

IMAGISM

Imagism was a school of poetry in the early 20th Century that called for careful, precise description of a single image or scene in order to reveal its essence. This description would often break down the image into component parts and view them from multiple perspectives. Imagist poems were often written in free verse and used line breaks and stanzas to emphasize certain aspects of the image. In their fragmentary nature and application of multiple perspectives, many imagist poems shared similarities with Cubist painting.

Reading an Imagist Poem

1. What possible meanings does the title suggest?
2. What is the central image or scene?
3. What aspects of the image does the poet emphasize? Why do you think the poet chose those to emphasize?
4. How does the poet use line breaks or stanza breaks to focus the reader's attention?
5. Does the poem offer perspectives of the image from different vantage points? If so, how?
6. Does the poem offer perspectives of the image from different points in time? If so, how?
7. What might the poet want the reader to understand about this image or scene?