

**D.H. Lawrence, 'To Women, As Far As I'm Concerned'**

The feelings I don't have, I don't have.  
 The feelings I don't have, I won't say I have.  
 The feelings you say you have, you don't have.  
 The feelings you would like us both to have, we neither of us have.  
 The feelings people ought to have, they never have.  
 If people say they've got feelings, you may be pretty sure they haven't got them.  
 So if you want either of us to feel anything at all,  
 You'd better abandon all idea of feelings altogether.

**Williams Carlos Williams (1893-1963) , This is just to say**

This is just to Say  
 I have eaten  
 the plums  
 that were in  
 the icebox  
 and which  
 you were probably  
 saving  
 for breakfast  
 Forgive me  
 they were delicious  
 so sweet  
 and so cold

**Kenneth Koch's parody of Williams's poem (Kenneth Koch, 1925-2002)**

I chopped down the house that you had been saving to live in next summer.  
 I am sorry, but it was morning, and I had nothing to do  
 and its wooden beams were so inviting.  
 We laughed at the hollyhocks together  
 and then I sprayed them with lye.  
 Forgive me, I simply do not know what I am doing.

I gave away the money that you had been saving to live on for the next ten years.  
 The man who asked for it was shabby  
 and the firm March wind on the porch was so juicy and cold.  
 Last evening we were dancing and I broke your leg.  
 Forgive me. I was clumsy, and  
 I wanted you here in the wards, where I am a doctor!

### **Alan Brownjohn(1931-) ‘Common Sense’**

An agricultural labourer, who has  
 A wife and four children, receives 20s a week.  
 $\frac{3}{4}$  buys food, and the members of the family  
 Have three meals a day.  
 How much is that per person per meal?  
*–From Pitman’s Common Sense Arithmetic, 1917*

A gardener, paid 24s a week, is  
 Fined  $\frac{1}{3}$  if he comes to work late.  
 At the end of 26 weeks, he receives  
 £30.5.3. How  
 Often was he late?  
*–From Pitman’s Common Sense Arithmetic, 1917*

. . . The table printed below gives the number  
 Of paupers in the United Kingdom, and  
 The total cost of poor relief.  
 Find the average number  
 Of paupers per ten thousand people.  
*–From Pitman’s Common Sense Arithmetic, 1917*

. . . Out of an army of 28,000 men,  
 15% were  
 Killed, 25% were  
 Wounded. Calculate  
 How many men were there left to fight?  
*–From Pitman’s Common Sense Arithmetic, 1917*

### **‘Sea Violet’ , by H. D. (Hilda Doolittle, 1886-1961)**

The white violet  
 is scented on its stalk,  
 the sea-violet  
 fragile as agate,  
 lies fronting all the wind  
 among the torn shells  
 on the sand-bank.

The greater blue violets  
 flutter on the hill,  
 but who would change for these  
 who would change for these  
 one root of the white sort?

Violet  
 your grasp is frail  
 on the edge of the sand-hill,

but you catch the light –  
frost, a star edges with its fire.

**John Clare (1763- 1864) “Badger”**

When midnight comes a host of dogs and men  
Go out and track the badger to his den,  
And put a sack within the hole, and lie  
Till the old grunting badger passes by.  
He comes and hears – they let the strongest loose.  
The old fox hears the noise and drops the goose.  
The poacher shoots and hurries from the cry,  
And the old hare half wounded buzzes by.  
They get a forked stick to bear him down  
And clap the dogs and take him to the town,  
And bait him all the day with many dogs,  
And laugh and shout and fright the scampering hogs.  
He runs along and bites at all he meets:  
They shout and hollo down the noisy streets.