

VIDEO #1

## **S.S. Industries (after the '83 riots)** **By Arji Manuelpillai**

my grandfather built a factory  
a castle framed by Colombo smog  
brick-walled, thick as biceps taut  
figures in windows, irises in his eyes

my grandfather built a factory  
the rooms like pulsing organs  
ironclad chimneys scribbling  
his signature on the dotted skyline

my grandfather built a factory  
stainless steel pots, pans, plates  
gleaming medals in our kitchen  
my mum holding them high shouting

*your grandfather built a factory!*  
she says it sang with his being, growled  
with his grit, whistled like his workers  
so the city always remembers

my grandfather built a factory  
that was burnt to black by thugs  
and for my whole life, my grandfather  
never spoke another word.

VIDEO #2

## **The Postman** **By Jonathan Edwards**

The man who knows exactly where you live  
plunges his hand in the lucky dip

he carries on his shoulder, conjures up  
your day: the papers, packages, the words

to make you sing this morning or to stop  
your heart. *Sign here*, he grins, with something from

the court, or offers you a bill and whistles  
badly. Early hours he puts the creak

of your garden gate into a horror movie,  
leaves his footprints all over your drive,

with his clean conscience and his paid-for stride.  
His day starts any time before the day does;

he goes to bed as early as a child  
and sleeps so well- as well as you would like

to face a day of carrying that sack-  
the weight of all those futures, on your back.

ARJI MANUELPILLAI  
FUTURE SOUND DIGITAL

abram  
wilson  
FOUNDATION

VIDEO #3

## **These hands**

by

These are the hands that...

These are the hands that...

These are the hands that...

These are the hands that...

These hands...

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VIDEO #3

## Poem links

Grandma's hands by Bill Withers

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qv5pagal-ls>

These are the hands by Michael Rosen

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vb3vKDyQ244>