

Chicago International Children's Film Festival  
Dream Screen Animation Workshop  
**Online Film Festival – Teachers' Guide**

**Some One**

(Walter de la Mare)

Some one came knocking  
At my wee, small door;  
Someone came knocking;  
I'm sure-sure-sure;  
I listened, I opened,  
I looked to left and right,  
But nought there was a stirring  
In the still dark night;  
Only the busy beetle  
Tap-tapping in the wall,  
Only from the forest  
The screech-owl's call,  
Only the cricket whistling  
While the dewdrops fall,  
So I know not who came knocking,  
At all, at all, at all.

**QUESTIONS FOR EXPLORATION IN DISCUSSION OR WRITING**

- What do you know about the poet Walter de la Mare, and how can you find out more?
- What kind of world do the filmmakers see for the poem's narrator?
- How is repetition used in the poem? In the film?
- Why do you think the poet chose to title the poem "Some One," rather than "Someone"?
- How would this film be different if the filmmakers used live action instead of cartoon animation?

**Walter de la Mare** (1873-1956) was the prolific author of many volumes of poetry, short stories and novels, including one of the most popular poems in the English language, "The Listeners." Throughout his career, he perceived childhood as a time of unique vision and imagination and remained a successful author of poems for children. His other poems include "Songs of Childhood," "Peacock Pie," and "The Marionettes."

# Who Am I?

(Carl Sandburg)

My head knocks against the stars.  
My feet are on the hilltops.  
My finger-tips are in the valleys and shores of  
universal life.  
Down in the sounding foam of primal things I  
reach my hands and play with pebbles of  
destiny.  
I have been to hell and back many times.  
I know all about heaven, for I have talked with God.  
I dabble in the blood and guts of the terrible.  
I know the passionate seizure of beauty  
And the marvelous rebellion of man at all signs  
reading "Keep Off."  
My name is Truth and I am the most elusive captive  
in the universe.

## QUESTIONS FOR EXPLORATION IN DISCUSSION OR WRITING

- What do you know about the poet Carl Sandburg and how can you find out more?
- Why do you think the poet included "Who Am I?" in a collection called "The Road and the End"?
- How would the film be different if the filmmakers used live action instead of clay and cartoon animation?
- How do the filmmakers illustrate concepts such as "truth," "beauty," and "destiny"? How would you have illustrated these concepts?
- Why do you think the filmmakers chose to use live action at the beginning and end of the film?

**Carl Sandburg** (1878-1967) was a successful poet, journalist, historian, biographer and autobiographer who spent most of his life in the Midwest. Sandburg won two Pulitzer Prizes, one for his biography of Abraham Lincoln, and one for his collection *The Complete Poems of Carl Sandburg*. Most of Sandburg's poetry focused on Chicago, where he spent time as a reporter for the *Chicago Daily News*.

## FIND OUT MORE! INVESTIGATE WITH RESEARCH

Poetry Foundation – visit <http://www.poetryfoundation.org> to find audio & podcasts of poets and poetry, sections for children and a guidebook by poet Edward Hirsch, "How to Read a Poem (and Fall in Love with Poetry)," that provides strategies for reading poems and plenty of links to examples of poems.