Chicago

by Carl Sandburg

Hog Butcher for the World,  
     Tool Maker, Stacker of Wheat,  
     Player with Railroads and the Nation's Freight Handler;  
     Stormy, husky, brawling,  
     City of the Big Shoulders:

They tell me you are wicked and I believe them, for I  
     have seen your painted women under the gas lamps  
     luring the farm boys.  
And they tell me you are crooked and I answer: Yes, it  
     is true I have seen the gunman kill and go free to  
     kill again.  
And they tell me you are brutal and my reply is: On the  
     faces of women and children I have seen the marks  
     of wanton hunger.  
And having answered so I turn once more to those who  
     sneer at this my city, and I give them back the sneer  
     and say to them:  
Come and show me another city with lifted head singing  
     so proud to be alive and coarse and strong and cunning.  
Flinging magnetic curses amid the toil of piling job on  
     job, here is a tall bold slugger set vivid against the  
     little soft cities;

Fierce as a dog with tongue lapping for action, cunning  
     as a savage pitted against the wilderness,  
          Bareheaded,  
          Shoveling,  
          Wrecking,  
          Planning,  
          Building, breaking, rebuilding,  
Under the smoke, dust all over his mouth, laughing with  
     white teeth,  
Under the terrible burden of destiny laughing as a young  
     man laughs,  
Laughing even as an ignorant fighter laughs who has  
     never lost a battle,  
Bragging and laughing that under his wrist is the pulse.  
     and under his ribs the heart of the people,  
               Laughing!  
Laughing the stormy, husky, brawling laughter of  
     Youth, half-naked, sweating, proud to be Hog  
     Butcher, Tool Maker, Stacker of Wheat, Player with  
     Railroads and Freight Handler to the Nation.

C:\Documents and Settings\jjohnson\Local Settings\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\75Q9L7IQ\MC900326472[1].wmf

C:\Documents and Settings\jjohnson\Local Settings\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\C0Y9X6ND\MC900254198[1].wmf

C:\Documents and Settings\jjohnson\Local Settings\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\C0Y9X6ND\MC900320954[1].wmf

C:\Documents and Settings\jjohnson\Local Settings\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\9KCT5QV6\MC900312274[1].wmf