

Texas Christian University

2017 TCU APSI for English

Carl Sandburg
and Langston Hughes:
Workingman's Poets



Jerry W. Brown

jerry@jerrywbrown.com

website: www.jerrywbrown.com

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.

