

English 140-143: Poetry Writing
Instructor: Sydney Brown

Excerpt from *De/Compositions: 101 Poems Gone Wrong* by W.D. Snodgrass

Complaint at Nightfall

The houses are haunted
By colorless nightwear.
None have lively colors,
Or gaudy decorations,
Clashing vividly
And daringly vulgar.
None of them are strange,
With extravagant features
Or exotic trimmings.
People are not going
To dream of brute beasts or tiny beauties.
Only, here and there, an old man,
Drunk and asleep in his work clothes,
Dreams of adventures
In dangerous times.

In a Subway Passage

The vision of these faces among a crowd
bringing beauty into a dark, forbidding scene.