Two Prisoners
Raymond Souster

Looking tough, looking disheveled, looking bewildered, looking at nothing at all.

Two young boys handcuffed to detectives, walking stiffly from a courtroom on the second floor of City Hall.

“Those punks are going back to the Don where they belong…” a court attendant.

Some of us should be made to go along with them.

Activities

(1.) Discuss how you think teenagers are perceived by adults. Is the adults’ perception right? Write your thoughts in a brief paragraph.

(2.) Imagine that you are one of these boys. Write a short paragraph describing what you think the young people have done and how they are being treated or talked about.

(3.) Write another version of this poem, in which the two protagonists are elderly people viewed as stereotypes. Think of an appropriate setting for your poem.