

Ezra Pound  
In a Station of the Metro

Ezra Pound (1885-1972) was an American poet and critic, and, along with T. S. Eliot, a major representative of “modernism” in writing. He is particularly known for launching the “imagist” movement. He left the United States in 1908, settling in London. Later, during the second world war, he lived in Italy and broadcast propaganda for Mussolini. When Italy was liberated, he was returned to the US and tried for treason but was declared mentally unfit and spent over twelve years in St. Elizabeths Hospital in Washington, D. C. His best known poems are “Hugh Selwyn Mauberley” (1920) and *The Cantos*, a lengthy poem left unfinished at his death. He is credited with telling young writers to “make it new.” “In a Station of the Metro” (1916) illustrates the ideals of the compressed image.

The apparition of these faces in the crowd;  
Petals on a wet, black bough.