

ee cummings
i thank You God for most this amazing
Easy questions to cut your teeth on!

Worksheet by:
Keith Tankard
Knowledge4Africa.com

1. "i thank You God for most this amazing
day:for the leaping greenly spirits of trees
and a blue true dream of sky;and for everything
which is natural which is infinite which is yes"
 - The poet uses small letters throughout, even for his name. Why, then, does he use the upper-case for "You" and for "God"? (4)
 - When the poet significantly alters the word order, he causes us to see multiple meanings in his words. Can you list TWO different meanings in "for most this amazing day"? (2)
 - To what would "the leaping greenly spirits of trees" be referring? (4)
 - What does the poet mean when he says, "for everything which is infinite which is yes"? Why "yes"? (4)

2. "(i who have died am alive again today,
and this is the sun's birthday;this is the birth
day of life and of love and wings:and of the gay
great happening illimitably earth)"
 - Why should this be the sun's birthday? (4)
 - What is the meaning of "gay"? (2)
 - What does the poet mean by the word "illimitably"? (2)

3. "how should any -- lifted from the no
of all no tasting touching hearing seeing
breathing thing -- human merely being
doubt unimaginable You?"
 - Why should the poet mention "tasting touching hearing seeing breathing"? (2)
 - How is it at all possible to free ourselves from "tasting touching hearing seeing breathing"? (2)

4. "(now the ears of my ears awake and
now the eyes of my eyes are opened)"
 - Is this a rhyming couplet? (2)

<www.knowledge4africa.com>

This worksheet is copyrighted. No part of it may be copied or printed in any form whatever without the express permission in writing of the author. The sole exception is for non-profit educational purposes.