Andrè Breton

Less Time



Less time than it takes to say it, less tears than it takes to die; I've taken account of everything, there you have it.

I've made a census of the stones, they are as numerous as my fingers and some others;

I've distributed some pamphlets to the plants, but not all were willing to accept them.

I've kept company with music for a second only and now I no longer know what to think of suicide, for if I ever want to part from myself, the exit is on this side and, I add mischievously, the entrance, the re-entrance is on the other.

You see what you still have to do. Hours, grief, I don't keep a reasonable account of them;

I'm alone, I look out of the window; there is no passerby, or rather no one passes (underline passes).

You don't know this man? It's Mr. Same. May I introduce Madam Madam? And their children. Then I turn back on my steps, my steps turn back too, but I don't know exactly what they turn back on.

I consult a schedule; the names of the towns have been replaced by the names of people who have been quite close to me.

Shall I go to A, return to B, change at X? Yes, of course I'll change at X.

Provided I don't miss the connection with boredom!

There we are: boredom, beautiful parallels, ah! how beautiful the parallels are under God's perpendicular.

- 1. Does this poem have a structure?
- 2. How do you think Breton was writing this poem?
- 3. Is it easy to read?
- 4. Is it easy to comprehend?
- 5. How is this poem different from any other poems you've read?