**Modernist Poetry**

Cubism:jnb

“Susie Asado” (1914)

by Gertrude Stein

Sweet sweet sweet sweet sweet tea.  
    Susie Asado.  
Sweet sweet sweet sweet sweet tea.  
    Susie Asado.  
Susie Asado which is a told tray sure.  
A lean on the shoe this means slips slips hers.  
When the ancient light grey is clean it is yellow, it is a silver seller.  
This is a please this is a please there are the saids to jelly.  
These are the wets these say the sets to leave a crown to Incy.  
Incy is short of incubus.  
A pot. A pot is a beginning of a rare bit of trees. Trees tremble,  
the old vats are in bobbles, bobbles which shade and shove and  
render clean, render clean must.  
      Drink pups.  
  Drink pups drink pups lease a sash hold, see it shine and a bobolink  
has pins. It shows a nail.  
  What is a nail. A nail is unison.  
  Sweet sweet sweet sweet sweet tea.

"If I Told Him" (a verbal portrait of Picasso) (1914)

by Gertrude Stein ([audio](http://faculty.gilman.edu/us/JamieSpragins/Euro_Hum_2002-03/World%20War%20One/stein_if.ram))

If I told him would he like it. Would he like it if I told him.   
Would he like it would Napoleon would Napoleon would would he like it.   
If Napoleon if I told him if I told him if Napoleon. Would he like it if I told him if I told him if Napoleon. Would he like it if Napoleon if   
Napoleon if I told him. If I told him if Napoleon if Napoleon if I told him. If I told him would he like it would he like it if I told him.   
Now.   
Not now.   
And now.   
Now.   
Exactly as as kings.   
Feeling full for it.   
Exactitude as kings.   
So to beseech you as full as for it.   
Exactly or as kings.   
Shutters shut and open so do queens. Shutters shut and shutters and so shutters shut and shutters and so and so shutters and so shutters shut   
and so shutters shut and shutters and so. And so shutters shut and so and also. And also and so and so and also.   
Exact resemblance to exact resemblance the exact resemblance as exact as a resemblance, exactly as resembling, exactly resembling, exactly   
in resemblance exactly a resemblance, exactly and resemblance. For this is so. Because.   
Now actively repeat at all, now actively repeat at all, now actively repeat at all.   
Have hold and hear, actively repeat at all.   
I judge judge.   
As a resemblance to him.   
Who comes first. Napoleon the first.   
Who comes too coming coming too, who goes there, as they go they share, who shares all, all is as all as as yet or as yet.   
Now to date now to date. Now and now and date and the date.   
Who came first Napoleon at first. Who came first Napoleon the first. Who came first, Napoleon first.   
Presently.   
Exactly as they do.   
First exactly.   
Exactly as they do too.   
First exactly.   
And first exactly.   
Exactly as they do.   
And first exactly and exactly.   
And do they do.   
At first exactly and first exactly and do they do.   
The first exactly.   
At first exactly.   
First as exactly.   
At first as exactly.   
Presently.   
As presently.   
As as presently.   
He he he he and he and he and and he and he and he and and as and as he and as he and he. He is and as he is, and as he is and he is, he is   
and as he and he and as he is and he and he and and he and he.   
Can curls rob can curls quote, quotable.   
As presently.   
As exactitude.   
As trains.   
Has trains.   
Has trains.   
As trains.   
As trains.   
Presently.   
Proportions.   
Presently.   
As proportions as presently.   
Father and farther.   
Was the king or room.   
Farther and whether.   
Was there was there was there what was there was there what was there was there there was there.   
Whether and in there.   
As even say so.   
One.   
I land.   
Two.   
I land.   
Three.   
The land.   
Three.   
The land.   
Two.   
I land.   
Two.   
I land.   
One.   
I land.   
Two.   
I land.   
As a so.   
They cannot.   
A note.   
They cannot.   
A float.   
They cannot.   
They dote.   
They cannot.   
They as denote.   
Miracles play.   
Play fairly.   
Play fairly well.   
A well.   
As well.   
As or as presently.   
Let me recite what history teaches. History teaches.

Imagism:

Ezra Pound

"In a Station of the Metro" (1913)  
  
The apparition of these faces in the crowd;  
Petals on a wet, black bough.

"Ts'ai Chi'h"

Translated by Pound

The petals fall in the fountain,  
the orange-colored rose leaves,  
Their ochre clings to the stone.

\*Ts'ai Chi'h is the name of a Chinese poet who lived from 192-232 A.D.

**Haiku**

Basho:

This road—  
no one goes down it,  
 autumn evening.

Autumn winds  
in the sliding door's opening   
 a sharp voice

Orchid breathing   
 incense into   
butterfly wings.

Spring - through   
  morning mist   
what mountains there?

Write Your Own Haiku:

Three lines

Line One: 5 Syllables

Line Two: 7 Syllables

Line 3: 5 Syllables

“so much depends"

by William Carlos Williams

so much depends  
upon

a red wheel  
barrow

glazed with rain  
water

beside the white  
chickens.

“The Great Figure”  
  
by William Carlos Williams  
  
Among the rain  
and lights  
I saw the figure 5  
in gold  
on a red  
firetruck  
moving  
tense  
unheeded  
to gong clangs  
siren howls  
and wheels rumbling  
through the dark city.

“This Is Just To Say” (1923)

by William Carlos Williams

I have eaten

the plums

that were in

the icebox

and which

you were probably

saving

for breakfast

Forgive me

they were delicious

so sweet

and so cold

Reply by Williams’ wife, Flossie

(crumped on her desk)

Dear Bill: I've made a

couple of sandwiches for you.

In the ice-box you'll find

blue-berries--a cup of grapefruit

a glass of cold coffee.

On the stove is the tea-pot

with enough tea leaves

for you to make tea if you

prefer--Just light the gas--

boil the water and put it in the tea

Plenty of bread in the bread-box

and butter and eggs--

I didn't know just what to

make for you. Several people

called up about office hours--

See you later. Love. Floss.

Please switch off the telephone.

Modernist Poetry:  Writing Exercises

Cubism:

Using Stein's "If I Told Him" as a reference, write a fragmented poem that relies on the repetitions of words and phrases.  Don't worry about making sense… In fact, it might be easier if you try *not* to make sense and let the repetitions "take over."  Stein started man poems by employing the method of "automatic" or "free" writing.

Imagism: (Haiku)

Walk outside and look at the world until you observe something—an insect, a leaf, a bird, children playing on a swing-set… preferably something in action.  Write a short haiku-like passage that tries to capture that scene at that moment: the natural world intersecting with your perception.  If it helps, try to shape this into a traditional Japanese haiku (three lines, with a 5 syllable, 7 syllable, 5 syllable format).

Potential Artifact Essay Resources:

Al Filreis [Stein Links](http://www.english.upenn.edu/~afilreis/88v/chap200c.html) (UPenn)  <http://www.english.upenn.edu/~afilreis/88v/chap200c.html>   
Al Filreis [Mini-Lecture on "The Red Wheelbarrow"](http://www.english.upenn.edu/%7Eafilreis/88v/redwheelbarrow.html) (UPenn)   
[The Armory Show of 1913](http://xroads.virginia.edu/~MUSEUM/Armory/entrance.html) <http://xroads.virginia.edu/~MUSEUM/Armory/entrance.html>    
The Possibilities of Modernism: [1925: The Year in Review](http://www.artchive.com/1925/1925.html) (Artchive) <http://www.artchive.com/1925/1925.html>