**Visual Representation: “The Railroad Station”/“Lot’s Wife”/”Among the Multitudes”/”In Broad Daylight”**

The poems we’re examining today deal with some kind of alternate view of reality. “The Railroad Station” (75-76) explores an event (a romantic rendezvous) that never occurred. “Lot’s Wife” (149-150) offers multiple explanations for the action of a figure from the Old Testament, but does not suggest which imagined scenario might be true, thus suggesting a multiplicity of possible realities. Similarly, “Among the Multitudes” (267-268) explores the possibility of the poem’s speaker having different qualities—in other words, being a completely different person. These three poems take place within the interior landscape of a first-person narrator, suggesting the subjectivity of human experience, the complexity of human consciousness, and the flexible nature of truth. “In Broad Daylight” (192-193), although it is in 3rd person, also explores an alternate reality—a reality that imagines the old age of a Polish poet who was actually killed in World War II at the age of 23.

Because these poems are so unusual in their representation of time and reality, they take a different kind of thinking to understand. I would like you to try to find some way of expressing your view of one of these poems in a visual form that uses the text of the poem but rearranges it and adds graphic elements. Your visual should

* contain all, or at least most, of the text of the poem, but this text should be manipulated/rearranged to explore ideas of time, reality, consciousness, etc. Text may be rearranged, repeated, written backwards/sideways/upside down, etc. Text may also be written in different sizes, colors, styles, etc.
* include visual elements such as illustrations, shading, or geometric patterns (such as dividing the page into clear sections to divide or corral parts of the text)
* include a brief (one paragraph) explanation or artist’s statement giving some justification of your choices in arranging and representing the text. Please write this on the back of your visual or on a separate sheet of paper.

You may work by yourself, with a partner, or in a group of 3. This assignment is worth 15 points.

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