

In Favour of Youth Political Activism: A Jackpine Sonnet

(In Memoriam: Milton Acorn)

Roots are backbone--if you'd be strong--
Bull-headed, lion-hearted, and
Owl-wise; discontented by *Wrong*,
Discombobulated by banned
Justice; and ready to struggle
For *Democracy*, to rebel,
To--like arch anarchists--smuggle
Dissent into all speech, expel
Apathy, bid all *Youth* revolt...
Iconoclasts shatter false gods,
Put abrasive swords through each dolt,
And laugh at "stacked-against-us" odds.
But you're rootless, a gad-about--
Milkweed adrift--if you don't vote.

--George Elliott Clarke
7th Parliamentary Poet Laureate (2016-17)