

# **“BREAD & ROSES”: SOCIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS OF LITERATURE AND ITS RELEVANCE TO THE PRESENT IN THE CONTEXT OF THE WORKING CLASS**

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## **Abstract**

The article "Bread & Roses": An Analysis of the Sociology of Literature and Its Relevance to the Present in the Context of the Working Class" was created with the intention of explaining how working class people express their grievances in the form of literary works, called working class literature. Working class literature refers to a type of literature or literary work that raises issues, experiences, and realities of working class or working class life in society. Working class literature often describes the lives, struggles, and challenges faced by social groups working in industry, factories, agriculture, or other occupational sectors associated with manual or labor work. This article aims to deepen the understanding of how the working class expresses their grievances and protests through literary works, especially in the context of working class literature. Working class literature refers to a type of literature that specifically raises the issues, experiences, and realities of working class or working class life in society. The focus is often on the daily lives, challenges, and struggles faced by social groups working in industry, factories, agriculture, and manual labor or other labor. In this article, research is conducted by analyzing the text of the poem "Bread & Roses" by Hakim Bellamy as a relevant example. The analysis is complemented by searching data through journals, websites, and books to support findings and broader understanding. Through an analysis of the content of this poem, we can gain insight into how workers convey their grievances and grievances through literary form, as well as their relevance to the situation and conditions of the working class today. In this study, data were obtained through textual analysis methods and search for diverse sources of information, as well as using a literary sociology approach, namely by paying attention to social phenomena that occur both when in the time setting in the poem (1787), when the poem was written (2011) and what its relevance is to the present (2023). The theory relevant to this research according to the author is the theory of Marxism, regarding the working class. By deepening the understanding of working-class literature and seeing concretization in the poem "Bread & Roses", this article contributes to broadening the horizons of the way working class grievances and protests are expressed through literary form. The results of this study can provide a deeper understanding of the relevance of poetry to today's social and economic context, especially in relation to the struggles and aspirations of the working class. By analyzing the content of Hakim Bellamy's poem "Bread & Roses", we can find out how the protests and grievances of workers are channeled into literary works and what their relevance is to the present.

**Keywords:** literature, poetry, working class, capitalism



## INTRODUCTION

Capitalism is an economic system in which people, resources and capital move together and form economic bonds. In this system, capitalism gives rise to the working class which is the pillar of running the economy. Without the working class, capitalism cannot function properly. This relationship is based on mutualism, where workers need wages to survive, while capitalists need labor to run their business.

According to Bahari (2010), social development moves into the modern era, when capitalism introduces new production models in the form of trade and factories. It also creates new divisions in society where there are still hosts and workers. The development of the capitalist system has exacerbated the situation where workers are continuously employed by employers (exploited) and the economic conditions they receive are very unequal. In such situations, class conflicts arise between workers and employers. The workers decided to fight back by attacking their employer's tools and land. However, this situation created resistance between the landowners and the company, which resulted in violent clashes between the two parties.

In its development, workers' groups use literature as a tool to express their complaints and protests against the economic system which is considered burdensome for their work. From this complaint, working class literature was born.

Agrell (2015) says that working-class literature today can still not be called a genre, but is a generic spectrum and generic tradition characterized by social criticism, underdog perspectives, pragmatic orientation, and a chronotopic world of work and workplace. Working class fiction is the narrative prose of this tradition.

Hakim Bellamy's poem "*Bread & Roses*" has never been analyzed before. However, for the topic of working class literature, it has been analyzed under the research title "*Representasi Pahlawan Kelas Pekerja Dalam Film Norma Rae*" by Inayah (2022). The purpose of this research is to find out how the story action and protagonist are presented in the film Norma Rae. This research uses the method of functional analysis of the story and character analysis of Vladimir Propp. The research process was carried out in stages, starting with finding out, gathering information, and analyzing several characters in the film. In addition, there is an article entitled "*Pertentangan kelas dalam Cerpen Kuda Itu Seperti Manusia Juga karya Kuntowijoyo: Analisis sosiologi sastra marxis*" by Panae and

Islahuddin (2020). The aim of this research is to describe class conflict in Kuntowijoyo's short story "Kuda Itu Seperti Manusia Juga" using Marxist sociology of literature. This research is a qualitative descriptive research. The results of the study show that class conflict is caused by a materialistic capitalist system that considers material things as the most important thing, so that the bourgeoisie who are successful in material things are free to do what they want, while the proletarians are powerless in material matters and do not live in peace. Furthermore, there is an article entitled "*Penggambaran Kelas Sosial dalam Kumpulan Cerpen Perjalanan Mencari Ayam Karya Armin Bell Kajian Sosiologi Sastra Marxis*" by Nabur and Danu (2019). By using a document study, the aim of this research is to describe the depiction of social class in Armin Bell's collection of short stories, "Perjalanan Mencari Ayam", using a sociological perspective of Marxist literature. Researchers found descriptions of social class in a collection of short stories "Journey for Chickens". In the short story, "Lelaki dari Malaysia" landowners are described as the upper class and workers as the lower class.

The objectives of this study include finding out how the description of the working class is contained in the poem "*Bread & Roses*" by Hakim Bellamy, to find out How the sociological view of literature concerning the working Class is included in the poetry "*Bread and Roses*", as well as to figure out the relevance of the Working Class as depicted in the Poem "*Bread & Rose*" of Hakim Bellamy to the present.

The urgency of this issue lies in our need to understand the experiences and struggles of the working class in a social and cultural context. The poem "*Bread and Roses*" encourages us to see work not only as a source of income, but also as part of identity, human dignity and individual well-being. Analyzing the sociology of literature, we can understand how this poem reflects the social, economic, and political conditions that affect the lives of workers.

In this research, the writer will discuss how this poem summarizes the history of the struggle of the working class and the challenges they continue to face. It also analyzes how this poem relates to the current social context, including the importance of labor exploitation, wage inequality, lack of protection for workers, and fighting for workers' rights. This article offers a comprehensive understanding of the social impact of the poem "*Bread & Roses*" and how such literature can strengthen our awareness of the injustices

of the labor system and the importance of social change. Analyzing this poem from the perspective of the sociology of literature, we see how literature can become a source of inspiration and a larger movement for change in today's working class context.

Related to working class literature and its relationship to real life, the theory relevant to this research is critical theory or social class theory. Critical theory in the sociology of literature, such as Marxist theory (Marxism), can examine how literature can become a reflection, critique, or representation of the conditions of the working class in society.

*"The proletariat, the lowest layer of our present society, cannot stir, cannot raise itself up, without the entire super-incumbent layers of official society being sprung into the air"* (Marx & Engels, 1848).

What this means is that the proletariat, or the working class which is the bottom layer of society today, cannot move or elevate itself without shaking up the entire formal stratum of society that is above it. This quote emphasizes the important role of the working class in the social changes and social revolutions envisioned in the theory of Marxism.

Before Marx examines capitalism in more detail, he first examines the concepts used by the capitalist system, so that what Marx expressed in various concepts, his criticism is something that happens within it.

Gaining his knowledge of economics, Marx believed that the concept of capitalism is a socio-economic system built to receive profits from the production process, not directly from trade, usury, extortion or theft. But by setting a measurable production mechanism to minimize production costs or with a production method. As an advantage that encourages the creation of power to uniform and control the workforce. The capitalist mode of production creates a labor market instead of the traditional relationship between man and master. In addition, Marx analyzed the economic concept that the capitalist system has two advantages over the production system. First, through overtime which is actually the right to work. But in the process, employees never accept it so they don't feel disadvantaged. Instead, victory belongs to those in power who make profitable deals with capitalists. Second, capitalists claim that the selling price is the cost

of production carried out by entrepreneurs (capitalists), where workers do not receive profits, because profits directly belong to entrepreneur.

The research method used is the text analysis method. Text analysis is an approach used in the study of literature to understand the meaning and structure in texts, as well as to explore the linguistic, semantic, and language styles found in the texts (Smith, 2018).

This study uses a literary sociological approach, namely by looking at the social phenomena that occurred either when in the background of the poetry (1787), when the poem was written (2011) and its relevance to the present. (2023). Literary sociology as an approach refers to the use of sociological perspectives and concepts in the analysis and understanding of literary works. This approach includes an understanding of social structures, social relations, power imbalances, social norms, and social dynamics that can be seen in literary works. With this approach, researchers can study the social, political, and cultural meanings contained in literary works.

According to Nasution (2016), in the approach of literary sociology, literary work is seen in relation to reality, to the extent to which literary works reflect reality. The reality here has a fairly broad meaning, that is, everything that is outside of the literary work and that is referenced by literary works.

By analyzing the poem "*Bread & Roses*" by Hakim Bellamy using the method of text analysis and literary sociology approach, the author can know the message or meaning contained in it and can also know the social phenomena that have ever and / or are taking place.

## **FINDING AND DISCUSSION**

Hakim Bellamy is a poet, writer, and social activist from the United States. He was born in 1981 in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Bellamy is known for her work that combines poetry, stage performances, and a powerful social message. As a poet, Hakim Bellamy has performed on various stages and shows across the United States. He has won various awards and recognitions, including being a National Poetry Slam Champion in 2006. In addition to being a poet, Bellamy is also involved in social activism activities. He uses her voices and works to address issues of social justice, human rights, and inequalities in society. Bellamy's poems often raise issues such as race, class, gender, and politics. Hakim

Bellamy has also taught and delivered lectures at various educational institutions and cultural events. He has contributed to fostering public understanding and awareness of social issues through her art and writings. As an artist and activist, Hakim Bellamy continues to play an active role in the literary and social community, striving to build dialogue, promote social change, and inspire others through his powerful works.

Hakim Bellamy won the National and Regional Poetry Slam, and held three consecutive college poetry slam degrees at the University of New Mexico. His poems have been published at the Albuquerque Convention Center, outside the library, on in-city buses and in various anthologies around the world. Bellamy was recognized as an honorary nomination for the University of New Mexico Paul Bartlett Ré Peace Prize for his work as a community organizer and journalist in 2007, and was awarded the Emerging Creative Bravos Award by Creative Albuquerque in 2013 (Bellamy, 2015).

Bellamy has been named the “Best Distributor” of Local iQ for five consecutive years on their annual Intelligent List, and he is named as “The Best Distributor” in the annual Best of Burque Weekly Alibi poll every year since 2010. He is the assistant creator of the multi-media Hip Hop theatre production Urban Verbs: Hip-Hop Conservatory & Theatre which has been performed nationwide. He facilitated youth writing workshops for schools, prisons, churches, jails and community organizations in New Mexico and its surroundings.

Hakim Bellamy expressed his protests against capitalism strongly and persuasively in his working class literature titled “Bread & Roses”. In this poem, Bellamy uses a powerful and imaginative language to describe the injustice and inequality experienced by workers in the capitalist system.

The poem “Bread & Roses” by Hakim Bellamy took inspiration from the workers’ movement in the early 20th century, from the textile strike in Lawrence, Massachusetts in 1912. The poem explores the themes of equality, struggle, and social justice.

The title of the poem refers to the slogans used by the workers in the strike movement, “Pain and Roses” or “Bread and roses”. This expression highlights the basic needs of workers for food (bread) and also their need for beauty, dignity, and social rights (Roses).

This poem tries to describe the experiences of marginalized workers and facing suffering from unfair working conditions. Bellamy conveys the message that workers need not only wages and food, but also dignity, happiness, and equal rights. The poem highlights the importance of social justice, solidarity, and joint struggle in achieving a better life for all.

Through a strong and poetic writing style, Bellamy depicts the struggle of workers with a strong image and an emotional image. It combines elements of social reality and the beauty of poetry to convey a message about the importance of equality and social change. Through his poems, Bellamy demonstrates the power of the working class in the face of capitalist oppression and oppression. It also emphasizes the importance of reading and knowledge in building social awareness and resistance to injustice.

Using strong language, sharp images and meaningful historical references, Bellamy depicts the realities of working class life and invites readers to question and fight for change in an unfair capitalist system. Through her writings, Bellamy expressed her protest against the economic and social injustice of workers and voiced those who are often unheard of in mainstream narratives.

The main meaning of “Bread & Roses” by Hakim Bellamy is to inspire social change, advocate equality, and highlight the importance of dignity, beauty, and justice in human life.

Here are some of the data found from this study.

Data 1 :

*“our country was already over 150 years into the \*practice\* of creating FREE and CHEAP laborers for life.”//*

*“And over a hundred years to now, we still have a long way to go in a country that democratically elects leaders who genuinely believe that underpaid teachers (and their unions) are the biggest threat to our future. – HB”//*

“Bread and Roses” by Hakim Bellamy tells the story of Bellamy’s belief that workers deserve their wages. He even thought that after a few hundred years, the workers still didn’t get what they deserved. And even in the future, this country is still far from what is called democracy.

These two quotes underline the injustice and challenges that still face in our society. They invite us to criticize the existing system, fight for fair wages, and pay

attention to the important role of teachers in shaping a better future. This poem raises awareness of the need for change in appreciating and fighting for justice for workers and educators who play an important role in our society.

Data 2 :

*“The very first unions in America//  
Were brought here by boat//  
Broken by back// By whip//  
Rape// And rope//”*

From the quotation above, the reader is directly disturbed by the picture of the suffering experienced by the workers, like the existence of both physical and sexual violence. How terrible it was to imagine what happened that day. With violence and harassment, Bellamy must have written this poem as a form of protest against terrible capitalism.

This quote exposes the background of the history of struggles and suffering that workers have experienced in their efforts to obtain fair rights and decent working conditions. It reminds us of the importance of struggle and activism in improving social conditions and achieving justice for workers.

This poem invites us to respect the history of workers' struggles, to acknowledge the injustice they face, and to commit to continuing their struggle for a better and fairer life for all workers.

Data 3 :

The above quote reveals the idea that what is more frightening than working is losing the job itself. This statement reflects a social reality where work plays a crucial role in a person's life. When a person loses his job, it can have a significant financial, emotional, and social impact.

This poem conveys a message about the importance of work in one's life, both as a source of subsistence and as an essential part of the individual's identity and dignity. The existence of a job provides security and stability, so when the job is lost, anxiety and fear of the future arise. This quote describes how frightening it is to lose a job and the importance of recognizing the value of work in our society.

In some cases, loss of work can result in uncertainty, financial difficulties, and loss of dignity. This quote highlights the importance of preserving and protecting workers'



rights, as well as the need to create a fair and sustainable working environment. This quote also explores the emotional dimensions associated with losing a job. It invites readers to consider the challenges and uncertainties faced by individuals as they struggle to maintain their jobs.

Data 4 :

*“Give us power// But not position//  
Give us personnel// But not privilege//  
Give us responsibility// But not rights//  
Or profits// Or shares.”*

In addition, there is criticism from Bellamy for the injustice felt by the workers. A criticism of the working class that describes the misery of the workers over the deprivation of the rights they should have obtained. They were given a heavy burden. Capitalism and nepotism were ferocious among the workers, which was what made Bellamy shake and poured his heart into the poem “Bread and Roses” as quoted above.

This quote reflects the aspiration for balance and justice in power and resources within society. It emphasizes the importance of the responsibilities assigned to employees and the recognition of their role in creating value and sustainability within an organization or system. The poem highlights the importance of fighting for recognition and appreciation of workers’ contributions, without abuse of power or unfair granting of privileges.

This quote also encourages readers to build a fair system, based on broader responsibility, equality, and participation. This quote also invites us to rethink the dynamics of power and rights in society, prioritizing values oriented towards justice, equality, and common well-being.

Data 5 :

*“You said,//  
“Labor unions should study and read the Bible instead of asking for more money...”//  
But we are pickers//  
Who reap and sow//  
And read”*

The above quote illustrates the answer to the argument that unions should read and study the Bible more than ask for more money. In this quote, the author highlights the conflict between labor unions’ demands for better rights for workers and the view that they should take the time to read the Bible.

In this quote, Bellamy highlights the contradiction between labor unions' demands for better workers' rights and the view that they should spend time reading the Bible.

By saying "But we are picker/ Who reap and sow And read,/" Bellamy affirmed the identity and role of workers as those who work hard in earning their livelihoods, planting and harvesting their work, and also as people who read and deepen knowledge. These quotes show that workers not only focus on their physical work, but also have a deep knowledge and understanding of their condition and the rights they should gain.

The poem criticizes the humiliating views of workers and affirms that they also have the right to fight for a decent life and fair rights at work. In this context, reading and gaining knowledge becomes essential in understanding the realities of workers' lives and strengthening their struggles.

In this way, the quote highlights the importance of social awareness and knowledge for workers to fight injustice and progress in their struggle. This poem invites us to recognize that workers have the right to a decent wage and human working conditions, and to appreciate the importance of education and understanding in defending their rights.

Data 6 :

*"We are about 5:05//  
5:30// 6:15//  
We// Are bread and roses//  
For dinner//"*

The use of the numbers in the quotation above is a peiode of time, which is related to the routine or schedule of workers. Then, in his poem, Bellamy said "We are bread and roses for dinner" which metaphorically describes the role and position of workers in society.

In this context, the phrase "bread and roses" has a deeper meaning. "Bread" symbolizes basic needs, such as food, livelihoods, and other material needs. Meanwhile, "roses" symbolize more subtle needs, such as beauty, appreciation, and dignity. In this poem, Bellamy suggests that workers not only seek the fulfillment of basic needs such as food (bread), but also need more meaningful and valuable things in life (roses) (Ross, 2013).

Thus, this quote highlights the social and economic injustice experienced by workers. They may be trapped in a long cycle of work, continuing to work to meet basic needs without gaining reward or the opportunity to enjoy the beauty and happiness of life. Using the metaphor of “bread and roses for dinner,” Bellamy expresses the aspirations and hopes of workers to get more than just the fulfillment of material needs, but also better quality of life and recognition for their contributions.

Rosa and Prasetyo (2022) say that, from the beginning, capitalism has sought to humiliate society by trying to destroy social life, making freedom and communication merely commercial capital, transforming people into workers for the needs of means of production. Furthermore, Parwati et al. (2023) argued that, Basically, capitalists are rancid. They have made a lot of efforts to get lots and lots of benefits. No exception is one example, how capitalists collaborate with the government.

In the United States in 1787, capitalism was based on the principles of private ownership, economic freedom, and free market. At that time, the Americans adopted the capitalist economic model of the European countries. Along with the Industrial Revolution in Britain, there was also a significant growth in American industry and trade. Especially in urban areas such as Boston, New York and Philadelphia, business continues to grow. At the time, however, the United States was still an agrarian country dominated by the agricultural sector. Many people in the United States at the time lived as farmers or laborers on farms or farms. Nevertheless, entrepreneurship and business spirit also began to grow among the American population (Greenspan & Wooldridge, 2018).

By 1911, capitalism had reached its peak of growth. The country goes through a period known as the “Progressive Age” in which significant social, political and economic changes occur (Gilbert & Gilbert, 1989). Capitalism in the United States at the time was characterized by large corporate domination, industrialization, and rapid economic growth. Industrial sectors such as steel, oil, rail, car and textile are growing rapidly (Silla, 2018). Business practices such as monopolies and cartels were also highlighted during this period, which repeatedly sought to regulate and dominate too many economic powers. In the American capitalism of 1911, there was a significant separation between capital owners (capitalists) and workers. Workers often face poor working conditions, long working hours, low wages and a lack of social protection. This has created a stronger

labor movement and demanded fairer labor rights. During this period, the government began to play an active role in the regulation and control of economic activities.

In 1911, amidst the development of capitalism in the United States, there were also some negative things happening. Some of them include:

1. **Economic inequalities:** Despite rapid economic growth, the gap between capital owners (capitalists) and workers is wider. Workers often face poor working conditions, low wages and long working hours. This leads to injustice and difficulty for workers to meet their basic needs.
2. **Exploitation of labor:** Labor exploitation continues to be common during this period. Employers often treat workers unfairly, including overtime without adequate compensation, lack of job security, and lack of social protection. This leads to inhumane working conditions and is detrimental to the welfare of workers.
3. **Monopolies and Cartels:** Monopoly trade and cartels became concerns at the time. Some large companies dominate certain industries and use their dominant position to control markets, prevent competition, and manipulate prices. The result is a lack of consumer choice and an emphasis on small and medium-sized.
4. **Social inequality:** Unequal economic growth leads to serious social inequalities. Disadvantaged social groups such as immigrants, factory workers, and minority communities often struggle to gain access to the same economic opportunities and benefits as the stronger groups.
5. **Lack of protection for workers:** At the time, the legal protection of workers' rights was still limited. There are no strong rules to protect workers from bad practices such as unsafe working conditions, inadequate wages, and arbitrary termination of employment relationships. This creates vulnerability and injustice for workers.

Despite the so much suffering of capitalism at the time, this was the strong urge for workers to boldly fight violence and injustice, and the driving force for major reform movements and social changes in the decades to come, such as the labor movement and progressive reforms.

As for capitalism described in the poem “Bread & Roses” by Hakim Bellamy, which occurred from 1787 to 1911 and its relevance to the present, if seen from a social point of view, among them are:

1. Social Gap: Capitalism in the 18th-19th century and today causes serious social inequalities. Social class gaps, including economic inequalities and access to opportunities, remain a hot issue. Capitalism tends to encourage the concentration of wealth in a handful of people or groups that have large capital, while other groups face social constraints and injustice.
2. Employees and working conditions: Capitalism in the 18th-19th century and today also includes working conditions that affect the social life of workers. Despite improvements in worker protection and employment laws, low wages, job instability and poor working conditions remain. The social gap between capital owners and workers remains a problem in the social context of capitalism.
3. Social movements: Capitalism in both periods also gave impetus to social movements that fought for social change and justice. Between the 18th and 19th centuries, labour movements and social reform movements emerged as reactions to the injustice and exploitation of the capitalist system. Today, social movements such as the labor movement, the ecological movement, and the anti-injustice movement continue to struggle to address the social problems emerging from capitalism.
4. Social security: In a social context, social protection becomes important in both periods. Capitalism in the period of the 18th-19th century brought about social changes that prompted the introduction of social protection systems such as social insurance and welfare programs. Social protection, including access to health services, social security, and financial security for the whole of society, is still a matter of debate.
5. Social mobility: Capitalism can also affect social mobility. Between the 18th and 19th centuries, capitalism offered some people the opportunity to rise socially through economic success. This is still relevant to this day, as capitalism can provide opportunities for social mobility for individuals who thrive in a competitive economic environment. However, it is also important to realize that

social mobility is not always uniform and can be limited by factors such as social class, education, and access to resources.

Overall, looking at capitalism from a social perspective, the social issues raised both in the 18th and 19th centuries and today are still important. Capitalism has complex social implications, including economic and social disparities, working conditions, social movements, social protection, and social mobility.

The economic inequalities generated by capitalism can lead to significant social differences between social classes, thereby increasing social division and injustice. This can lead to social tensions and conflict between groups with different levels of economic strength.

The working conditions influenced by capitalism are also a major social concern. Despite improvements in employment laws, low wages, labour instability and labor abuse remain. This can affect workers' well-being and quality of life, trigger labour movement and demand for better working conditions.

Social movements also continue to emerge as a response to the social injustice created by capitalism. Labour movements, environmental movement, anti-injustice movements and others fight for social change and justice. They try to influence politics and solve social problems that arise from the capitalist system. Social protection is also an important issue in the social context of capitalism. Despite efforts to protect communities through social protection systems, there are still debates and challenges about ensuring fair and inclusive access to health services, social security, and economic security for all.

In addition, social mobility is also affected by capitalism. For some people, capitalism can provide opportunities for social mobility, allowing them to climb socially through economic success. However, social mobility can also be limited by factors such as social background, education, and access to resources. Overall, capitalism has a broad social meaning both in the period of the 18th and 19th centuries and today. This meaning is associated with social inequalities, working conditions, social movements, social protection and social mobility, which are still a problem in society. By understanding and addressing these social issues, it is expected to be able to find ways to minimize negative effects and increase social well-being in the context of capitalism.

The effectiveness of working class literature in criticizing capitalism can vary depending on a number of factors, including social context, audiences, and goals to be achieved. Labor literature can be a powerful tool to express dissatisfaction and criticism of capitalism and to present the social and economic impacts experienced by working groups. Working class literary writers often present stories, experiences, and perspectives in their literature that are rarely heard in mainstream narratives dominated by capitalist views. They depict the injustice, exploitation, inequality, and difficulties faced by workers in the capitalist system. Working class literature can touch emotions, inspire empathy, and raise awareness of the social problems that emerge from capitalism. They can help depict the real life of workers and highlight poor working conditions, lack of social protection and economic inequalities.

However, the effectiveness of working class literature in criticism of capitalism cannot be directly measured. For those who are aware of the injustice and problems of capitalism, working class literature can strengthen their views and deepen their understanding of the problem. However, its effectiveness may be limited to those who may not face these social problems or who have different views. In addition, it is also important to remember that the literature of the working class is only one of the tools in combating social and economic injustice. Bringing meaningful change into the capitalist system also requires collective efforts involving social, political movements, activism, and political action.

## CONCLUSION

Hakim Bellamy is a poet, writer, and social activist from the United States. He was born in 1981 in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Bellamy is known for her work that combines poetry, stage performances, and a powerful social message.

The literature of the working class is made with reason as a form of resistance by the worker class who feels injured. By applying a sociological approach to literature, it reinforces this understanding by recognizing that labor literature is capable of depicting conflicts between the working class and capitalists and to examine relevant issues such as social inequality and exploitation, which are specifically faced by the working classes. In this context, the literature of the working class is a powerful tool to open a voice and



present a rare perspective in the dominant narrative dominated by capitalist views. Working class literature can touch emotions, inspire empathy, and raise awareness of the social problems that emerge from capitalism. They can help depict the real life of workers and highlight poor working conditions, lack of social protection and economic inequalities. Working class literature can raise social awareness, strengthen solidarity among workers and promote more just and inclusive social change.

Through a strong and poetic writing style, Bellamy depicts the struggle of workers with a strong image and an emotional image. It combines elements of social reality and the beauty of poetry to convey a message about the importance of equality and social change.

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