

# The Line-Gang

by Robert Frost

Here come the line-gang pioneering by.  
They throw a forest down less cut than broken.  
They plant dead trees for living, and the dead  
They string together with a living thread.  
They string an instrument against the sky  
Wherein words whether beaten out or spoken  
Will run as hushed as when they were a thought.  
But in no hush they string it: they go past  
With shouts afar to pull the cable taut,  
To hold it hard until they make it fast,  
To ease away—they have it. With a laugh,  
An oath of towns that set the wild at naught  
They bring the telephone and telegraph.

## Questions

1. What is the line-gang doing?
2. What does “beaten out” and “spoken” refer to in the phrase “words whether beaten out or spoken”?
3. Explain what the phrase “They plant dead trees for living” means.
4. What does *fast* mean here: “With shouts afar to pull the cable taut/to hold it hard until they make it fast”?