Directions: read and annotate the poem. What do you notice about:

* *Organization*
* *Diction Choice*
* *Tone*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **This Is Just To Say** |  |
| by [William Carlos Williams](http://www.poets.org/poet.php/prmPID/119) | |
|  | |
| I have eaten  the plums  that were in  the icebox  and which  you were probably  saving  for breakfast  Forgive me  they were delicious  so sweet  and so cold |  |

Expression: telling the story Reflection: lesson learned

Forgive My Guilt

*Robert P. Tristram Coffin*

Not always sure what things called sins may be,

I am sure of one sin I have done.

It was years ago, and I was a boy.

I lay in the frostflowers with a gun,

The air ran blue as the flowers, I held my breath,

Two birds on golden legs slim as dream things

Ran like quicksilver on the golden sand,

My gun went off, they ran with broken wings

Into the sea, I ran to fetch them in,

But they swam with their heads high out to sea,

They cried like two sorrowful high flutes,

With jagged ivory bones where wings should be.

For days I heard them when I walked that headland

Crying out to their kind in the blue,

The other plovers were going over south

On sliver wings leaving these broken two.

The cries went out one day; but I still hear them

Over all the sounds of sorry in war or peace

I ever heard, time cannot drown them,

Those slender flutes of sorrow never cease.

Two airy things forever denies the air!

I never knew how their lives at last were split,

But I have hoped for years all that is wild,

Airy, and beautiful will forgive my guilt.

Activity: In your writer’s notebook do one or both of the following:

1. *Write a narrative about the theme: GUILT*
2. *Revise/add to an old narrative using the expression and reflection strategy.*