

**Gertrude Stein  
LISTEN TO ME**

**1936**

**A PLAY**

There are three characters.  
The first one says. No noun is remown  
The second one says. Forget the air  
The first one says. But you need the air  
The third one says. For has nothing to do with get.

They giggle.

And then they are not through with three.  
And then they are solemn and they know that the world will.  
If they know that the world will.  
It is not used that they need where.

Three characters.

There are always more than three characters because air is where.  
Now I ask you if you listen to me do you say as air is there.  
And so no longer three characters but all who are there say this.

Listen to me

A soliloquy

There is not any day not what they say there is a man there and it is well done. If he likes it or not it is well done. They like to know that it is well done. That is what a man is they like to know that it is well done. What is it that a man is a man is that they like to know that it is well done. If it is not well done he is dead and they like to know that he is dead if it is well done. That is the one thing that there is now that he is dead and that it is well done.

If three characters are in the play is it in the way.  
No more than four characters ever go away.

A chorus of three characters and then a chorus of four characters but the characters that are the three characters are not the same characters as the characters that are four characters.

Four characters now come together and think apart. They do not think therefore they think apart.

The four characters.

First character. Since there are no men in existence anywhere except here on this earth being men is not an easy thing to happen.  
Second character. Listen to me and they do.

It is natural that there are many  
It is natural that there are few  
A city says how do you do  
Or only one or two.

The third character has a french poem. Un ecrivain a un ecrivain  
une amie a un ami  
Les années fait des années.  
Si non oui.

The fourth character. After all they enjoyed themselves  
And if they did not after all they enjoyed themselves.

After four characters have thought apart and been together they always have to  
say it to each other.

And so now they do.  
Listen to me  
Now they do.  
And so they do  
Listen to that.

A motto

Why should alas be near to nothing.  
Any one not looking on would say  
Anything is a careful story of how they enjoyed themselves if they do.

Curtain.

There are never five characters in listen to me. Why is that.  
Sweet William had his genius and so he did not look for it. He did look for  
Lillian and then he had Lillian.

That shows that five characters are not that.  
Three four seven characters yes because seven is seven.  
How sweet of seven to be seven.  
The last of seven speaks first.

What does it speak about it. It speaks about the great difficulty of what  
anything is about.

Is about. He says. Is about.  
About what. He says. And what is about.  
Well what is about.

What is it about puts in another word and it is as best yes.  
There are seven characters and the last spoken.  
Now the next to the last will speak.

All that was inside him inside dear Sweet William was shown not to be in him  
but to be held up so any one looking could see them. Dear sweet William.

The third from the last now speaks which is not the same as is now  
speaking. But is it.

He says. I am forty now it is funny isn't it. I am forty now and that is funny.  
The fourth from the last one has no reason not to have any feeling. He remembers all the time that he has not had it before.

Well well who is a genius he said and she said well well. He the fourth one from the end one would that make the third one well the fourth one did not say well well who is the genius.

The fifth one from the end one said. What is a genius she said and he said what is a genius, and they both answered at once who is a genius. When they both answered at once they answered well well what is a genius.

Then then the second from the front one spoke more slowly and he said.  
It is always well to tell what it is that is done.

And the first one the first one of the seven of them said in meditation. What is a word of one syllable is it easier to understand than one of several. I wonder, anyway anything is the story of anybody's life. No story is interesting although I always listen to it and they have to make up the ending and if it does not make you cry and nothing makes them cry because no one can try to make them cry and so there is no ending. That is what makes stories what they are and now I will tell one. That is what the first of the seven is saying, and just then they have to do as they are told.

And so all together they say, I wish words of one syllable were as bold as one. I will tell in words of one syllable anything there is to tell not very well but just well.

And so there was no curtain.

Curtain is a word of two syllables.

Guess again.

And just then nobody disturbed them and so they could listen and they listened to this.

Now Sweet William had his genius and so he could tell a careful story of how they enjoyed themselves. But he did not have his Lillian, he looked for Lillian and so he could not tell a careful story of how they enjoyed themselves.

Curtain.

Then Sweet William forgot nothing. To forget is not to remember but to remember is not to forget.

## Act I

### Sweet William and Lillian

And so Sweet William was nervous as is his habit.

And Sweet William said because Sweet William was saying.

It is always well to tell what it is that is done.

And then Sweet William saw his Lillian and they said.

He had his birthday on his birthday.

And he said  
All that was inside him inside dear Sweet William was shown not to be in him  
but to be held up so anyone looking could see them  
Dear Sweet William.  
There is no sighing.  
Lillian  
Need is not more cared for than needles.  
Dear Sweet William  
But weed to weed is not more cared for than nettles.  
Dear Sweet William  
Whatever we see is not whenever we do what.  
Lillian  
What.  
And she lay down on a sofa.  
All five characters rushed up.  
But there are not five  
Not even not alive.  
Sweet William stopped at any time and at any way.  
Lillian Lillian is not as easily remained or remaining as Sweet William.  
Now imagine a scene which is on this earth and as many come about as are  
and are not there. They are so careless with their luggage and luggage gradually gets  
reduced, at least they find there was a place where more could be put and so there was  
less in any other place.  
This is what Lillian had as her blessing.  
And Sweet William, sweet William had Lillian.  
So then a often a any one all the characters are talking.  
To talk is very pleasant when it looks like writing.  
This is what three said when they were five.  
But there are never five.  
No one literally no one must remember anything.  
They must be old with thought and they must not remember anything.  
All of which very gradually if it is slow is slowly.  
Oh can you be left with me.  
Sweet William.  
He arouses Sweet William.

Curtain.

Every one is saying there is no Lillian for Sweet William.  
And Sweet William  
Sweet William is saying there is no Sweet William for Sweet William.  
All of it has changed.  
There is no Sweet William.

All of it has changed  
There is Lillian.  
And then the edge of dresses all seven place dresses where dresses were.  
Sweet William. It is no anxiety to be Sweet William.  
And now all the world is full of people that means it is all covered over with  
them, and nobody knows who anybody looks like and that is no trouble to any Sweet  
William.

Sweet William says enough is enough but he does not mean it. If he did  
would Lillian would Lillian.

If he did would Lillian.

And so the world is all covered with Sweet William not Sweet William.

The world is all covered with Lillian all with Lillian.

And why could there be any world if there is sweet William.

Nobody answers enough.

There is a description of the world covered with Sweet William.

Curtain.

Very likely no one needs to remember any time.

Dear Sweet William.

They came to see to say to say dear dear Sweet William.

They did not leave to have to be Lillian.

And so at a last means nothing to dear William.

Because if the world is all in covering then it is nothing that there is not any  
more Sweet William.

But there is dear Sweet William

Sweet William had his genius and he looked for Lillian.

He had his Lillian.

Now might the world be covered over by what it is.

It might.

And if it were were were.

It is.

Were

It is.

And if it is.

Were.

Well if it is.

Were if it is.

Now you all know.

Five

Three

Eight

You all know

Have you forgotten that is was three four and seven.  
Well I would smile if smiling suited sweet sweet William and his Lillian.  
And so the world is covered with Sweet William.  
And his Lillian.  
With Lillian.  
With Sweet William and with Lillian.  
And so it makes no difference  
Which had better remember to remember.  
And which had better forget to forget  
It makes no difference  
Listen to me  
Dear Sweet William and Lillian  
Curtain.

## Act II

The three characters and sometimes two come together and without sitting down they frown.

First character. Why do you do what you do.

Second Character. If the earth is not covered with water what is water.

Third Character. If the air is not filled with air how can they dare.

Two together say, that they will finish with everything.

Three and two do not make five because five is a number that they do not use therefore three and two make six.

First character. First character is not lonesome when chess is changed to checkers.

But said the other one no one can use these words because these words can change.

Oh said the other one can words change.

Yes said the other one words cannot change but anybody can put anything away.

Where said the other one can they put anything away.

Why not if they do.

Is said by not more than one at a time.

This prepares everything so well that very soon and very shortly they are not able to cherish what they would like.

The first character. What would they like.

All of them.

Now does not that sound like Sweet William.

What would they like.

Sweet William has not been missing.

Nobody is bolder and so sweet William is never nervous.  
All who are old are older.

Five Characters. Remember that these are never.

Is there any matter that there are no five characters when so many nations are dutiful.

Sweet William has never recognized nations.

And Lillian,

Lillian has never divided anything from anything and in this way the earth is the earth and the earth which is the earth is the earth which is, there is a hesitation not within but without, which is, there is no hesitation within without, which is, do not like what there is not to like, within, very quietly five enter.

In no time at all there is no time.

After all what had the two and the three done, and what had the four and the six done. Some can count to eight but had they ever tried.

Sweet William said that they had not.

Curtain.

It is very charming that the whole earth is covered with people and everybody counting no one can count five. they can count two and three and four and six and seven but they cannot count five and eight not really five not really eight.

And after all make it daily.

First character. Some count eight daily.

Second character. Nobody denies that the earth is covered with people and since there are no people except on this earth people are people.

Third character. And how about counting.

All the characters. What do we do when we do not do what we do.

Neither Sweet William nor Lillian are lost.

All together. How can they be lost when the earth is all covered with people.

Sweet William and Lillian. With people.

All together all the characters all together. All the earth is covered with people and so no one is lost because as the whole earth is covered with people people are people.

Suddenly in the midst of all this silence somebody begins talking.

Sweet William has heard nothing.

The first character. Please be patient because I am going away.

Second Character. Where

Third Character. Where where I am going.

Fourth Character. And have you been there

Fifth Character. I am there.

Oh yes said the first character I have been there.

The second character likes everything that happens.

Once in a while nothing happens.

Third Character.           What is the difference between what is allowed.

The second character is nervous.

Sweet William was but he is not so any longer.

Not all this having happened it is time to look about, none of the characters say this neither does anybody else have to say this but nevertheless this is what happens, this is what happens all the time just as often more nearly is everything prepared than it was.

And Sweet William is very happy he would be now that he is no longer nervous and very often just as likely he is no longer nervous. If he is then he is and he is no longer nervous.

So then although no one does say so what is it that does happen.

It does happen nobody says so but it is so it does happen.

There is no curtain because it does happen.

Very well it does happen but very well is a hesitation and as there is a hesitation they say very well.

So then they do say something.

All together they say

Very well.

Does anybody know for certain how many characters are they.

That is a question.

And as the earth is all covered with people this is not a question because listen to me does anybody know for certain how many characters they are.

First character.           I can count them.

Second character.       Count them.

Third character.         I count them

Fourth character.       There is no use counting them

Fifth character.         What you need to do is to count them

Curtain.

It is very wonderful but everybody can tell the first character apart.

First character.         I know I am

Second character.       Who told you

Third character.         What did they tell you

Fourth character.       If they told you did you know or did you only know that they told you so.

Fifth character.         The best thing to do is to know the first character by looking.

All together.            Which is the first character.

All together.            The first character.

After a little silence the first character says, After all does it matter.

After that the first character says.

But after all it does matter.



The first character. I have never thought of telling.  
The first character. No I have never thought of telling  
The first character. I have never thought of telling anything.  
The first character. No I have never thought of telling anything.

Curtain.

It is very easy not to be very lively in the morning as the earth is all completely covered by people.

Curtain.

Any curtain is a curtain but no curtain for a curtain as a curtain may a curtain try.

A curtain is very old if a bed is said to be in there and suddenly no one knows why curtain have gone away.

First character. There is no place where tables are since the earth is made of gold.

Second character. Since the earth is made of gold there is no happiness as old.

Third character. Never listen to another

Fourth character. No mother to another

Fifth character. If the earth is covered with people and it is and they come to cover which they do the earth altogether which it is then neither one nor another has any bother never to be left to one another where they are.

Remember there is no fifth character anywhere.

Chorus of characters. Remember.

Chorus of characters. That there is no fifth character anywhere.

By and by believing that there are as many people.

No where except on this earth are there so many any people and nowhere except on this earth are there any Sweet William who had his genius and then he looked for his Lillian.

First character. If you were going to look for anything on this earth what would you do.

Sweet William. Begin counting.

Lillian. How many would you count.

First character. Any million.

Second character. If you counted a million would it make a trillion.

Third character. Not necessary if there are never any less than six or two.

Fourth character. No five or eight

Fifth character. No five is ever alive.

Sixth character. Counting does not letting counting count.

Seventh character. And so every count is counted.

Eight character. No by me.

All the characters together. There is no eight character.

And so Sweet William sighs.

Sighing is not only natural but never natural to Sweet William.

Sweet William never means Sweet William he just means that the earth is all covered over with the people on it and all of it is as Sweet William says, Sweet William does Sweet William is Sweet William.

Sweet William

It is not necessary that Sweet William says that all the other is covered with Sweet William but he knows Sweet William knows he knows he knows he knows Sweet William is Sweet William.

And so everybody begins to delight in a fight.

What is a fight.

First character.           What is what is light  
Second character.       Which is which is might.  
Third character.         Did I hear something about words of one syllable.  
Fourth character.       Well yes perhaps you did  
Fifth character.         Perhaps if there are words of one syllable there is a fifth  
character.  
All the characters.       There is no fifth character.  
The sixth character.     I can change words of one syllable into words of two  
Seventh character.      And he did  
Eighth character.       He did not  
All the characters.      There is a ninth character.  
Ninth character.         It is well that he did.

Sweet William is not hearing he is only listening.

He listens and as he listens they all are ready to cover the earth completely and the earth nobody knows about it but there is lots of water on the earth, nobody knows about it it is just the same as if nobody knows about it and Lillian, Lillian makes it all be very well as much water as there is.

Sweet William not no Sweet William not.

This sounds like a confusion but confusion is more than two syllables.

Anybody can count anything they can count syllables and people and each is each but Sweet William is never Sweet William and Lillian is Lillian even Lillian.

The third character interrupts the earth and the earth is all covered with people.

Anybody can be careful of what they do.

So says Sweet William and Lillian.

And if they are not what do they do.

What do they do says Sweet William and says Lillian.

Curtain.

Fifteen characters cough altogether

What have they seen.

They have seen what they said

What have they said

That they said what they have seen.  
That is what has happened to all fifteen.  
And after a while.  
There is no after a while for fifteen.  
And for forty-six.  
There is no after a while for forty-six.  
And so counting is lugubrious.

Character.                   And everybody counts.  
Second character.        What is a count  
Third character.          A count is a gentleman who has a name  
Fourth character.         And what is his name  
Fifth character.          His name is count.  
All the characters.        In this case there is a fifth character.  
Fifth character.          Yes because he can count.

Curtain.

### Act III

The world is all covered over with people.  
As the people cover the world all over the world is all covered over with  
people.

And nobody can believe what they hear.

They do not hear that the world is all covered over with people but it is. And  
everybody can count and they do.

First character.          I wish Sweet William and his Lillian could count.

Everybody follows the first character around and he never gets lost. When he  
gets lost he has been bewildered because Sweet William has been nervous. Sweet  
William is nervous and so is Lillian but Lillian is not nervous not at all nervous and so  
is Sweet William.

In this way the first character gets lost.

When the first character gets lost he finds the second character and as soon as  
he finds the second character they lost the second character and all the time how can  
they if the world is all covered over with people and it is how can they lose the second  
character.

Listen to me

How can they lose the second character.

Which character have they lost.

They have lost the second character.

Curtain.

As soon as they know they lost the second character there is no curtain and they know that they cannot lose the second character because the earth is covered all over with people.

|                       |                              |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| The second character. | There is a second character. |
| The third character.  | There is a third character.  |
| The fourth character. | There is a fifth character.  |
| The fifth character.  | There is no fifth character. |

Curtain.

Sweet William prepared verdure.

Sweet William prepared pools.

Verdure two syllables

Pools one

Sweet William prepared what he had.

Had one syllable

What one syllable

Prepared. Three Syllables

Sweet William prepared verdure and fountains and he admired what he did.

Sweet William continued to prepare verdure and fountains and continued to admire what he did.

Sweet William had his genius.

Sweet William had his syllables

Sweet William had water and had no water in his pools sweet William had water in his water falls

Water-fall Three syllables made up a two syllables and one syllable

And so Sweet William came to be about.

About two syllables

Came one syllable

to be one syllable

be one syllable

Now there is no opposition to anything being together.

Sweet William had his genius and he looked for his Lillian.

Did Lillian know that the earth is all covered over with people which it is

Lillian had no connection with syllables. Syllables are not so

And now there is no action.

Action is two syllables

Curtain.

Action just as so which is so

Curtain.

Any one counting to-day does not count once a day. This is what Lillian would say if Sweet William were not in the way.

Sweet William cannot go away. How can Sweet William stay if they are or are not counting to-day.

In no way is every day a part of speech  
Curtain.

Sweet William remarkably can not go away.  
Curtain.

Sweet William is not surrounded by anything the earth is that which is covered over with people and Sweet William has a fountain.

He had his genius but now he has his fountain and he is looking has been has been one syllable has been is having his Lillian Two syllables

So now be ready to prepare to come in and out. Out and about.

Come one syllable

In one syllable

and one syllable

Out one syllable

about two syllables.

And everything startling.

Three syllables.

You see why Sweet William is often. Very often.

Everybody sees it all coming.

Curtain.

Sweet William occasionally on account.

They all three stare.

If you say that the earth and the air is all covered everywhere then there is nothing to do but to do it too. And that is what they do.

Sweet William if he had his genius and he had that is what he had to do. He had to look for Lillian too.

This scene is the earth all covered over with people and the air and beside that there is not anywhere.

Naturally not since there is the air and the earth and all filled with everybody everywhere.

So then what can they do they cannot come back to earth too.

|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| First character.   | Not to do  |
| Second character.  | What they have to do.  |
| Third character.   | Because they have not it to do.                                |
| Fourth character.  | Because it is done.  |
| Fifth character.   | What is done   |
| Sixth character.   | The earth and the air.   |
| All together.      | Dear me the earth and the air and I thought it was everywhere. |
| Seventh character. | Well is it not everywhere                                      |
| Eighth character.  | No indeed because there are people everywhere                  |

All together the characters. Like it or not they are there there everywhere on the earth and in the air.

Ninth character. Nobody is altogether anywhere  
And so there is no place to stare.

Sweet William. And what is a genius

Dear Sweet William. Where is a genius

Dear Sweet William. Why is a genius

Dear Sweet William. When is a genius

Dear Sweet William. Sweet William had his genius and he looked for his Lillian.

First Scene in the third act is now finished and the second scene is begun, in the second scene there is no question that there is nothing to do.

## Scene II

### The moon

First character. No dog barks at the moon.

Second character. The moon shines and no dog barks

Third character. No not anywhere on this earth.

Fourth character. Because everywhere anywhere there are lights many lights and  
so no dog knows that the moon is there

Fifth character. And so no dog barks at the moon now no not anywhere.

First character. And the moon makes no one crazy no not anywhere.

Second character. Because there are so many lights anywhere.

Third character. That the light the moon makes is no matter.

Fourth character. And so no one is crazy now anywhere.

Fifth character. Because there are so many lights anywhere.

First character. And so then there it does not matter

Second character. The sun yes the sun yes does matter

Third character. But the moon the moon does not matter

Fourth character. Because there are so many lights everywhere that any dog  
knows that lights any night are anywhere.

Fifth character. And so no dog bays at the moon anywhere.

All the characters together. This is so  
This we know  
Because we wondered why,  
Why did the dogs not bay at the moon.  
They did not but why  
But of course why  
Because there are lights everywhere anywhere.  
And that is what they meant by never yesterday.

### Scene III

After a little while all the characters take part.  
How many characters are there.  
As many as there are  
And how do they know there is no moon.  
They know there is a moon but there are so many lights that are bigger  
And so the moon is there.  
But not any dog can care  
About that  
And they do not.

### Scene IV

Now very earnestly all the characters do not come together.  
First character. But how could they when the earth is covered all over with everybody.  
Second character. And what would they do if they did  
Third character. It is never better to have any character come further as the earth is covered all over and any light is bigger than the moon.  
Fourth character. Oh yes bigger and brighter  
Fifth character. Than the moon.

### Scene V

What happened when the earth was covered all over which it is  
This happened that there was never any yesterday before to-day and no to-morrow after yesterday.  
First character. And everybody said yes yes  
Second character. And everybody said nevertheless  
Third character. And they said  
Fourth character. That there is no question and answer.  
As you see the fifth character does not exist and this is natural oh so natural when the earth is covered all over with everybody.  
So now this scene is to take place it does not take place no scene takes place but it is to take place all over.  
If it is all over it does not take place.  
Any dog knows that about the moon now.  
And now this time there are going to be five dogs who do not bay at the moon and the fifth one does not matter neither does any other one of the four of them for that matter.

All the dogs. It is very necessary that they do not bark at the moon and it has come to be that the moon does not matter because all the other lights are so much better.

And so any dog can know that luna now any longer has nothing to do with lunatic.

In this scene the earth is to be covered all over and the dogs are not to bay at the moon.

#### Scene V

There is no scene V.

#### Scene VI

As soon as everything that happens does not matter anybody eats better and so in this scene there will be cooking.

There will be the making of apple and banana fritters and Butter Scotch ice box cookies, and as soon as nothing is happening everybody eats better.

Eating has nothing to do with yesterday or to-morrow or the earth being covered with people all over or the dogs not baying at the moon because all the other lights are so much brighter and the word lunatic having nothing to do with the moon shining ever after.

#### Scene seven.

A cooking.

|                   |                               |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| First character.  | Butter                        |
| Second character. | Eggs                          |
| Third character.  | Chicken                       |
| Fourth character. | Meat                          |
| Fifth character.  | Anything else that can matter |

And now all the characters prepare to eat.

This is not necessary if anything is to happen after but oh so necessary if nothing is to happen after and as nothing is to happen after all the characters are preparing to eat.

|                    |                    |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| Fourth character.  | Eating is to eat   |
| Second character.  | There is no after  |
| Third character.   | There is no butter |
| Fourth character.  | No butter          |
| Fifth character.   | To eat.            |
| Sixth character.   | There is butter    |
| Seventh character. | To eat             |



Eighth character.       And there is nothing.  
Ninth character.        To happen after.  
Any character.         The world is covered by people all over  
All the characters.     Yes Yes

Curtain.

Sweet William.

Dear Sweet William

There are no characters where there is Sweet William

Sweet William says

What each one can do

Words of one syllable

What each one does

Words of one syllable although it does not sound like it

What each one can do

There are no characters where there is Sweet William

Sweet William is never all alone

Therefore there are no characters where there is Sweet William

Sweet William.        Suddenly there is a war

Suddenly is a word in three syllables

There is a war

Words of one syllable

Sweet William.        Suddenly there is a war.

Sweet William.        What is suddenly there is a war.

Sweet William.        The earth is all covered over with people when this is so then  
it is not so that suddenly there is a war.

Because suddenly if the earth is all covered over with people  
then sudden is not any more.

Sweet William.        Suddenly there is a war

Sweet William.        If the earth is which the earth is covered over all over with  
people then there is no sudden no sudden any more.

Sweet William never weeps and never expresses himself

Sweet William never weeps

Sweet William never expresses himself.

Suddenly there is a war.

If the earth which it is is covered over with everybody which they are then  
never any more is there any sudden any more.

So then where are we

Words of one syllable

Sweet William.        Where we are.

Sweet William had his genius and he looked for his Lillian.

Sweet William.

Curtain.

Sweet William had his genius and he looked for his Lillian.

There is not any sudden any more.

Sweet William

Sweet William had his genius and he looked for his Lillian.

There were people here and there everywhere.

Sweet William.           There are people there and here everywhere.

Lillian.                    There are people here and there everywhere.

All at once Sweet William had his genius and he looked for his Lillian.

Curtain.

All of a sudden there is no all of a sudden.

There are people everywhere.

Sweet William.           Where

Lillian.                    Everywhere.

Sweet William.           But do I like it.

Lillian.                    You do not like it.

Sweet William.           Everywhere.

Curtain.

And so there.

There are people on the earth everywhere.

Sudden is not sudden anywhere.

Sweet William.           Do I like sudden if there is no sudden anywhere.

Sweet William.           Do I like everywhere if there are people on the earth  
everywhere.

Sweet William.           Everywhere

Lillian.                    Anywhere.

Sweet William.           No war is begun again because war is sudden and there is no  
sudden anywhere because there are people on the earth everywhere.

Sweet William.           Did I say it as I was saying.

Sweet William.           Saying something.

Sweet William.           Saying if I was saying

Sweet William.           Saying something.

Sweet William.           Was I saying something.

Sweet William had his genius and he looked for his Lillian.

Sweet William.           Saying that it was just as well not to see what to say.

Sweet William.           There.

All at once there was and there had not been a war

All words of one syllable.

All at once

Words of one syllable

All at once.

More often  
Not words of one syllable  
All at once  
Words of one syllable.

Sweet William was never troubled never troubled by words of one syllable or more more syllables.

Sweet William was never troubled by a war.

Sweet William. Was I troubled.

Sweet William. Not any more

Any is a small word but made up of two syllables

Any.

Sweet William. Not troubled any more.

After the earth was covered all over with people which it is.

Sweet William. Not after

Sweet William. Not ever after

Sweet William. Ever after

Small words two syllables.

Any ever after.

There is never any ever after in a war so there is no war.

Not ever after any more.

Sweet William had his genius and his Lillian.

Sweet William had his genius

Sweet William had his Lillian

Sweet William

Had his genius

Sweet William

Had his Lillian.

Sweet William never said I because I has not any syllables not even one.

Can one letter be a word of one syllable.

Sweet William did not ask every one.

How can any one ask every one when the earth is covered all over with every one.

Sweet William did ask any one.

Sweet William.

Dear Sweet William

Curtain and end of Third Act.

#### Act IV

First character. Some more

Second character. If you say it again say it again

Third character. Say it again  
Fourth character. No say it again  
Fifth character. Listen to me say it again  
Sixth character. Say it say it some more  
Seventh character. Say it more and more  
Eighth character. Say what you say

All these words of one syllable.

Yet and again

All the characters.

They chose say as the word to say because to say it is what they say.

Sweet William was not present he never was neither was Lillian

Curtain.

It is Sunday afternoon and birds are singing some in small cages for sale.

First character. They made a joke of the first character  
Second character. It is easy to make a joke of the second character  
Third character. One at a time it is easy to be one at a time.  
Fourth character. As everybody knows what everybody knows.  
Fifth character. Monuments are often placed where they can be seen  
Sixth character. It is unfortunate that the sixth character comes after the fifth character.

All the characters. Sweet William had his genius and he looked for his Lillian, we hope we hope we know that he has found his Lillian and that Sweet William has his genius.

All the characters. If it were Sunday afternoon Sunday would come before Monday.

Sweet William. Sunday is Sunday afternoon but it does not come after Saturday or before Monday.

Lillian. Sweet William has found his Lillian.

Curtain.

The earth is all covered over with people and they do not care about it any more.

All the characters who are there say that they had not been there before.

First character. Before  
Second character. Nobody knows before.  
Words of more than one syllable.

Third character. Begin at the other end  
Fourth character. The other end has begun before.  
Fifth character. How can there be another end when the earth is round.

All the characters in tears. If the earth is round and there are people on it everywhere.

After a moment's quiet nobody cries.

After another moment's quiet nobody tries.

Then all together they sit down.

The earth is all covered over with people and they all are seated down.

First character. More arrangements are made  
Second character. For getting up  
Third character. No for sitting down.  
Fourth character. Sitting down has so many syllables  
Fifth character. Not at all  
Sixth character. The fifth character never knows about syllables.  
Seventh character. Not at all  
Eighth character. It has happened so often that everybody is dead.  
Ninth character. Not at all  
All the characters. The earth is all covered over with people.  
All the characters. Not at all  
Sweet William. All ready  
Lillian. I never change my mind.  
Sweet William. Already.  
All the characters. Dear Sweet William  
All the characters. And Lillian  
All the characters. Not at all

After a quiet moment there is no quiet moment there is no quiet moment after or before.

All the characters. Why not  
One syllable

All the characters. Because there is no after or before

Two syllables.

Sweet William

And so gradually there this this understanding about syllables.

Anything that is not is more than one syllable two or more. After and before.

After that there is no silence.

Silence. Two syllables.

Two Syllables Silence

Everybody knows better than that syllables know better than that.

Sweet William. Syllables have to be

There is no argument that makes anything better that is the reason that they laugh.

Fourth character. First Syllable  
One Syllable  
That they laugh.

Second character. That is what arrangements are.

They all the people all over the earth and there are people all over the earth all sit down.

That is what arrangements are  
Three syllables in arrangements.  
And that makes it never be ready.  
Oh yes I see  
That you see me  
And when you see  
That I see you  
You do then see  
That you see me  
Which you do do.  
This makes a crisis in the life of Sweet William.  
Curtain.

Lillian together Lillian.  
There is no reason why any Sweet William.  
A dark day where side walks are unknown.  
There can never be too much of nothing.  
Sweet William never said anything.

Sweet William. Said why do you not come.  
Sweet William. Said why  
Sweet William said why do you not come when you do come.  
Sweet William was adding.  
He added Sweet William.

It was not a dark day and there were side-walks.  
Sweet William. Very much it was very much better.  
Sweet William. When was it very much better  
Sweet William. It was not very much better.

Sweet William had nothing to do with its being a dark day and no side-walks and a brighter day without any side-walk.

He was very much interested in side-walks although he never managed to believe that pools pools where there was or was not water was really not alone but of much more importance.

By this time it was not once again.

He had forgotten about it begin the earth and all covered over with people but forgotten forgotten was never a memory to him.

At once he had a bright thought.

He thought that if he did not have water in a pool and of course he did as well as he did not of course he would be would make nothing more likely and yet if it was likely not at all that there was the earth if not why not and why only people everywhere on it. He never had thought of that better not.

Sweet William was often hopeful.  
 What is the earth. Sweet William asked that but he meant not.  
 Sweet William. What is the earth  
 Sweet William. I like not to know.  
 Sweet William I like not to know where there is no difference.  
 Difference has so many syllables.  
 Sweet William is never discouraged.  
 Like the earth he can have it be that it is never again.  
 Sweet William. But it is never encouraged  
 Sweet William. Would hope that he would like that they would have that they  
 must never all the people be there.  
 Sweet William. There is no one because I like it.  
 Sweet William. Because I like it there is no one there is no earth and there are  
 not people everywhere on it.  
 Lillian. There is a wish  
 Lillian. There is a horse  
 Lillian. There is a head  
 Lillian. There is an eye  
 Lillian. There is a kneel  
 Lillian. There is a wish when I kneel on the eye of the horse and wish  
 it.

Sweet William was not there.

Curtain.

## Act V

All the characters are in act Five.  
 It is interesting if it is true that all the characters are in act five.  
 But there never is a five.  
 First Character. Never  
 Second Character. Never a five  
 Third Character. Any one can choose anything that there never is.  
 Fourth Character. Choosing  
 Fifth Character very fifth Character. There is no choosing.  
 Sixth Character. There is no fifth Act and there is a fifth Character.  
 Seventh Character. Once in a while they think that they wish they were well.  
 Ninth Character. Very well  
 Tenth Character. Very very well  
 Curtain.  
 If the earth is everywhere covered all over with people nobody sees them all.  
 First Character. And if anybody does why not.

All the characters. After all that is what it is after all.  
 All the characters. After all never happens again.  
 All the Characters. Does it.  
 All the Characters. Perhaps Character is four syllables.  
 All the Characters. Perhaps  
 All the Characters. And so it is important  
 All the Characters. Perhaps  
 All the Characters. That there is the earth and that there are people everywhere on  
 it.  
 All the Characters. Perhaps.  
 All the Characters. Why is there no Sweet William who has his genius and looks  
 for his Lillian in Act Five.  
 All the Characters. Why not.  
 All the Characters. Because not.  
 All the Characters. Why is there no Act Five  
 All the Characters. Of course not  
 All the Characters. Of course of course not.  
 All the Characters. No Act Five  
 All the Characters. No never.  
 All the Characters. Of course not.  
 All the Characters. Of course any number could be like that.  
 All the Characters. Like that  
 All the Characters. Of course  
 All the Characters. Not of course not.  
 All the Characters. And so it is perfectly true that through and through any  
 number could be not true.  
 All the Characters. Happily arrange not to have the number five.  
 And they count like that.  
 All the Characters. When they and we  
 All the Characters. The earth is all covered over with people everywhere and  
 nobody counts five.  
 All the Characters. Nobody  
 All the Characters. Counts five

Curtain

Act Six

Sweet William has just met.

Curtain.

All the Acts together. Any act rather  
 What is a game.



First Act. What is a game.  
 First Act. A game is where they do it again.  
 First Act. Oh yes no doubt a game  
 First Act. Oh yes no doubt a game is where they do it again.  
 First Act very harshly. Oh yes a game no doubt a game is where they do it again.  
 Second Act. What is the earth  
 Second Act. The earth is altogether with or without water.  
 Second Act. With or without thunder  
 Second Act. No with or without water.  
 Second Act. That is what the earth is with or without water.  
 Third Act. And what are people.  
 Third Act. People are all over  
 Third Act. Do you mean all over  
 Third Act. No I do not mean all over.  
 Third Act. Do you not do you not mean all over.  
 Third Act not necessarily sad. No I do not mean all over the earth and even if I did I would not even if I did have it all over.  
 Third Act. Why not  
 Third Act. Because not  
 Third Act. Because if the people are all over the earth which they are it is not all over.  
 Third Act. Not all over  
 Please kindly notice that over is two syllables and that makes all the trouble. Trouble has two syllables too.  
 Fourth Act. And what is the air.  
 Fourth Act. The air is there.  
 Fourth Act. The air is there which is where it is.  
 Kindly notice that is all one syllable and therefore useful. It makes no feeling, it has a promise, it is a delight, it needs no encouragement, it is full.  
 Fourth Act. The air is full  
 Fourth Act. Of course the air is full  
 Fourth Act. Full of what  
 Fourth Act. Full of it.  
 Fourth Act. The air is full of it  
 Fourth Act. Of course the air is full of it.  
 Fourth Act. Of course  
 Fourth Act. The air  
 Fourth Act. Is full  
 Fourth Act. Of it.  
 Fifth Act. And Sweet William

Fifth Act.                   And his Lillian  
 Fifth Act.                   Tell me  
 Fifth Act.                   Did dear Sweet William  
 Fifth Act.                   Find his Lillian.  
 Sixth Act.                   Sweet William had his genius  
 Sixth Act.                   And he looked for his Lillian  
 Sixth Act.                   Dear Sweet William he has his genius.  
 Sixth Act.                   And he looked for his Lillian  
 Sixth Act.                   The past has nothing ever nothing to do with Sweet William  
 Sixth Act.                   Because  
 Sixth Act.                   There can never be too much of nothing.  
 Sixth Act.                   Not for dear Sweet William  
 Sixth Act.                   Not for looking for his Lillian  
 Sixth Act.                   Sweet William dear Sweet William.  
                                   And then the Sixth Act was forgetting.  
 Sixth Act.                   It is not easy to remember what one is forgetting.  
 Sixth Act.                   Not ever for Sweet William.  
 Sixth Act.                   Sweet William has never to remember forgetting.  
 Sixth Act.                   Dear Sweet William  
 Sixth Act.                   And his Lillian

Curtain.

All the Acts together commence to read out loud, they have not learned what they know and they have not heard what they hear but every little once in a while they read out loud together and finally once in a while they hear what they say.

So now listen while all the Acts together hear what they say.

They hear now.

All the acts together.

A Soliloquy.

For whether or not  
 Suppose whether or not  
 Syllables change  
 Babies arrange  
 Any exchange  
 Whether or not.  
 As anybody looks they see that it is so.  
 Think of syllables  
 That it is so  
 That is what Acts altogether are.  
 Acts  
 One syllable  
 All

One syllable  
To  
One syllable  
But gather or gather never never one syllable.  
And so the Acts altogether know  
They know as if they tell it so.  
That to gather together  
Is not one syllable.

Acts altogether.      And so  
Acts altogether.      The earth  
Acts altogether.      Are all covered over with everybody  
And so  
One syllable  
And so  
One syllable  
It is so  
One syllable

The Acts altogether do not say so altogether although they know altogether that it is so.

The Acts Altogether.    It has come  
That the earth  
Is there  
First Act.            Yes  
Second Act.        Yes  
Acts altogether.    It has come  
Not to go  
But to go  
And to come  
Third Act.           All one syllables are not ways  
Third Act.           It is why I have said that it is not well to be found in and out.  
Fourth Act.        Determination  
Fifth Act.           Some say that they look as they do they do not look to see  
what they saw they look to add two to one.  
Fifth Act.           Two to one makes five.  
Acts Altogether.    A great triumph for Act V  
Act one.            If I do  
Act two.            But you do  
Act three.          What do I do  
Act four.            What you do do

## Act V

I had a triumph to have a triumph there must be more than one syllable.

Act V

Triumph

Act IV

I had a triumph

Acts Altogether.      They all say  
   Go go away

Triumph and away are two syllables.

Fifth Act.              I like what I have

Acts altogether.      Five all one syllable  
   And then they do not sadly say  
   Act V can never go away.  
   Because it never has been there.  
   Act five dear Act five  
   Caught alive.

While all this is anxiously progressing, Sweet William has been forgotten. He likes having it known that this is not a meadow if the road is cut in he likes it not to be known that it is as often made again.

Dear Sweet William      Could we know how we have it.

Dear Sweet William      Remember looking alike has nothing to do with it they do not change they do not care, they have no need to follow any one about because says dear Sweet William what is their better way.

Sweet William is always careful of their feelings even if he knows that he is very sorry. He is very sorry he is always careful of their feelings even if he knows he is very sorry.

That is what Sweet William is he is very careful of their feelings he is very sorry he is very sorry he is careful of their feelings that is what Sweet William is he is very sorry.

That is what Sweet William is.

It is not a pity that William is two syllables not at all a pity.

Sweet William is careful not to say that Acts are altogether he is very careful to say that he is not very sorry he is very careful to say that he is not very careful of their feelings he is very careful of their feelings he is very sorry he does not say that Acts are not altogether. That is what Sweet William is he is careful to say that Acts are not altogether.

All the Acts together. All the acts are never together nothing is ever altogether there is no act one no act two no act three no act four no act six there is act five.

Act V

No act five

Act five

Act five

Act five

Yes act five

After a while Sweet William is answering.

Yes I am here.

Very well then.

Who is there.

Who is there

I am here.

Sweet William is answering he is very careful not to hurt anybody's feelings and he is sorry.

First Character. Sweet William had his genius and he looked for his Lillian

Act V

There is no strain in being act five

Curtain.

The play now ends in detection, they look alike and they look for one another and they find it.

First Character. If I am the First Character how do they know I am not the

Second Character.

Second Character. Who is.

Second Character. Not as loudly. Who is.

Third Character. If I meet a stranger how do I know he is a stranger.

Fourth Character. Who is

Second Character. Quite as loudly. Who is.

Third Character. If I look like the Ninth Character how do I look

First Character . Who can look

All the Characters. We can look

The Ninth Character. If I look

Eighth Character. If you look

Fifth character. What do you see when you look.

Fourth Character. The only one I know is not the one to know.

Third Character. No

Fourth Character. Oh no.

First Character.            There is no no in no.

All the characters who have been looking about see Sweet William he is nowhere to be seen. They count eight he is to be seen, they count five he is nowhere to be seen they count one he is nowhere to be seen.

Sweet William is nowhere to be seen.

They count five one at a time he is nowhere to be seen.

Curtain.

The first Character seems to like it.

The second Character after he stops to think seems to like it.

The third Character finally says that he is not likely to be added

The fourth Character does not want to know added to what but is there any trouble about it.

The fifth Character makes every one leave every one alone

The sixth Character finds it very happily that as any one comes in was it the one he saw.

The seventh Character says alright.

All the Characters together.    After all there is or is not one who comes in and recommends another one although at no time is there not more than one.

So then all the Characters wish that they were detecting.

So then Character one.

It does not make any difference who is the other one because no one.

The second Character.            Because no one

The third Character.            Which is which

The fourth Character.            Neither any one.

The fifth Character.            But if they came

The sixth Character.            But they do come

The seventh Character.            Well nobody nobody nobody

The eighth Character.            Yes indeed I saw them

And so all this time what is all this time.

Well well even if we had not met we would have met.

Even if we had not met.

Yes met

Even if we had

Not met.

And so even if we had not met.

Fourth Character.            We did

Second Character.            Meet

Third Character.            Not met

Fourth Character.            Any yet.

Fifth Character.            Not met

Sixth Character.            Not met yet.

All the characters. And so that is what happens. What happens is this none of the characters have met they have not met yet if they have not met yet none of the characters have met none of the Acts have met none of the Characters and Acts have met yet they have not met none of the Characters have met none of the Acts have met and if they have not met they have not met yet.

And Sweet William

Sweet William has not met

Sweet William has met yet

Dear Sweet William has not not met yet. Dear Sweet William he has not not met yet and Lillian well Lillian Lillian has met. Has Lillian met yes Lillian has met yet Sweet William dear Sweet William and Lillian only Lillian and the Characters each one has not met yet and all the Acts have all of them not yet not met yet.

And the Curtain. The Curtain has met not met yet and the Curtain has met.

The Curtain has met.

Curtain.

After the curtain.

I like a curtain because a curtain has always a curtain to see. If you see the curtain then anybody can see that after it it is not one two three.

A curtain is two syllables and as such it is a curtain.

One syllable.

How I would like that it could be that it could be said that it is true that one is too and two is three and three is four and five is two and one is one and a curtain can come and come, the only word here in two syllables is curtain, the only word in two syllables is William the only word in two syllables is Lillian the only word in three syllables is Characters and the only word in one syllable is Acts.

Acts

Curtain

Characters

Characters

Curtain

Acts

There is no one and one

Nobody has met any one

Curtain Can Come.

*Curtain*