

GK E 11/Br **Nachschreibtermin Klausur 11.II**
5.6.2008

Theme: City Poetry

Text: Matthew Lee, *On Grand Circus Park*, Detroit, 1998

Source: <http://www.innercitypress.org/podtroit.html>

Innumerable the people who have died or fled
Since these streets were laid, with opulence and hope:
Fedora hats, steam rising from manholes
Teletype, secretaries, switchboards -- all
5 Grown dusty, sitting day after day silent
Behind boarded-up doorways...
These buildings, empty for twenty years,
Will be demolished, for a casino
Or its parking lot. A mute jury of infamy,
10 A point in time, a gravitational field...
I salute you, captains of industry
In the ruins you've left behind...

Annotations:

2 opulence – made from expensive materials
3 fedora - in the 20th century, the fedora came into use as an upper-class clothing accessory; manhole - hole in the surface of a road covered by a lid. It is used to examine underground pipes
4 teletype - trademark used for a teletypewriter; switchboard - system of switches and other equipment that establishes connections between individual telephones
9 mute – unable to speak; infamy – evil or criminal act

Assignments:

- 1) Summarize the topics that are dealt with in the poem. [Contents]
- 2) Analyse the message of the poem considering various poetic devices that are typical of poems. [Analysis]
- 3) Make a suggestion for an illustration (other than the ones on this worksheet) to go with Lee's poem. Give reasons for your choice. [Evaluation – creative writing]



Grand Circus Park from above, December 1973

<http://tinyurl.com/6pdmg6>



IN TRANSIT: DETROIT -- No hope for the Michigan Central Depot. One of Detroit's major "attractions" is its breathtaking and heartbreaking collection of pre-Depression brick skyscrapers dotting its skyline. Grand Circus Park, which lies just to the west of Comerica Park and Ford Field (the home of baseball's Tiger's and football's Lions, respectively) has long been described as a "skyscraper graveyard"
<http://www.city-magazine.com/intransit/archive.htm>