

## WORDS OVERWHELMED

We are our words —  
eloquent, stirring, potent —  
they expose character, moods;  
they define temperament;  
portray attitudes, humour;  
clarify intuition;  
reveal personal passions.

These days our words —  
overwhelmed by bitterness —  
are poached by the unscrupulous,  
shaped into sharp rhetoric,  
twisted into absurd truths,  
burnished into vicious lies,  
hammered into grim hatreds.

Drained of all hope, words  
no longer encourage,  
reason, refresh or soothe.  
Masked as genius  
imagery steals  
all discernment.  
We are our words.

Gertrude Olga Down  
Hamilton, Canada