

No seats. Their outlook  
 Consisted of the roots of short plants. To what end were they  
 Made to learn Greek grammar and Caesar's campaigns  
 The formula for sulphur and the value of  $\pi$ ?  
 In the mass graves of Flanders, for which they were destined  
 What need had they of anything but  
 A little quicklime?

#### TRAVELLING IN A COMFORTABLE CAR

Travelling in a comfortable car  
 Down a rainy road in the country  
 We saw a ragged fellow at nightfall  
 Signal to us for a ride, with a low bow.  
 We had a roof and we had room and we drove on  
 And we heard me say, in a grumpy voice: no  
 We can't take anyone with us.  
 We had gone on a long way, perhaps a day's march  
 When suddenly I was shocked by this voice of mine  
 This behaviour of mine and this  
 Whole world.

#### IN DARK TIMES

They won't say: when the walnut tree shook in the wind  
 But: when the house-painter crushed the workers.  
 They won't say: when the child skimmed a flat stone across  
     the rapids  
 But: when the great wars were being prepared for.  
 They won't say: when the woman came into the room  
 But: when the great powers joined forces against the workers.  
 However, they won't say: the times were dark  
 Rather: why were their poets silent?