

WINSTON PLOWES

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Man Shaving

pale strong,  
and  
The  
was warty-handed,  
shape;  
he lift he boy

beard  
standing  
a darker  
square

smooth,  
at  
made shaving.  
like that his name,

blue  
his  
big  
runny-nosed

strong,  
were,  
of eyes  
was not  
His  
standing  
perfect and square

head,  
red so  
his  
colour—  
weakness.

## ABOUT THE POEM & AUTHOR

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“Man Shaving” was composed from the first paragraph of chapter 3 of Willa Cather’s *One of Ours*.

About the poem and its composition Winston says:

“‘Man Shaving’ was generated using software to randomise the two hundred words in Cather's original block of text. Each stanza contains consecutive words plucked from the randomly reordered word list. In so sparse a text I find it surprising that such a coherent and vivid image of the main character still remains.”

Winston Plowes is the author of *Misery Begins at Home* (2010), *Extras* (Origami Poems Project 2014), and *Telephones, Love Hearts & Jellyfish* (Electric Press 2016). His work has also appeared in *Jab Magazine*, *VoiceIn Journal*, *Leads to Leeds*, *Love You Madly: Poetry About Jazz*, and *Found Poetry Review*. A professional freelance writer, Winston has led workshops, taught, and been a poet in residence at a variety of venues, including Square Chapel Centre for the Arts, University of Central Lancashire, West Yorkshire Playhouse, The Gallery at the End of the Lane, Hebden Bridge Arts Fest, Recycle Radio, and Beech Hill Primary School. He lives in Calderdale, UK, and can be found online at [winstonplowes.co.uk](http://winstonplowes.co.uk).

