*We Real Cool*

by [Gwendolyn Brooks](https://poets.org/poet/gwendolyn-brooks) (1960)

THE POOL PLAYERS.   
SEVEN AT THE GOLDEN SHOVEL.

We real cool. We  
Left school. We

Lurk late. We  
Strike straight. We

Sing sin. We 5  
Thin gin. We

Jazz June. We  
Die soon.

From *The Bean Eaters* by Gwendolyn Brooks, published by Harpers. © 1960 by Gwendolyn Brooks. Used with permission. All rights reserved. Retrieved 09.16.2019 from [www.poets.org](http://www.poets.org).