

Tumbling-Hair

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picker of buttercups
violets

dandelions

And the big bullying daisies

through the field wonderful

with eyes a little sorry

Another comes

also picking flowers

E.E. CUMMINGS

How many people are there in the poem?

What are they doing

Where are they?

What physical traits does the poet mention about the first picker? What does that suggest?

What do you think the line "with eyes a littler sorry" refers to?

- The first picker
- The second picker
- Both

Give reasons

The field is covered with colourful wild flowers: yellow buttercups, violet/white violets, yellow dandelions, white/yellow daisies.

Focus on the language used to create the setting.

- a. Bearing in mind that the poet was also a painter, why does he introduce the names of the flowers?
 - To describe the shape of the flowers
 - To evoke their colours
 - To suggest their number in the field
- b. Consider the use of adjectives.
- c. Underline those which describe the daisies. What do they suggest about these flowers?
- d. Ring the adjectives used to describe the field. Which of the following devices are used to foreground it?
 - use of small initial letter
 - unusual syntactic position
 - front/end position in the line

Reconsider the lay-out.

- a) Focus on the flowers.
 1. How are the names of the flowers arranged on the page??
scattered over the page
grouped in one or two lines
aligned one after the other

2. What function does the lay-out serve?

- b) What does the indentation of the lines suggest about the pickers?

daisy = margherita

dandelion = soffioni

buttercup = ranuncolo

bullying = the attitude of people who frighten someone smaller or weaker