

Speech to the Young : Speech to the Progress-Toward

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.

Gwendolyn Brooks

1. What phrases in the poem refer to people who have a negative effect on others?
2. According to the speaker, what should the reader say to such people?
3. What do you think is the meaning of the last three lines?