

# HOMEWORK

1/27

Read *Ordinary Genius*, 13-46. Write the following:

- 1) An American sentence
- 2) A poem that starts with a line from a published poem
- 3) A poem about someone you remember from grade school

*Email me the three poems as a Microsoft Word attachment.*

Choose one of the three poems for the exercise workshop & make multiple copies.

Bring an unrelated poem for open workshop (can be one you wrote in 285 or elsewhere).

Langston Hughes poems on my website.

2/3

OG, 47-59.

Exercise: Write a poem employing one of Addonizio's six doors.

Bring another poem for workshop.

Study the Emily Dickinson poems on the "Poetry to Download" page.

2/10

OG, 61-76.

Found Poem Exercise: take a paragraph or length of text from anywhere—a news article, a novel, a textbook—and relineate it so that it reads as a poem. You may omit words in the paragraph, but you may not add any new words.

Kim Addonizio & Ai poems.

Bring a poem for workshop.

2/17

Take a poem that you've already written—preferably one you feel to be finished—and create a second version of it that breaks the lines in a totally different way. Bring both versions to class in multiple copies, perhaps side by side on the page. The sole topic for our workshop on these poem is which lineation works better and why.

Study Frank O'Hara poems (on website).

Bring a poem for open workshop.

2/24

Exercise: Choose a poem that you particularly admire. Write your own poem in the style of the chosen poem, but make sure to feature a different subject. Rather than slavishly follow the exact syntax and vocabulary of the model poem, try to catch the feeling of its movement in your imitation. Bring both the model poem and your own poem to workshop.

Read Sylvia Plath poems (on website).

Bring poems for open workshop.

3/2

Deathbed & Posthumous Poems: Write a poem in which you speak at or after your own death. You might consider what being dead feels like, or what you'd want to say to those still alive. Feel free to mine Emily Dickinson for ideas. D.H. Lawrence's "Bavarian Gentians" in this week's reading is a deathbed poem.

Read D.H. Lawrence poems (on website).

Bring poems for open workshop.

3/9

OG, 77-95.

"Challenge the Evidence" exercise on OG 86.

Bring poems for open workshop.

3/23

OG, 99-108; Gertrude Stein poems.

Exercise: Write a poem about a physical or psychological feature you do not like, whether you possess it, or certain other people. Write it in such a way that it's not a put-down, but something that fascinates the reader, perhaps with its ugliness, its peculiarity, the strangeness of your aversion. Make the feature as sensually palpable to the reader as possible.

Bring poems for open workshop.

3/30

Reading: John Ashbery poems on my website.

Writing: Exercise: Shadow Poem: Imagine that your shadow has a name, or a face, or certain habits, likes or dislikes. Describe your shadow. Then describe how your shadow reacts to a particular action or actions you perform.

4/13

Reading: OG, 109-26. Ann Carson poems on my website.

Writing: Exercise: Alt-Love Poem: Write a love and/or sex poem to someone in whom you, personally, could not possibly be interested. I am interested both in the speaker who is clearly not you and in the qualities of the love object that the speaker desires. *Amor vincet omnia*.

4/20

Reading: OG, 135-46. Bob Perelman poems on my website.

Writing: Exercise: Persona poem (explained in OG).

4/27

Reading: OG, 148-69. Prose Poems on my website.

Writing: Exercise: Write a pantoum of at least four stanzas (explained in OG), or a prose poem.

***Portfolio***

***Due Monday, May 9 at 1:00 p.m., or Friday, May 6 at 10:00 a.m. for comments.***