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# APPENDIX C

## QUOTABLES

Sometimes to spark a lesson, some notebook writing, or a review of a concept, all it takes is a powerful quote. Here are some quotes gathered from throughout this book that might be useful, even frameable, in your classroom.

*I follow the sounds.* —Christian Wiman

*Fill your paper with the breathings  
of your heart.* —William Wordsworth

*Poetry is language at its most distilled  
and powerful.* —Rita Dove

*Even if you don't think you have things to say, you do.  
There are stories only you can tell.* —Katherine Schulten

*Without poetry, especially when I was younger, being a  
writer would have seemed like a futile attempt. The poets  
taught me the functionality of language.* —Jason Reynolds

Our world, so worn and weary,  
Needs music, pure and strong,  
To hush the jangle and discords  
Of sorrow, pain, and wrong.

—Frances Ellen Watkins Harper

Raise your words  
not your voice.  
It's rain that grows flowers,  
not thunder.

—Rumi

No man is an island. —John Donne

The elegance of argument lives in poetry. —Glenda Funk

Poetry and science have grown up together  
as siblings . . . they are closer together than they  
are apart. —Alicia Sometimes

You can find moving, rich language in books, on walls,  
even in junk mail. —Stephen Dunning and William Stafford

In reality, every piece of writing is a custom job,  
not a modular home. —John Warner

Be sure you know the structure of all you  
wish to depict. —Leonardo da Vinci

Imagine it this way: One by one, each sentence takes the stage. It says the very thing it comes into existence to say. Then it leaves the stage. —Verlyn Klinkenborg

Poetry is all nouns and verbs. —Marianne Moore

I'm not a very good writer, but I'm an excellent rewriter. —James Michener

Poetry is an act of attention. —D. H. Lawrence

Poetry is a bit like lacing a pair of shoes. You have to wind things together, pull them tight, tie a knot or two and combine things that might feel impossible the first few times but could eventually come together in a stronger whole . . . —Gregory Welch

Poems are "offerings of desperately needed hope and endurance." —Tracy K. Smith

I've lost count of how many times poems have settled my internal storms. —Angela Hugunin