

Facts about Modern American Poetry

1. Often a single poem is written to contain a multiple of interpretations.
2. A single image can help the poet present a complex idea. For example, the word “beauty” is subjective and needs specific data to back up the meaning. Whereas the word “newborn” or “blossom” often is an indication of a perception of beauty which does not need intense clarification.
3. Individual readers create personal symbols within any poem, guided by a combination of word choices and the poet’s overall tone.
4. In fact, sometimes the language of a poem is more important than its actual message. The reader’s first impressions carry an emphasis for the full work.

English III: American Literature

Name: _____

"In a Station of the Metro" || Ezra Pound

1. Consider the poem's title. What immediate impressions do you have about Pound's choice of subject? What is he referring to here?

2. This was originally published in the year 1913. What historical event is about to unfold in Europe?

3. Look up the definition of the word "apparition."
definition: _____

What mood does this particular word provide you?

4. Read the opening line. How does this portion of the poem tie in with the title? What mood is presented?

5. Read the second line. What type of image is provided? What mood do you now gain?

“In a Station of the Metro” || Ezra Pound

1. This poem is typical of Ezra Pound’s early style. Using an Imagistic approach, the poet is specifically reacting against the Victorian Movement and the heavy, dense literature it produced.
2. This short poem is only two lines; fourteen words. No verbs exist in the full poem.
3. The conclusive emotion that is gained does not happen in either individual line. However, by the combination of the two lines, an emotional connection is built between them.
4. A metaphor is built from these two observations.
5. The semicolon is important in this case because it provides an adjusted dramatic pause— just enough hesitation to encourage a commonality between the two lines.
6. Pound is using a technique which mirrors the Japanese short poetry form: haiku.