

# Speech to the Young

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.

1. Define in your own words what down-keepers are? *(If you don't know... try. The only wrong answer is a blank one.)*
2. Define in your own words what sun-slappers are?
3. Define in your own words what self-soilers are?
4. Define in your own words what harmony-hushers are?
5. In lines 6-7, the poet is trying to give her wisdom to the reader.
  - a. Who is the speaker?
  - b. Who is she talking to?
  - c. What is the message?
6. What does the poet mean by “you **will** be right?”
7. Explain lines 10-12. What is the poet's final message?