



These discussion questions were developed in conjunction with Lightbox interviews with [Rickey Laurentiis](#) and [Maurice Manning](#). For more information, please see www.lightboxpoetry.com.

Discussion Questions:

- How would you describe the speaker of Maurice Manning's eight "[Bucolics](#)" poems? What attributes do you learn about this speaker over the course of the poems?
- Manning speaks in his interview about the ways sounds can evoke a place. How do his poems evoke sounds? How do his poems create new sounds? From listening and learning from these poems, how would you describe the sounds of Appalachia?
- A "bucolic" is, typically, a poem that evokes the pleasant aspects of the countryside and country life. In what ways are Manning's "Bucolics" representative of this definition? In what ways do they challenge it?
- Manning says that it is important to imagine and reimagine places in poems because they are at "the root of [his] own being." What are *your* roots? How might they affect the poems you write and the choices you make as a writer?
- How does the character of "Boss" work in the "Bucolics" poems?
- In what ways do the "Bucolics" poems address the character of "Boss" as well as address us, the readers?