

# American Literature Readings 7



The rights of property are guarded  
by ten thousand laws and fortresses.  
The right of a man to live by his work—  
what is this right?  
and why does it clamor?  
and who can hush it?  
so it will stay hushed?

and why does it speak  
and though put down speak again  
with strengths out of the earth?

"#38" from *The People, Yes* by Carl Sandburg. Copyright © 1936 by Harcourt, Inc., and renewed 1964 by Carl Sandburg, reprinted by permission of the publisher.

UNIT 7

## READER RESPONSE

**Directions:** Answer the following questions on the lines below.

1. What does Sandburg say people do when they have no work?

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2. How does Sandburg say some people kid themselves about the unemployed?

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3. What does Sandburg mean when he says men laugh at receiving refusals?

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4. **CRITICAL THINKING** What do you think Sandburg implies about the future of people who have been unemployed for a long time?

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