**Bread and Roses**

As we come marching, marching in the beauty of the day,  
A million darkened kitchens, a thousand mill lofts gray[[1]](#footnote-1),  
Are touched with all the radiance that a sudden sun discloses,  
For the people hear us singing: “Bread and roses! Bread and roses!”

As we come marching, marching, we battle too for men,  
For they are women’s children, and we mother them again.  
Our lives shall not be sweated from birth until life closes;  
Hearts starve as well as bodies; give us bread, but give us roses!

As we come marching, marching, unnumbered women dead  
Go crying through our singing their ancient cry for bread.  
Small art and love and beauty their drudging spirits knew.  
Yes, it is bread we fight for — but we fight for roses, too!

As we come marching, marching, we bring the greater days.  
The rising of the women means the rising of the race.  
No more the drudge and idler — ten that toil where one reposes,  
But a sharing of life’s glories: Bread and roses! Bread and roses!

**by**[**James Oppenheim**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_Oppenheim)

This poem, written by [James Oppenheim](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_Oppenheim) to celebrate the movement for women’s rights and published in [*American Magazine*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Magazine) , is closely associated with the [Lawrence textile mill strike](http://www.breadandroses.net/strike.html) of 1912. The poem was inspired by one of the demonstrations which took place during the course of the strike. During a parade through Lawrence, a group of women workers carried banners proclaiming "Bread and Roses". This poetic presentation of the demands of women workers for equal pay and for equal work, together with special consideration as women, echoed throughout the country. James Oppenheim, many of whose poems reflect a working-class content and sympathy, picked up the phrase and made it into a poem. [Bread and Roses](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bread_and_Roses)  has become an anthem for labour rights, and especially the rights of working women, in the United States and elsewhere.

***Listen to the song and complete the lyrics***

As we come marching, marching in the beauty of the day,  
A million .................. kitchens, a thousand mill ............... gray,[[2]](#footnote-2)  
Are .................. with all the radiance that a sudden sun...............,  
For the people hear us singing: “Bread and roses! Bread and roses!”

As we come marching, marching, we battle too for men,  
For they are women’s children, and we mother them again.  
Our lives shall not be ............... from .............. until life closes;  
Hearts starve as well as bodies; give us bread, but give us roses!

As we come marching, marching, ............... women dead  
Go crying through our singing their ancient cry for bread.  
Small art and love and .............. their drudging spirits knew.  
Yes, it is ............... we fight for — but we fight for roses, too!

As we come marching, marching, we bring the greater days.  
The rising of the women ................ the rising of the..............  
No more the drudge and idler — ten that toil where one reposes,  
But a .............. of life’s glories: Bread and roses! Bread and roses!

***Find, in the poem, the right word for the synonyms/definitions.***

***Match the synonym/definition to the underlined words.***

As we come marching, marching in the beauty of the day,  
A million (1) darkened kitchens, a thousand (2) mill (3) lofts gray[[3]](#footnote-3),  
Are touched with all the (4) radiance that a sudden sun (5) discloses,  
For the people hear us singing: “Bread and roses! Bread and roses!”

As we come marching, marching, we (6) battle too for men,  
For they are women’s children, and we mother them again.  
Our lives shall not be sweated from birth until life closes;  
Hearts (7) starve as well as bodies; give us bread, but give us roses!

As we come marching, marching, unnumbered women dead  
Go crying through our singing their (8) ancient cry for bread.  
Small art and love and beauty their drudging spirits knew.  
Yes, it is bread we fight for — but we fight for roses, too!

As we come marching, marching, we bring the greater days.  
The rising of the women means the rising of the race.  
No more the (9) drudge and (10) idler — ten that (11) toil where one reposes,  
But a sharing of life’s glories: Bread and roses! Bread and roses!

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| (a) factory; (b) hard work; (c) brightness; (d) argue fiercely; (e) to allow something to be seen; (f) a space directly under the roof of a house; (g) a person who has to do a lot of unpleasant and boring work; (h) old; (i) die from hunger; (j) unlit; (k) somebody who does not work because they are lazy (old-fashioned). |

1. Gray (Am. Engl): grey (Br. English) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Gray (Am. Engl): grey (Br. English) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Gray (Am. Engl): grey (Br. English)

   [↑](#footnote-ref-3)