

# Texas Christian University

2017 TCU APSI for English

Carl Sandburg  
and Langston Hughes:  
Workingman's Poets



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Choose one of the Carl Sandburg poems listed below. In your small group interpret, choreograph and act out one of the poems. Try to convey the meaning and tone of the poem to your audience. Think about literal, figurative, and connotative meanings of the words and/or phrases used in the text.

### **Stumbling**

Stumbling is where you walk and find you are not walking  
Stumbling is where you find yourself spread on the ground, instead of standing on your feet  
Stumbling is where your feet try to make a fool of you  
Stumbling is to go where you are not looking when you mean to go where you are looking  
Stumbling is to get your feet mixed so you go down  
Stumblers are two kinds, those who come up quick and those who say, "Where am I?"  
If you never want to stumble, be a fish or a bird.

### **MANNERS**

Manners is how to behave  
Manners is when you know how to eat without being bashful  
Manners is not afraid of what you are wearing  
Manners is like a man tips his hat when he meets a lady  
Manners is "EXUSE ME" OR "I BEG YOUR PARDON" instead of...  
"HOW DO YOU GET THERE?" OR "I'LL KNOCK YOUR BLOCK OFF."

### **PRIMER LESSON**

Look out how you use proud words.  
When you let proud words go, it is  
Not easy to call them back.  
They wear long boots, hard boots; they  
walk off proud; they can't hear you  
calling—  
Look out how you use proud words.

### **BRAINWASHING**

Repeat and repeat till they say what you are saying.  
Repeat and repeat till they are helpless before your repetitions.  
Say it over and over till their brains can hold only what you are saying.  
Speak it soft, yell it and yell it, change to a whisper, always in repeats.  
Come back to it day on day, hour after hour, till they say what you tell them to say.  
To wash A B C out of a brain and replace it with X Y Z—this is it.

























