Toyota Recalls (A): Hitting the Skids

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Published in 1938
Angelo Herndon
Karl Leibknecht

Words to Know

- Sharecroppers - tenant farmer provided with necessities and receives an agreed share of value of crops.
- Sleazy - low character or quality, sordid, corrupt, immoral.
- Contentment - A state of happiness and satisfaction.

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Trayvon Martin

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- Poem gained popularity with the murder of Trayvon Martin.
- Seventeen year old shot by George Zimmerman
- Racial and gender crime profiling.
Overall Meaning

- A wish for unity.
- Refers to the lynchings of kids or the "innocent" for those with a taste for "blood and gold".
- Martyrs will die for labor, for having a conscious, fighting for rights.
- One day you will receive the monument you deserve.
- Very literal.

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Metaphors

- Iron= Will and strength.
- "For kids will die certainly" = metaphor for growing up
- "Eating blood", "Blood loving generals" = violence, murder.
- "Black hands and white hands clasped as one" - unity through remembrance.
- Blood is a synecdoche for the kids' lives in general.

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- "Will all raise their hands against the kids who die, beating them with laws and clubs and bayonets and bullets".
- "Will live on weaving words to smother the kids who die".
- "The song of the life triumphant..."
- Mississippi, Chicago, California

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Form

- No rhyme or meter.
  - Free Verse
- Four stanzas
- First three talk to an audience, while the last is a tribute directly to the kids who die.
- First and last stanza both start and end with kids who die/kids die.

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Connections to Langston Hughes

- African American living thorough segregation and the Civil Rights Movement.
- Been around the World, has seen "the kids who die" for himself.
  - Not just White and Black
- Speaking as someone who has gone against the grain. (Stanza 2)

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