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A Cause to Kill

George Wayne
NSU University School

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A Cause to Kill

George Wayne

Kill!

Yells a demagogue;
The people grab their guns.

A stir of emotions
Blinds their senses,
Blinds their morals.

The demagogue speaks of a cause,
But can this cause drive one to kill?

It does and has;
In every war that man has seen,
The soldier has been told
“Kill for your country!”
“Kill for your cause!”

Has this cause been achieved?
When the stock is up against the shoulder,
The trigger pulled,
The enemy shot,
Lying cold and dead?

Has one killed for a cause?
Some bombastic speaker's promise of better days?
Or has another fallen prey
To another demagogue's way with words?

I think it is not a cause
For that “cause” is built on empty pillars
Built by some elegant speaker
Who has pulled the strings of his puppets
And let them hang like discarded toys.