vacuum. There is a spirit of Polish poetry.

~Wisława Szymborska

All the best have something in common, a regard for reality, an agreement to its primacy over the imagination.

~Wisława Szymborska

I am a tarsier and a tarsier's son, the grandson and great-grandson of tarsiers, a tiny creature, made up of two pupils and whatever simply could not be left out.

~Wisława Szymborska

When it comes, you'll be dreaming that you don't need to breathe; that breathless silence is the music of the dark and it's part of the rhythm to vanish like a spark.

~Wisława Szymborska

All imperfection is easier to tolerate if served up in small doses.

~Wisława Szymborska

Even a graphomaniac is an extremely complicated person.

~Wisława Szymborska

Get to know other worlds, if only for comparison.

~Wisława Szymborska

Their faith will make it easier for them to live and die.

~Wisława Szymborska

I started earning a living as a poet rather early on.

~Wisława Szymborska

Poets yearn, of course, to be published, read, and understood, but they do little, if anything, to set themselves above the common herd and the daily grind.

~Wisława Szymborska

After every war someone has to tidy up.

~Wisława Szymborska

Life lasts but a few scratches of the claw in the sand.

~Wisława Szymborska

They say the first sentence in any speech is always the hardest. Well,

that one's behind me, anyway.

~Wisława Szymborska

Is a decision made in advance really any kind of choice?

~Wisława Szymborska

We're extremely fortunate not to know precisely the kind of world we live in. One would have to live a long, long time, unquestionably longer than the world itself.

~Wisława Szymborska

Nothing's a gift, it's all on loan

~Wisława Szymborska

God was finally going to believe in a man both good and strong, but good and strong are still two different men.

~Wisława Szymborska

They say the first love's most important. That's very romantic, but not my experience.

~Wisława Szymborska

Nothing can ever happen twice. In consequence, the sorry fact is that we arrive here improvised and leave without the chance to practice.

~Wisława Szymborska

Memory at last has what I sought.

~Wisława Szymborska

I cannot speak for more than an hour exclusively about poetry. At that point, life itself takes over again.

~Wisława Szymborska

I'm one-time-only to the marrow of my bones.

~Wisława Szymborska

There's simply too much fuss about myself.

~Wisława Szymborska

But they know about us, they know, the four corners, and the chairs nearby us. Discerning shadows also know, and even the table keeps quiet.

~Wisława Szymborska

Dying - you can't do that to a cat.

~Wisława Szymborska

What does the world get from two people/who exist in a world of their own?

~Wisława Szymborska

My choices are rejections, since there is no other way, but what I reject is more numerous, denser, more demanding than before. A little poem, a sigh, at the cost of indescribable losses.

~Wisława Szymborska

I'd have to be really quick to describe clouds - a split second's enough for them to start being something else.

~Wisława Szymborska

Existentialists are monumentally and monotonously serious; they don't like to joke.

~Wisława Szymborska

Carry on, then, if only for the moment that it takes a tiny galaxy to blink!

~Wisława Szymborska

Secret codes resound. Doubts and intentions come to light.

~Wisława Szymborska

Poorly prepared for the dignity of life, I barely keep up with the pace of the action imposed. Reality demands.

~Wisława Szymborska

It's a well-known fact: in order to follow doctor's orders, you have to be healthy as a horse.

~Wisława Szymborska

I'm fighting against the bad poet who is prone to using too many words.

~Wisława Szymborska

I'm drowning in papers.

~Wisława Szymborska

I cannot imagine any writer who would not fight for his peace and quiet.

~Wisława Szymborska

I'm working on the world, revised, improved edition, featuring fun for fools blues for brooders, combs for bald pates, tricks for old dogs.

~Wisława Szymborska

Sometimes I write quickly, sometimes I spend several weeks on a single poem. I would really love for readers not to be able to guess which of the poems took so much work!

~Wisława Szymborska

Even the worst book can give us something to think about.

~Wisława Szymborska

Out of every hundred people, those who always know better: fifty-two.

~Wisława Szymborska

Whatever inspiration is, it's born from a continuous "I don't know."

~Wisława Szymborska

I prefer the hell of chaos to the hell of order.

~Wisława Szymborska

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