# Salutamus

Sterling A. Brown | Grades 6 to 12

## Complete poem and inquiry

First Name

Last Name

Epigraph O Gentlemen the time of Life is short, Henry IV

1 The bitterness of days like these we know;
2 Much, much we know, yet cannot understand
3 What was our crime that such a searing brand
4 Not of our choosing, keeps us hated so.
5 Despair and disappointment only grow,
6 Whatever seeds are planted from our hand,
7 What though some roads wind through a gladsome land?
8 It is a gloomy path that we must go.
9 And yet we know relief will come some day
10 For those seared breasts; and lads as brave again
11 Will plant and find a fairer crop than ours.
12 It must be due our hearts, our minds, our powers;
13 These are the beacons to blaze out the way.
14 We must plunge onward; onward, gentlemen. . . .

Complete public domain poem. Numbered poetic lines support citation. Original poetic punctuation is retained. Source details appear in the teacher guide.

**How does the turn in line 9 transform the collective speaker’s response to exclusion?**