

ee cummings
my sweet old etcetera
Wrap your mind around these ones!

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The poet's persona lies in a trench in northern France during the Great War, contemplating what his family is thinking and doing. They are mostly involved either in making oddments of clothing for him and the other soldiers, thinking about his gallantry or considering questions about the war itself. He, in the meantime, is thinking about sex.

1. This is essentially a poem dealing with innuendo. What is the purpose of these innuendos? (6)
2. Psychologists point out that young men think of sex roughly every six to ten seconds. On the other hand, the word "etcetera" is used no less than eight times in this poem.
 - Is there any connection? (6)
3. The poet defines five totally different character types. Explain. (10)
4. The poem is moulded into numerous short verses and equally short lines. Indeed, some of the lines consist of only one syllable. Is there any specific purpose for doing so? (4)
5. Contrast the words, thoughts and activities of the four family members with those of the soldier. (10)
6. Discuss the sarcasm in the poem. (10)

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