

Chicago

*HOG Butcher for the World,
Tool Maker, Stacker of Wheat,
Player with Railroads and the Nation's Freight Handler;
Stormy, husky, brawling,
City of the Big Shoulders:*

*They tell me you are wicked and I believe them, for I have seen your painted women under the
gas lamps luring the farm boys.*

*And they tell me you are crooked and I answer: Yes, it is true I have seen the gunman kill and
go free to kill again.*

*And they tell me you are brutal and my reply is: On the faces of women and children I have
seen the marks of wanton hunger.*

*And having answered so I turn once more to those who sneer at this my city, and I give them
back the sneer and say to them:*

*Come and show me another city with lifted head singing so proud to be alive and coarse and
strong and cunning.*

*Flinging magnetic curses amid the toil of piling job on job, here is a tall bold slugger set vivid
against the little soft cities;*

*Fierce as a dog with tongue lapping for action, cunning as a savage pitted against the
wilderness,*

Bareheaded,

Shoveling,

Wrecking,

Planning,

Building, breaking, rebuilding,

Under the smoke, dust all over his mouth, laughing with white teeth,

Under the terrible burden of destiny laughing as a young man laughs,

Laughing even as an ignorant fighter laughs who has never lost a battle,

*Bragging and laughing that under his wrist is the pulse. and under his ribs the heart of the
people,*

Laughing!

*Laughing the stormy, husky, brawling laughter of Youth, half-naked, sweating, proud to be
Hog Butcher, Tool Maker, Stacker of Wheat, Player with Railroads and Freight Handler to
the Nation.*