

The poem of the day focuses on looking at a blackbird in lots of different ways! I have put in italics and brackets a few words that I definitely wouldn't expect you to understand and I had to look up myself! Have a read through...You'll never think of a blackbird in the same way again!

I
Among twenty snowy mountains,
The only moving thing
Was the eye of the blackbird.

II
I was of three minds,
Like a tree
In which there are three blackbirds.

III
The blackbird whirled in the autumn winds.
It was a small part of the pantomime.

IV
A man and a woman
Are one.
A man and a woman and a blackbird
Are one.

V
I do not know which to prefer,
The beauty of inflections
Or the beauty of innuendoes, (*a hint or suggestion that something or somebody is something bad*)
The blackbird whistling
Or just after.

VI
Icicles filled the long window
With barbaric glass.
The shadow of the blackbird
Crossed it, to and fro.
The mood
Traced in the shadow
An indecipherable cause.

VII
O thin men of Haddam,
Why do you imagine golden birds?
Do you not see how the blackbird
Walks around the feet
Of the women about you?

VIII
I know noble accents
And lucid (*easy to understand*), inescapable rhythms;
But I know, too,
That the blackbird is involved
In what I know.

IX
When the blackbird flew out of sight,
It marked the edge

Of one of many circles.

X

At the sight of blackbirds
Flying in a green light,
Even the bawds of euphony (*if something sounds pleasant*)
Would cry out sharply.

XI

He rode over Connecticut
In a glass coach.
Once, a fear pierced him,
In that he mistook
The shadow of his equipage (*equipment for a particular purpose*)
For blackbirds.

XII

The river is moving.
The blackbird must be flying.

XIII

It was evening all afternoon.
It was snowing
And it was going to snow.
The blackbird sat
In the cedar-limbs.

Your poetry task today is to choose a focus for your poem- it could be an animal or something as dull as a gate or ironing board! Follow the set of instructions to write your own poem in the style of Wallace Stephens:

Verse 1. A simile using "like"

Verse 2. An instruction

Verse 3. A question

Verse 4. A wish

Verse 5. A lie

Verse 6. Personification (when you make an object sound like it is human e.g. the toaster is sleeping, the gate is tired) and alliteration

Mrs Best's example:

8 Ways of Looking at a Loaf of Bread

1. The slices are like
a deck of cards.
2. Get into the
toaster and do not
burn!
3. Bread, why do you
keep loafing
about?
4. The loaf wishes
that the knife
would stop
looking her way!
5. Bread swims.
6. The bold bread lay
on the brassy
beach and put
on its sunglasses.