

CONTEMPORARY POETRY QUIZ

Identify the following opening lines by contemporary American poets:

1. Life, friends, is boring. We must not say so.
2. Only teaching on Tuesdays, book-worming
in pajamas fresh from the washer each morning,
3. Often I am permitted to return to a meadow
4. Yes, we were looking at each other
5. I saw the best minds of my generation destroyed by madness
6. I have had to learn the simplest things
last. Which made for difficulties
7. I caught a tremendous fish
8. As I sd to my
friend, because I am
always talking, -- John, I
9. The whisky on your breath
Could make a small boy dizzy;
But I hung on like death:
Such waltzing was not easy.
10. You do not do, you do not do
Any more, black shoe
In which I have lived like a foot
11. They have turned, and say that I am dying. That
I have thrown
my life
away ...
12. In late winter
I sometimes glimpse bits of steam
coming up from
some fault in the old snow
and bend close and see it is lung-colored
13. Child of my winter, born
When the new fallen soldiers froze
In Asia's steep ravines and fouled the snows,
When I was torn
14. Farm boys wild to couple
With anything with soft-wooded trees
15. As you came from the holy land
of western New York state



W. S. Merwin