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Patchwork Poem Reflection

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Many modernist writers chose to depict nature's beauty in poetry, thus admiring the serenity of the world around them. In my patchwork poem, I tried to collect lines which reflect the same philosophy. For example, I realized that I particularly enjoyed Robert Frost's poetry, which tends to be focused mainly on literary techniques and sometimes even on wordplays, qualities I believe encompass the essence of the modernist movement rather well. When I started picking out the lines of poetry I would like to use, I had no idea what kind of poem I would try to create, so I grabbed an anthology and read. And then I read some more (because, frankly, I loved it), trying to find as many poems by different authors as I possibly could and writing down the lines that seemed to speak to me most. Sometimes, it was almost heartbreaking for me to realize that I could only choose one line from the many I had collected from the same poem. Robert Frost's "Birches", for instance, had six lines I appreciated (I especially loved his use of figurative language, which makes reading his poems engaging and thought-provoking); similarly, e.e. cummings's "what if a much of a which of a wind" had five (such as the line "gives the truth to a summer's lie" (2), which I liked for its insightful juxtaposition). Of course, as I read, I got more and more familiar with the type of poetry I enjoyed and strove to collect lines that mirrored this.

The real challenge was piecing everything together. Although most of my chosen lines shared similar qualities (which made finding a main idea or theme simple), some of them began in the middle of a sentence, so it was difficult for me to string them together logically. Once I found my first line, however, things got relatively easier, as I simply had to find lines that matched its theme and writing style. As for the art component of the project, I actually used inspiration from what I had learned in one of my art classes to find a background image that represents my poem. My teacher, Mr. Savastano, had shown us Salvador Dali's *The Persistence of Memories* as an example of surrealism, and I had been amazed at the depth of the artwork, which portrays melting clocks. When I finished stringing all the lines of poetry together and looked at the list of modern artists that were permitted for the project, I was surprised (and happy) to see that Dali's famous painting was included, especially since its theme goes so well with my poem. After all, both are about time and memories and the impact they can have on us.

All in all, I think the poem I have concocted well represents the Edwardian era (modernism) because it features most of its characteristics, such as a focus on nature and a need to be analyzed to be fully comprehended. If I could re-do this project, however, I would make sure that every line of poetry I use be from a different poet, which would make the poem an even better demonstration of the modern era.