

Fern Hill Quotes

Writer: Dylan Thomas | Generated: Jan 26, 2026

"[Fern Hill](#)" is a poem by the Welsh poet [Dylan Thomas](#), written in 1945. It is a nostalgic and reflective poem that explores themes of childhood, time, and the passage of time. Here are some selected quotations, along with explanations.

1. ***"Time let me hail and climb / Golden in the heydays of his eyes."*** – (Fern Hill, Stanza 1)

Explanation: The poet says that time once allowed him to live freely and joyfully. Childhood felt like a golden age when time was kind and generous.

2. ***"In the sun that is young once only, / Time let me play and be golden."*** – (Fern Hill, Stanza 2)

Explanation: The poet remembers his youthful days when time allowed him to play under the bright sun. It shows the happiness and freedom of early life.

3. ***"And nightly under the simple stars / As I rode to sleep the owls were bearing the farm away."*** – (Fern Hill, Stanza 3)

Explanation: The poet imagines night as a magical time. The stars and owls make him feel like the whole farm is floating away in a dream.

4. ***"It was Adam and maiden, / The sky gathered again and the sun grew round that very day."*** – (Fern Hill, Stanza 4)

Explanation: The poet compares the morning on the farm to the first day of creation. It shows the purity and freshness of childhood.

5. ***"Time held me green and dying, / Though I sang in my chains like the sea."*** – (Fern Hill, Stanza 6) ★★★

Explanation: This is the most famous line. The poet realizes that time controls both youth and death. Still, he continues to sing, to live, and create despite all limits.

6. ***“And honoured among wagons I was prince of the apple towns.”*** – (Fern Hill, Stanza 1)

Explanation: The poet feels like a prince during his childhood. He rules over the orchards and farms with joy and freedom. It shows his innocent pride and sense of belonging in nature’s world.

7. ***“The sabbath rang slowly / In the pebbles of the holy streams.”*** – (Fern Hill, Stanza 2)

Explanation: This line shows the peaceful and spiritual beauty of nature. Even the streams and pebbles seem to sing like church bells on a holy day.

8. ***“Nothing I cared, in the lamb white days, that time would take me.”*** – (Fern Hill, Stanza 6)

Explanation: The poet admits that during his pure, innocent childhood, he never thought that time would one day take away his happiness.