

Homework for April 13

Reading: Bring a poem to class by a published poet to read aloud.

Writing: Headline poem: choose a newspaper headline—print or online, the date doesn't matter—and use it as the title and subject of your own poem. The poem does not by any means have to stick with the facts of the news story—it's up to you.

Homework for April 4

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

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

Homework for Homework for March 23

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.

Homework for March 9

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.

Homework for March 2

Reading: OG, 99-108; Gertrude Stein poems on my website.

Writing: 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.

Homework for February 23

Reading: OG, 77-95. Frank O'Hara poems on my website.

Writing: Exercise: "Challenge the Evidence" on 86.

Homework for February 16

Exercise: Compose a dramatic monologue.

Reading: Russell Edson poems on my webpage (be sure you have them available for class discussion).

Homework for February 9

Homework: 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.

Homework for February 2

Homework: OG, 47-59.

Exercise: Write a poem employing one of Addonizio's six doors. Make multiple copies for workshop.

Bring another poem for workshop.

Read the Emily Dickinson poems on the Poetry to Download page.

Homework for January 24

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).

Read the Langston Hughes poems on my website & have them available for class discussion.