

The following are excerpts from poems were written by Herman Abromson when he was a student at Central High School in 1927 and 1928.

See Chapter 7 of Patrick J. Ryan, "Shaping Modern Youth: Social Policies and Growing Up Working-Class, 1890-1945," (Ph.D. diss, CWRU, 1998).

"My Grandfather"

Time passes by
And the candles are flickering out.
As life ebbs away reluctantly
So do the candles
Flare up and down
Casting a gloomy shadow about the room.
My grandfather's head falls on his breast,
He is sleeping.
His loud snores frighten me
And I crawl into a corner,
Tuck myself against the wall
And also fall asleep.
The candles die out
And darkness fills the room.

"My Prayer"

I took my prayer-book
When the sun had just begun to set
To say my evening prayer.
I looked toward the heavens and the intense beauty gripped by soul
I looked to the earth and saw the little flower nodding its head.

In the distance, I heard the playing of Beethoven's music.
I threw the prayer-book away,
I had prayed