

Mending Wall Quotations

Writer: Robert Frost | Generated: Jan 26, 2026

Quotes

"Something there is that doesn't love a wall,"

Explanation:

The speaker begins the poem by saying that some natural force "doesn't love a wall." Here, nature is personified as having feelings against boundaries.

"Good fences make good neighbours."

Explanation:

This famous line, repeated twice, is a proverb spoken by the neighbor. It reflects traditional belief in maintaining boundaries for peace. Yet Frost uses it ironically, as the poet questions whether separation truly builds friendship or destroys it.

"Before I built a wall I'd ask to know

What I was walling in or walling out,"

Explanation:

The speaker questions the purpose of building walls without understanding what or whom they separate. The "wall" symbolizes social, emotional, and psychological barriers. The irony lies in people blindly maintaining divisions.

"He moves in darkness as it seems to me,"

Explanation:

The “darkness” here is not literal but symbolic. It represents the neighbor’s ignorance and blind attachment to old beliefs.

LxNotes