Quotations about Poetry

POEM. N. AN ARRANGEMENT OF WORDS WRITTEN OR SPOKEN, TRADITIONALLY A RHYTHMICAL COMPOSITION, SOMETIMES RHYMED, EXPRESSING EXPERIENCES, IDEAS, OR EMOTIONS IN A STYLE MORE CONCENTRATED, IMAGINATIVE, AND POWERFUL THAN THAT OF ORDINARY SPEECH OR PROSE: SOME POEMS ARE IN METER, SOME IN FREE VERSE.

A poem begins in delight and ends in wisdom. – ROBERT FROST

PROSE…words in their best order.
POETRY…the best words in the best order. – SAMUEL TAYLOR COLERIDGE

Poetry is the art of uniting pleasure with truth. – SAMUEL JOHNSON

Poetry is the synthesis of hyacinths and biscuits. – CARL SANDBURG

POETRY IS AT BOTTOM A CRITICISM OF LIFE. – MATTHEW ARNOLD

Poetry is the art of substantiating shadows, and of lending existence to nothing. – EDMUND BURKE

Poetry is just the evidence of life. If your life is burning well, poetry is just the ash. -- LEONARD COHEN

Poetry is boned with ideas, nerved and blooded with emotions, all held together by the delicate, tough skin of words. -- PAUL ENGLE

Poetry is the spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings…recollected in tranquility. – WILLIAM WORDSWORTH

Poetry involves the mysteries of the irrational perceived through rational words. – VLADIMIR NABOKOV

All poetry is putting the infinite within the finite. – ROBERT BROWNING

Always be a poet, even in prose. -- CHARLES BAUDELAIRE

I would define poetry as the rhythmical creation of beauty. -- EDGAR ALLAN POE

Poetry is what gets lost in translation. – ROBERT FROST

If…it makes my whole body so cold no fire can ever warm me, I know that it is poetry. – EMILY DICKINSON

The poet is liar who always speaks the truth. – JEAN COCTEAU

A poem should not mean, but be. – ARCHIBALD MACLEISH

You will not find poetry anywhere unless you bring some of it with you. – JOSEPH JOUBERT
Poetry is a series of explanations of life, fading off into horizons too swift for explanations.
-- CARL SANDBURG

POETRY IS A WAY OF TAKING LIFE BY THE THROAT. -- ROBERT FROST

Poetry is the record of the best and happiest moments of the best and happiest minds.
-- PERCY BYSSHE SHELLEY

Poetry is the presentiment in musical form to the imagination, of noble grounds for the noble emotions. -- JOHN RUSKIN

Poetry is a sequence of dots and dashes, spelling depths, crypts, cross-lights, and moon wisps.
-- CARL SANDBURG

Poetry is fact given over to imagery. -- ROD McKUEN

TALK WITH A LITTLE LUCK IN IT, THAT’S WHAT POETRY IS. -- WILLIAM STAFFORD

POETRY IS A MARRIAGE OF CRAFT AND IMAGINATION. -- CHRISTINE E. HEMP

Poetry is a phantom script telling how rainbows are made and why they go away. -- CARL SANDBURG

Out of the quarrel with others we make rhetoric; out of the quarrel with ourselves we make poetry. -- W.B. YEATS

Poetry is man’s rebellion against being what he is. -- JAMES BRANCH CABELL

A poem begins with a lump in the throat. -- ROBERT FROST

Poetry is the opening and closing of a door, leaving those who look through to guess about what is seen during a moment. -- CARL SANDBURG

Poetry is a deal of joy and pain and wonder, with a dash of the dictionary. -- KHALIL GIBRAN

Imaginary gardens with real toads in them. -- MARIANNE MOORE

A poem is never finished, only abandoned. -- PAUL VALÉRY

The poem is the point at which our strength gave out. -- RICHARD ROSEN

Poetry is to philosophy what the Sabbath is to the rest of the week. -- AUGUSTUS AND JULIUS HARE

It is the job of poetry to clean up our word-clogged reality by creating silences around things.
-- STEPHEN MALLARME

The only problem with Haiku is that you just get started and then
-- ROGER MCGOUGH