

## Thirteen Ways of Looking at Tea Time

### I

I was of three minds  
like a teacup  
that holds three  
cubes of sugar.

### II

The tea rises to the brim  
of a cup that's traveled  
oceans, prairies, mountains,  
generations.

### III

The teacup's shadow  
fell on the table.  
In the eyes of a child it became  
A portal.

### IV

"I once had tea with my mom  
my grandmother, and my great-grandmother,"  
the matriarch said as she placed a chocolate  
into the young girls' sticky fingers.

### V

The cup still held  
the songs  
of the bagpipes.

### VI

Tea is about what's said  
but also about what's sipped back  
behind the lips.

### VII

Legend has it  
Dickinson wrote  
*Forever - is composed of Nows* -  
between sips of tea.

### VIII

To drink tea  
is to taste

sun

air

mist

that budded into leaves

### IX

A blackbird is flying.  
A spoon must be stirring.

### X

clinkclinkclinkclink

ssssssssssssssP

### XI

"There's a Mad Hatter at every tea party,"  
quipped Alice.

### XII

That hands  
cradling teacups  
have weathered storms.

### XIII

nieces    aunts    great-aunts

cousins

mothers    daughters    granddaughters

great-granddaughters

grandmothers

great-grandmothers

and among these resplendent constellations

shine the sisters

~Aaron M. Moe

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