

Reading Assignment for October 19

Read the following short pieces from Gertrude Stein's *Writings, 1903–1932*. The order below is suggested; the Library of America volume is organized chronologically, but this order groups related pieces.

"Ada," 275–77.

"Matisse," 278–81.

"Picasso," 282–84.

"If I Told Him," 506–8.

"Preciosilla," 386.

"Composition as Explanation," 520–29.

"Miss Furr and Miss Skeene," 307–12.

"Portrait of Mabel Dodge at the Villa Curonia," 356–59.

"Sacred Emily," 387–96.

"One. Carl Van Vechten," 360–1.

"Van or Twenty Years After," 504–5.

"Americans," 373–78.

"In the Grass (On Spain)," 379–84.

"Guillaume Apollinaire," 385.

"Idem the Same," 475–78.

"Erik Satie," 493.

"Cezanne," 494.

"The Life of Juan Gris; The Life and Death of Juan Gris," 565–67.

"Virgil Thomson," 651–52.

"A Book Concluding With As a Wife Has a Cow A Love Story," 495–503.

Also look at the photographs which illustrate *The Autobiography of Alice B. Toklas* (a list can be found on p. 657).

Take a look at, but do not read unless you really want to, "Tender Buttons," Stein's most infamously avant-garde work.

Choose 2–5 sentences that strike you as characteristically Steinean. Then be prepared to use them as a basis for discussing the questions "What is Stein's style? And how does it work?" in class.