



Carl Sandburg

Carl Sandburg was born January 6, 1878, in Galesburg, Illinois. Sandburg's family was desperately poor, so he left school at age thirteen, doing odd jobs to earn money for the family. While serving in the Spanish-American War years later, he met a student from Lombard College who persuaded Sandburg to return to school after the war.

At Lombard College, Sandburg was mentored by a writing professor who encouraged him to pursue poetry and supported him in publishing his first collection of poems, *Reckless Ecstasy*. Sandburg wrote in the free-verse style, inspired by the poetry of Walt Whitman. While living in Chicago as an adult, he published several volumes of poetry, including *Chicago Poems* and *Cornhuskers*. He became famous for his depictions of urban life and the industrial city. He won the Pulitzer Prize three times, once for his biography of President Lincoln and twice for poetry. Sandburg died in 1967.