

# Speech to the Young, Speech to the Progress-Toward (Among them Nora and Henry III)

by Gwendolyn Brooks

Say to them,  
say to the down-keepers,  
the sun-slappers,  
the self-soilers,  
the harmony-hushers,  
"Even if you are not ready for day  
it cannot always be night."  
You will be right.  
For that is the hard home-run.

Live not for battles won.  
Live not for The-End-of-the-Song.  
Live in the along.

"Speech to the Young, Speech to the Progress-Toward (Among them Nora and Henry III)" by Gwendolyn Brooks, from *Blacks* (Third World Press, 1991)

