**The Poet’s Essay – Some Questions**

Pragmatically, what is the problem the essay is trying to solve, or clarify that the poems can’t?

What, if anything, about the poet’s future practice is being intimated or broached by the essay?

What, if anything, does the poet’s essay add to or detract from our reading of the poems? Does the essay spoil, in any way, our reading of the poems?

What is the poet’s essay persuading us not to do?

Given the essay interrupts and continues an already ongoing cultural conversation, in what direction is the essay pushing the conversation?

How is the poet in her essay persuading us, if at all, to read her poetry?

What, if anything, is the poet’s essay telling us about how his readers might have failed him?

What, if anything, is the poet’s essay telling us about his preferred reader of his poems?

What, if anything, is the poet’s essay telling us about he mistrusts, or is unconvinced by his own poetry?

How does the poet want our lives to be different after reading her essay?

If we hadn’t read the poet’s essay what, if anything, might we have missed about her poems? Why might we prefer not having read the essay?

Where, if anywhere in the essay, do we get a sense of the poet’s real enjoyment?

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