CLOUD / RIDGE

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Stephen Ratcliffe

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CLOUD

RIDGE

Cloud

Ridge

CLOUD / RIDGE

cloud / ridge
Some of these poems have appeared in the following magazines and anthologies:

The Addison Street Anthology, Arc, Bay Poetics, The Café Review, Carnet de Route, Chain, Conjunctions, cricket online review, Denver Quarterly, Double Room, Duroc, el pobre mouse, enough, Jacket, Louis Liard, Lungfull!, Mills Now, Mirage #4/Period(ical), New American Writing, The New Review of Literature, NO:, Shampoo, the strange fruit, and 580 Split.
orange glow above the horizontal line of ridge
in window opposite the unmade yellow and blueed, the unseen bird chirping from the lower
left foreground

pianist noting two-to-one
proportion between two parallel red lines
receding into the distance, Bach’s child
breaking the harpsichord he wants to play
louder

woman on phone startled by a loud
knocking on the blue front door, cop saying
stolen car was found

white of moth’s wings
stopped on dark green leaf, eucalyptus leaves
blowing across blue sky

the blue white width
of mist below the shoulder of the ridge, twelve
pelicans gliding toward point behind GROIN sign
silver whiteness in cloud above the slanting line of the ridge a moment before sun appears, the smaller horizontal cloud floating above it

profile of woman in blue dress reading in front of lower left corner of map on a wall, the woman in dark glasses making phone calls from the dark green chair on a brick-red plane

man on phone

reporting the woman from East Setauket’s hands covered with flour, orange flower in a green glass bottle on sill

Pete Sampras throwing rackets when he was a kid, now keeps emotions inside

seven pelicans gliding from the point toward mouth of channel, high thin white clouds drifting across pale blue sky above the horizon
angle of upstairs casement window’s frame
intersected by horizontal line of the ridge
above which sun rises through a film of white
cloud, sound of waves breaking into the channel

man on phone wondering how life might be inside
Beethoven piano sonata, an assault on the tonic
intensified by a development in E major

woman
on a blue mat in adjacent room slowly turning
her head to the left, breathing in the air’s
nearly perfect calm

man in white cloth hat
wrapping a piece of driftwood in a blond wig,
dress found in the freebox

grey white haze
behind angle of point in the right corner, gull
standing on triangular orange tip of GROIN sign
pale green hemlock stalk behind the darker green
of passion vine-covered fence, grey white wall
of fog in front of invisible ridge behind it

woman from East Setauket sitting in passenger
seat of blue car with a sedated 20-pound black
and white cat on her lap, woman in orange dress
recalling how Chubby learned to use magnetic cat
doors

larger cat walking down hall with a crook
at the tip of its sable tail, woman at the table
imagining size of the baby

woman in red dress
thinking the pianist might be mad at the singer,
who wouldn’t let him crawl into her bed at 5 AM

fog bank draped over edge of cliff on the right,
the small white cloud in pale blue sky above it
red-headed finch perched on a hemlock branch
beside the dun-colored female landing above it,
goldfinch disappearing into grey fog wall behind it

man in the red jacket approaching the male quail on a branch next to the trail, the covey taking off to the right

woman noting breeze playing with napkin on Skopolos, a fisherman pouring a rum and coke in front seat of grey truck

man in the black tee-shirt returning from basketball court with a smashed-in nose, Margaret and Elizabeth moving to Windsor Castle for the duration of the war

two cows on cliff in front of pale blue width of sky below white cloud, grey green wall of an approaching wave
circular orange flower above the pale green
glass bottle on the sill, grey light in sky
above green shadows of tobacco plant leaves
beyond it

the naked man waking up from a dream

hitting a ball back to the man across the court,
blond woman who can’t sleep getting up to make
some hot milk

short-haired girl wanting man
not to use purple sleeping bag, calling back
later wondering if he hung up on her

woman

with hair falling across left cheek thinking
dinner fork was lost in some “how is a woman
like a tornado” event, missing jacket in hall
closet

faded yellow of scotch broom on lower
slope of cliff, blue boat behind the grey swell
grey light coming into sky above horizontal line of ridge on left, still bright line of a planet at edge of a grey white cloud above it

woman from East Setauket noting that when she reads she gets a sense of place, woman on Skopolos reading Neitzsche on the early Greek thinkers who thinks nothing has changed

snake stretched below dark green chair on brick plane, the cat crouched in left foreground

white-haired man in maroon car looking up at man in red truck, who honks twice as he drives by

point on right opposite opening in grey white sky above ridge, dark green circular shape of the pine moving behind the GROIN sign
7.9

bright orange glow in horizontal grey white
cloud above line of ridge before sun first
appears, the silhouette of the small bush
directly in front of it

man in faded blue sweatshirt running in front of the white dog
beside the lagoon, not seeing man in grey car
wave

the man in the pale yellow shirt giving
pink rope to man in green shirt, who carries it
across the next stream

blond boy with red pack
glissading down slope toward edge of cliff,
thinking trail is still below him
downturned
curve of waning white moon in pale blue sky
above ridge on right, a grey white cloud
suspended above the peak on the right
down-turned curve of waning white moon in pale blue sky above right-sloping shoulder of ridge on left, grey white clouds moving across below it

white-haired man wondering how to reconcile motivational impulses with final causes, noting that Heidegger did with German what Cicero did with Latin

man in black shirt leaning back against granite rock, blond boy in pale green shirt sitting across from him

the man looking

at the purple flower beside the trail, weathered trunk against bright blue sky

last pink orange

glow on the right-sloping shoulder of the ridge above white at edge of the lake, yellow orange in plane of clouds above ridge across from it
7.11

sunlight on left-sloping surface of ridge below
bright blue sky in right corner, still shadowed
shoulder of adjacent ridge

man in green shirt

waking from dream of looking at black and white
photo of boy’s left shoulder, the woman leaning
forward on the edge of the bed

man in blue

jacket stopping to pick up pieces of white
quartz, the man in the pale yellow shirt
advising him not to

the silver-haired man

claiming Death in Venice rewrites The Bacchae,
adding that Wagner actually died there
darker
grey plane of cloud moving from left to right
against bright blue sky, bright white cloud
moving above it
grey light coming into the sky above horizontal line of ridge on left, vertical edge of waning white moon facing pink glow on ridge opposite it

naked man looking across at white water pouring across angle of granite rock, ridge below small white cloud moving across blue beyond it

blond boy in pale green shirt picking up large green rock from edge of trail, man throwing his walking stick across a stream to man in blue green shirt

ladybug climbing spear of grass in left foreground, thousands more on the branch behind it

curve of waning white moon in blue of sky above line of ridge, the blue green lake in the lower left corner
pink white petal falling from the green in front
of fence in the window on the right, the grey
white wall of fog in window opposite unmade
yellow and blue bed

man beside red truck
watching great blue heron stalking across
horizontal plane on left, white haired man
asleep on table across from it

man noting
proliferation of chromatic harmony in Brahms’
Quartet in C Minor, the cello solo approaching
the sublime

man in pale yellow shirt on a dirt
road in dusk light, maroon car stuck five miles
back

bright blue of sky behind V-shaped line
of ridge on the left, the sound of the stream
rising from green in the foreground below it
7.14

grey light in cloud above line of still dark ridge, a drop of water falling into the copper watering-can below dark green gutter

naked man waking from a dream of ex-father-in-law talking about Lennox, Massachusetts followed by a crow calling from cypress branch

cat in the blue green collar at left edge of pool on a brick plane, woman in green jacket licking hummingbird water from man’s right ear

contralto on radio asking to be saved from full moon full of love, downturned curve of actual white moon in pale blue sky above red and white peaks

the man paddling toward blue green wave on the left, pelican gliding in front of haze beyond it
pair of small dark birds moving across grey white sky in window on the left, the hemlock stalk blowing below it

a red-breasted finch perched on the left side of the almost empty feeder, the dun-colored female lifting away across field

the woman in the black sweater noting how edge of grey blue overlaps green grass in the foreground, colors in girl’s palette like a voice

man on phone recalling the courage of a topspin lob on match point, Rafter’s back against wall

pale blue sky above white width of fog hanging across the shoulder of the ridge, white underside of the pelican gliding above the grey green water’s plane
7.16

pink orange light in film of high thin white clouds in pale blue sky opposite the unmade yellow and blue bed, grey white fog moving across the top of the ridge

black and white photo of woman lifting edge of turquoise dress above her head, bright blue sky above the ridge in back of her

the man on the left whose blue car was stolen, later apprehended in high-speed chase on orange bridge

woman throwing spilled salt over her left shoulder, woman in the black shawl who wants to translate “cloud” and “ridge” into Japanese

hundreds of pelicans circling above grey green wave breaking into channel, width of fog across top of ridge above it
7.17

bright yellow goldfinch on the lower left side of the feeder, red one landing on the curved copper bar above it

    naked woman telling man about dream of the baby on the beach who wants to be buried in sand, later covered with golden brown pine nuts

    man in the blue shirt drawing lines below words on a page, blue under “days” followed by red under “eye”

Einstein’s ideas born as visual and muscular action, Picasso adding he never looked but simply found grey

white cloud hanging below the line of the ridge across the channel, wingspan of small white bird gliding from left to right above the last house on the sandspit
7.18

two small birds crossing above the horizontal
grey plane in window on right, hummingbird
sucking at red penstamon flower in left
foreground

    man in grey shirt waking from dream
of walking downstairs with half a grapefruit
saying "slowly I turned, step by step"
    the man

on the radio claiming an embryo is not a person,
wanting to do more research on least ethically-
contentious stem cells

    pregnant woman in grey
car smiling at baby in back seat of car in left
lane, who smiles back at her
    five pelicans

    gliding in front of the cypress tree to the left
of the ramp, a pair of cormorants flapping
across the water's windblown surface
lifting motion in the grey plane where the swell approaches a submerged rock shelf in the second window from the right, the blue jay screeching from branch next to feeder

naked man waking from dream of finding baby on pillow in field, man in red sweatshirt finding a new-born bird fallen out of its nest in Riyadh

archeologists noting captors didn't sacrifice Mayan scribes, destroyed ability to write texts by finger mutilation

driver in front seat recalling girl reading For Whom the Bell Tolls, man on right almost hitting a ship in thick fog

grey plane of sky slanting toward point on right, darker jade grey line approaching from left corner
angle of the bird slanting down to the branch
going against blue of sky next to front fence, bright
silver body of a jet followed by its sound above it

the woman wrapped in a white towel walking
toward pool on right, man in white turtleneck
walking toward orange gate on left

man in blue sweatshirt’s left hand stung by yellow jacket,
for whose swelling he wants a pink pill

woman in pale green dark glasses on pay phone in left
foreground, the doctor on the line recommending ultrasound

the bright green slope of the field
above the horizontal grey plane on the right,
the darker green of the tree-lined ridge
overlapped by grey of cloud above it
7.21

horizontal grey line of the sky between the dark plane of the ridge and cloud above it, diagonal line of light falling across surface of bricks in right foreground

   the naked man waking up from dream of folding covers over the sleeping pregnant woman, child in swim goggles submerged in pool

   the woman from East Setauket letting black and white cat out of carrying cage, who looks out at clouds and sun rising red

   man noting dark rectangular shape behind Morandi’s bottle, which doesn’t run up to the table’s edge as a shadow would

   grey white width of fog bank above point on left, small white bird circling above dark green pine at end of the sandspit
circular orange flower on the green passion
vine-covered fence at far end of brick plane,
the honeybee landing on purple lavender stalk
adjacent to glass back door

man on the phone
noting conjunction of Venus and Jupiter at 5 AM,
clouds opening in sky above ridge

the woman
with hair falling across left cheek thinking
about light at high altitude, the small cat
watching hummingbird in French window

woman
who wakes up in hospital bed not remembering
what happened, blood pressure gauge wrapped
around right forearm

cormorants flapping
across the windblown water’s plane, white
underside of a gull in upper left corner
7.23

motion of leaves in upper right corner of bamboo thicket, a grey white cloud pressing down above it
	naked man waking from a dream of climbing Polemonium Peak and Mount Brewer, paddling up over face of breaking wave on an upside down white board

woman in East Setauket noting architect who wanted barn doors for a winery, man in black sweatshirt who thinks the farmer needs doors to keep cows in barn

man thinking linen white walls are too dark, painting everything over in atrium white

the white wave breaking below point on the right, dark green shape of pine to the left of a white gull perched on the tip of the GROIN sign
grey white wall of fog above the green of scotch broom in the window opposite the unmade yellow and blue bed, motion of tobacco plant leaves below it in the window on the right

Yo Yo Ma

playing Bach’s cello suite at Katherine Graham’s funeral, man in bow tie noting that Deep Throat “might be among us this morning”

Eudora Welty

thinking her love of observation led to fiction and photography, picture of woman wearing only sweater she owned

naked man in pool looking across at cloud in pale blue sky, dark green cypress in the right foreground

a blue wedge above tree-lined ridge in the upper left corner, man dropping into the face of a hollow grey wave
red-breasted male finch rising and falling
across the vertical grey white space of sky,
landing on curved copper bar above the empty
feeder in the right corner

naked man waking
from dream of a fire in the woodstove building
to 700 degrees, wind gusting to 90 mph across
the jade green water’s surface

man in black
sweatshirt noting how Cézanne connects green
foreground to hills above it, pale blue sky
reflected in blue plane of bay

Eudora Welty
adding that she intended nothing but to show
what was, how “a sheltered life can also be
daring”

vertical pole at edge of a cliff,
pelicans flapping from the right below it
yellow oval of tobacco plant leaf hanging below
dark green plane of leaf above it, wall of fog
in front of invisible ridge

woman on phone
attaching a net to third floor window so cat
can’t get to the hummingbirds, whose husband
doesn’t want her to go to the mountains

man
noting that road in the foreground of Cézanne’s
landscape is perceived not as receding parallel
lines but two-dimensional form, green mountain
painted over it

Tacitus reporting that Nero
sang while Rome burned, Seneca later slicing
veins in knees and thighs

angle of sandstone
cliff adjacent to grey white plane of sky,
darker grey line of approaching wave
sound of crow calling across the tops of trees
followed by high-pitched song of bird on left,
sunlight on plane of trees in the foreground

man in blue shirt waking from dream of the man
in adjacent house trying to stab the man next
door, coyotes yowling in right corner

the man
on the radio noting the older he got the fewer
notes Johnny Hodges would play, bird’s shadow
crossing road from left

woman on the right
whose mother threw glass of water at brother,
who now wants everything under control

low
grey white cloud hanging below the dark green
top of the ridge on the left, a white wave
breaking in front of the cliff below it
7.28

sound of a jet passing above the backlit trunk of the tree in the right foreground, pale blue sky behind green branches above it

sunlight falling from vertical door of pale blue tent across sleeping blond woman on left, a rock sloping up to the right

man in a maroon turtleneck asking man in blue shirt to pull shoulders back, wear watch on inside of wrist

man on the radio recalling Billie Holliday sang “Strange Fruit” at Café Society, upturned curve of waxing white moon in the pale blue sky above pale yellow hills

blue green plane of water’s surface reflecting dark green plane of trees, the rock on the left catching sun’s light
wedge of blue white sky adjacent to green plane
in right corner, a horizontal line of sunlight
arriving through still dark branches below it

naked man waking from a dream of building
bookshelves in front room of the white house,
woman with hair pulled back still pissed at him
about something

the man recalling how he fell
backward into wet gutter, his head accelerating
toward curb at 32 feet per second

man in blue
green shorts who can’t see the bird on a branch,
glasses on a granite rock across the blue green
plane of the bay

line of dark trees slanting
across the lighter green plane of the ridge,
tops of trees reflected in lake below it
7.30

still dark vertical plane of ridge below pale blue white sky in left corner, angle of branch slanting up from plane of water moving in right foreground

    blond woman in red dress whose head is on driver of grey car’s lap, his right hand resting on her right hip

man in red truck

noting Cage’s theory of static harmony, disconnected points of sound

right-sloping right-sloping shoulder of ridge intersected by horizontal plane on right, man in the passenger seat playing Schubert’s “Death of the Maiden”

vertical green plane of trees reflected in still windless blue green water’s surface, blue green angle of ridge on right below width of the sky
left-sloping line of ridge below bright blue plane of sky behind it, sound of the unseen stream running below boulder field in left foreground

    naked man waking from a dream
trying to call the woman in a red dress, who says other men are calling her

    woman in bar
claiming 21 toxins are being released from dry lake bed, a bulldozer sinking into its shifting sands

    man in black shorts humming “Appalachian Spring” as he climbs up Lone Pine Creek, the man in the red shirt noting that Copland was a nice Commie Jew homosexual

    red flowers on a green branch below bright blue of sky next to ridge, crow’s shadow crossing rock wall on the left
V-shaped wedge of pale blue sky adjacent to face of still dark granite peak, three small birds flitting across grey white boulder in left foreground

    man in blue shirt waking from dream of blond woman’s voice on the answering machine, “sooner or later our time will come to an end”

man in red shirt recalling white-haired man traveling through Germany after second world war, orders to burn his papers if police find him

    line of ridge below blue of sky reflected in grey green water’s surface, naked man sitting on edge of rock in left corner

    a yellow flower bending as air lifts across surface of granite rock, sound of wind rising in front of ridge
8.2

first pink light hitting the triangular peak
leaning to the right against blue white sky
above it, a crack slanting up to the right

bright purple flower at tip of green sprig
across which wind is passing, abandoned rope
hanging from rock wall on left

angle of blue
lake’s plane below shadow of ridge in the right
corner, a small brown bird flitting across slope
of snowfield in left foreground

man in a green
jacket reading the page on which Maigret can’t
refuse another drink, birds singing in every
tree

snowfield at the base of Black Kaweah,
the white cloud floating above a distant ridge
which disappears into the pale blue sky above it
8.3

silhouette of rock on black line of the ridge
below conjunction of Jupiter and Venus in grey
white sky, vertical triangular peak opposite it

man in green jacket noting the evolving spectrum
of light passing across peak on left, the white
snowfield below peak in right corner

yellow

flower below orange-tipped black butterfly’s
wings, the silver body of a jet in blue sky
above ridge

horizontal line of thin white
cloud above white circle of full moon rising
toward it, grey white width of sky above ridge
below it

silver of sunlight reflected in blue
green curve of water’s surface, the reflection
of the ridge in the blue black plane above it
blue grey light coming into the sky above line of granite ridge, the pair of planets moving closer in the white of the sky above ridge opposite it

a small brown bird with pink streak on its breast hopping to rock on left, helicopter circling in the blue sky above peak behind it

man on upper left switchback noting Cage’s theory of form as the morphological line in the sound continuum, sound of water falling out of the granite wall above him

blue jay screeching from bare pine branch on the left, the blue sky into which its sound disappears

brighter blue above the vertical pink orange plane of the peak, empty blue space above it
waning white disk of moon in the lower left pane
of glass above unmade yellow and blue bed, grey
white width of sky above the line of the still
dark ridge in the window opposite it

man
leaning back against rock recalling Guido
d’Arezzo’s segmentation of pitch spectrum,
chromatic scales followed by the infinite
division of sound

violin above the piano
analogous to viola above cello, yellow line
descending to the right

man in plaid shirt
recalling the color of granite before sun hits,
a green line slanting up to the pass
vertical

shadow in the triangular peak on the right,
bright blue emptiness of sky above it
horizontal width of still shadowed ridge
bisected by the frame of the window in left
foreground, grey white of sky before sun rises
above it

   naked man waking from dream of woman
singing “me and Lewis there’s something to us,”
blond woman holding a long white cat whisker
from adjacent room

   Boutique on the phone
calling Maigret to say he’s got a murder
mystery, also a bottle of vermouth

   red blood
from man’s cut chin touching woman’s left cheek,
whiteness of moth flitting above purple lavender
stalk in left corner

   angle of shadow slanting
to the left on right-sloping shoulder of ridge,
pink white light reflected off plane below it
8.7

yellow of rose petal fallen to table from green glass bottle on window sill, fog wall above green of scotch broom in window on left nurse in long pink dress giving man a digital rectal exam, man in the grey visor noting the danger level in a prostate test is now 3.1 blond woman in the red dress taking a nap in front seat of grey car, man on phone thinking woman upstairs is probably looking at a purple cloud in the painting the man in the striped shirt apologizing for his outburst of temper, red pen slanting back to the left on back of green paper grey white width of fog in pale blue sky at tip of point, circular green shape of pine below it
8.8

circular orange flower on the green of passion
vine-covered fence, the bright grey wall of fog
beyond it

man pulling off wetsuit next to grey
car parked across from white house, who thinks
about how he used to have drinks in the late
afternoon sun there

man in orange shirt

wondering about the pattern of blackberries
falling into the pie, the point between order
and chaos

woman claiming imagery of Pollock’s
drawing is “fundamentally unstable,” man adding
that in the plainness of its edge “the interval
between image and surface closes”

dark green
trees slanting across canyon of ridge in left
corner, grey white fog behind point on right
grey white wall of fog on the ridge above bird
on the feeder below window opposite the unmade
yellow and blue bed, yellow tobacco plant leaf
in window on right

man noting Cage’s theory
that music is composed of sounds and silence,
“One” his eleventh piece for one performer

man on right in a black tee-shirt playing
Shoshtakovich’s sonata for viola and piano,
possibly as evidence of the body in old age

light green circular tree against the darker
green plane of the ridge behind it, white rock
on brown table in the foreground

vertical line
of radio pole at edge of cliff, light reflecting
off the opaque green face of an approaching wave
horizontal line at top of ridge above the plane of dark green trees slanting to the left, sound of song sparrow calling from half-empty column of feeder on right

Boutigues calling to say he’s drinking vermouth, asking what time low tide is

woman with hair pulled back noting pregnancy probably makes one think of summer slipping away, startled by arrival of August

man on left asking man in the black tee-shirt whether a description of landscape has feeling, who asks in return “what are art’s interpretive goals”

seven pelicans gliding from the right across the opaque grey water’s surface, four others lifting above the cliff on the left
pink orange glow in pale blue sky above still
dark plane of ridge, pattern of tobacco plant
leaves in the window on the right

naked man

waking from dream about “two percent,” upturned
curve of waning white moon’s light falling
across unmade yellow and blue bed

man in plaid

shirt holding up a passion vine flower the color
of blond woman’s red dress, pair of orange moths
moving together above the brick-red plane

man

in grey bathrobe noting that Sirah has become
the grape of Australia, rows of oak barrels
lining driveway on right

curve of grey white

fog below pale blue sky next to the point, edge
of green wave breaking over man’s right shoulder
8.12

green plane of tobacco plant leaf pressed
against window on the left, grey white fog
hanging above top of ridge beyond it

naked
woman holding the large striped cat across her
torso, man in a maroon sweatshirt walking toward
the glass back door

short-haired girl on phone
followed home by a strange man, symmetry of ones
and twos and zeroes in new address

Thiebaud
believing that every stroke of a painting is
from memory, noting that plein air painters
should squint to see “patches of tonality”

horizontal grey line of fog above the circular
green pine at tip of the point, white underside
of pelican gliding to the left of the GROIN sign
grey white sky above the plane of the still dark ridge on the right, curve of waning white moon rising to the right of Jupiter and Venus woman in grey car wondering if long-haired blond man is a girl, circle of cookie on the dashboard like a beacon man on the motorcycle testing his testosterone by passing on a blind corner, man on the phone regretting he can’t get good vibrato on the violin man in grey sweatshirt looking at curved plane of stars in black night sky, meteor passing from north to south white bird slanting across plane of dark green trees in a canyon of the ridge on the left, the sky reflected in the opaque grey plane below it
shadow of two-toned triangular peak passing
across sunlit face of the ridge opposite it,
curve of waning white moon in pale blue sky
overhead

  naked woman looking at yellow orange
glow above the plane of the still dark ridge,
man in blue jacket noting moment of sun’s
arrival

  a flock of small white birds
disappearing into the bright blue sky above
plane of ridge on right, shadow of a triangular
peak on the left

  woman in dark glasses asking
if the grey bird screeching from branch on left
is a jay, rock balanced on trunk below it

  man

watching Mars climbing to the left of Antares,
meteor moving from the North Star toward it
8.15

horizontal thin white cloud in pale blue sky above triangular peak in left corner, ridge reflected in plane of the lake

cricket whirring into space below man in blue green shirt’s right foot, bird launching from boulder on left

Freud noticing that everywhere he goes “a poet has been there before me,” Mrs. Ramsay continuing to think “insoluble questions”

redness of Antares to the right of Mars in faint grey sky above peak on left, narrator explaining how they came there every evening “drawn by some need”

white width of light on right-sloping ridge below pale blue sky, shadow of vertical crack slanting across rock in left foreground
silver width of sky above finger of a peak
before sun rises, diagonal line of a shadow
across white granite rock in left foreground

the small brown bird flitting up from a green
bush to angle of rock's surface, concave curve
of thin white moon moving through pale blue sky
above it

man in blue green shirt looking down
at surface of turquoise lake below edge of peak
behind him, horizontal line of a distant ridge
below pale blue white sky on right

Mr. Ramsay
knowing his wife “flew in the face of facts,” no
chance of going to the lighthouse with “the wind
due west”

bird flapping through blue emptiness
of space, haze drifting up from the right corner
pink orange light on curve of peak below pale blue sky in upper right corner, rocks on ridge reflected in mirrored plane of lake on the left

woman in white shirt standing on sunlit boulder with arms stretched out, shadow of man’s head against rock in left foreground

Mr. Bankes asking Lily Briscoe about triangular purple shape “just there,” brightness in left corner balanced by darkness across from it

naked man noting the wind falling across flat blue plane of lake, shadow of woman in the black sweater slanting across rock on left

triangular plane of Mt. Shakespeare at far end of the blue lake, blue white sky above bowl of ridge beyond it
horizontal shadow of ridge across right-sloping ridge to the left of it, V-shaped wedge of blue white sky to the left of sunlit triangular peak beyond it

   woman in pale green shorts looking at rock below surface of the phthalo blue lake, sunlight flickering across the windblown plane

Mr. Ramsay not knowing precisely why he wanted to disparage Shakespeare, thinking of the man who stands eternally in the door of the lift

man in green jacket measuring Mars an index finger’s length from Antares, the Milky Way rotating to the right behind it

   pink grey granite reflected in motionless water’s plane, bird flitting to slope of white rock on the left
vertical line of shadow to the right of diagonal peak in the upper left corner, horizontal plane of still dark ridge opposite it

man in blue green shirt noting iridescence of blue moth below water’s surface, plane of bright green grass slanting up to the left

woman in dark glasses noting thinness of man in black shorts in relation to the red shape behind him, weight of triangular rock inside it

lenticular white cloud to the left of Mt. Humphreys, Mrs. Ramsay folding a light green shawl about her shoulders

plane of a rock framed by lines of burnt sienna roots reaching into bright blue sky, diagonal lines of branches in the upper right corner
vertical line of the window frame against grey
white wall of fog in front of invisible ridge,
bird calling from green tobacco plant leaves
below window on right
woman in right lane
noting the circular smoke-grey cloud hanging
above ridge beyond it, the shallow pink green
plane in right foreground
man in grey shirt
moving to the left across a black and white
vertical plane, left hand reaching toward
surface of rock in left corner
Johnny Cash
claiming he never had a name, “the number 13
tattooed on my neck when I was born”
grey
curve of ridge below pale blue sky on left,
diagonal lines of shadows sloping up to it
8.21

thin silver line at top of ridge below green tobacco plant leaves in window on right, blue white sky in window opposite the unmade yellow and blue bed

man on phone claiming he’s found Holy Grail of BMW’s, immaculate except for rust bubble next to sunroof “the size of a farthing”

tow truck driver in blue plaid shirt recalling driving home to see grandmother in Guadalajara, earthquake in Mexico City when he was 13

man in a black tee shirt talking about particulars in poem, light green leaves on branch in front of the darker green tree behind it

pale blue opening in grey white clouds above ridge, gull perched on horizontal plane in left foreground
8.22

staccato tremolo of unknown birds in corner
below sound of jet passing overhead, vertical
frame of window in front of the grey white wall
of fog above the ridge  

man in black sweatshirt
noting small white moth flitting below diagonal
stalk of purple blossoms, hummingbird chirping
at redness of the apple on a branch behind it

man in blue turtleneck pouring box of grapes
into stainless steel vat, man in plaid shirt
cranking the press

Mrs. Ramsay watching rooks
"trying to decide which tree to settle on," air
"shoved aside by their black wings"

small
white birds diving into horizontal blue plane,
dark green circular pine next to the GROIN sign
red-breasted house finch on bottom right perch
of feeder opposite dun-colored one on the left,
the sun behind the backlit pine branch above it

man in grey tee-shirt noting a pair of white
moths circling in front of yellow green bamboo
in left corner, bird lifting in across the field

Lily Briscoe watching something turn “a silver
wing in the air,” struggling to say “this is
what I see”

    curve of new moon above man
walking toward the glass back door, opening
triads of Moonlight Sonata arriving from right
speaker

    a small white cloud in pale blue sky
drifting across the horizon, grey white of fog
in canyon above the last house on the sandspit
8.24

yellow rectangular shape in upper right corner adjacent to thin blue line, pattern of insects caught in a web to the left of the green glass back door

the short-haired woman in the white shirt claiming she had pneumonia, sat for weeks on her wooden deck playing Act 3 of La Traviata and reading Proust

bright pink orange and grey plane of clouds below pale blue sky above ridge, man in black sweatshirt leaning back in a dark green chair on left

Mrs. Ramsay asking “what have I done with my life,” looking at white circles of plates on the table

white water moving in across the flat grey plane, pelican gliding across grey white wall of fog above it
orange glow in the sky above the still dark
plane of the ridge opposite the unmade yellow
and blue bed, sun coming up below green tobacco
plant leaves in the window on the right

blond

woman leaning back on the blue and white striped
window seat in the corner, the white-haired baby
clamping onto her left breast

man on the radio

noting that vacuums near black holes pull apart,
lower cancer rates for people who live at high
altitudes

Martha and the Vandellas repeating
“a heat wave is tearing me apart,” Isuzu Trooper
not pulling off at the turnout

white of foam

on water’s surface after wave breaks, pelican
flapping in from invisible point on the left
8.26

green plane of acacia branch in lower right pane of window behind the unmade yellow and blue bed, horizontal plane of the field below grey white fog in window opposite it

naked man waking from dream of reading Wordsworth’s “A slumber did my spirit seal,” something about the green jacket on the red roof in the rain

blond woman noting yellow and black butterfly in window, sun rising on the orange peak above it

Mr. Tansley lifting his hammer in the air, knowing he can’t “smite that butterfly with such an instrument”

hundreds of pelicans circling above the white line of the wave breaking into the channel, white finger of fog below line of ridge
8.27

Jupiter to the right above Venus in faint grey light of dawn sky, horizontal width of still dark plane of ridge below it

blond woman thinking that she may have been at the same party as woman with hair falling across left cheek, who drives away in new blue sports car

woman in button-up sweater recalling old Greek man chasing her around the table, Italian Baron wanting her to visit him

Mrs. Ramsay asking why poor Augustus shouldn’t “ask for another plate of soup,” her husband loathing people “eating when he had finished”

film of grey white fog in front of green pine on the point, pelican flapping to the left of the GROIN sign
white-streaked chickadee flitting down to upper left perch of feeder in right foreground, pale yellow brightness above plane of ridge before sun rises

man in white tee-shirt watching Tiger Woods hit tee shot into trees on right, recovery shot landing three feet from the tee man on radio noting the walk to Bonds gives him 133 for the year, red-shouldered hawk flapping above double yellow line

Lily Briscoe’s eye catching the salt cellar on the table, which reminds her to move tree toward the middle

silver of sunlight reflected on water’s surface in front of the blue white plane of the ridge, man on a long white board paddling toward it
sunlight on handle of door below the green shirt
in the left corner, backlit shapes of tobacco
plant leaves in window opposite

naked man
waking from dream of pushing a wooden boat
across rocks exposed at low tide, half moon
falling through acacia branches in the lower
right pane of window above it

woman on phone
recalling the tarweed smells of early fall, man
asking about grey green plant with a pale yellow
flower

Mr. Bankes praising the skin “in which
all the virtue of the vegetable is contained,”

Lily Briscoe feeling “moored to the shore”

cormorant approaching from point on right,
circular green pine behind the GROIN sign
8.30

pair of hummingbirds moving below grey white cloud in upper right corner, dark green pine branch above finch perched on feeder in left foreground

Blake having vision of God at age 4, notebook entry “23 May 1820 found the Word Golden”

short-haired woman in jean jacket asking about seeing things up close vs. far away, noticing bird on feeder in the right corner is an actual bird

Mrs. Ramsay helping Mr. Bankes to a slender piece of Boeuf en Daube, thinking that of such moments “the thing is made that endures”

circular grey white patch of fog below green tree-lined top of ridge in the upper left corner, width of the pale blue sky above it
dark green circular pine at far end of the field
in the window opposite unmade yellow and blue
bed, bird moving horizontally below tobacco
plant leaves in window on right

naked man
waking from dream of woman in pink sweater
wanting to take his picture, white pillow
balanced on right cheek

short-haired woman
asking about dating page in upper left corner,
man looking at “8” before “30”

Mrs. Ramsay’s
eyes “going in and out among curves and shadows
of fruit,” not knowing why she feels so serene

silver oval of sunlight opening in grey white
fog below shoulder of ridge on left, pelican
gliding across plane of wet sandstone cliff
pink white rose petal falling in front of finch
perched on feeder in right corner, petals
floating in birdbath below it

naked man waking
from dream of moving furniture out of a garage
with a dirt-floor, woman smashing a mosquito
against white wall

man in white cloth hat
taking photos of blond doll with a driftwood
body, a bright pink scarf wrapped between her
right leg and torso

Mr. Bankes taking Charles Tansley by the arm on his way to the terrace,
Lily Briscoe noting that “there was always
something that had to be done”

grey white fog
below point on right, white line moving across
the jade grey water’s nearly motionless plane
9.2

profile of finch on lower left perch of feeder
in front of grey white wall of fog in right
corner, a circular orange flower on green
passion vine-covered fence below it

blond

woman in black sweater watching beekeeper put
queen bee on woman’s neck, hive swarming across
bare torso

Jimmy Reed repeating “bright lights
big city gone to my baby’s head,” the grey truck
parked in the bushes on the right

Mrs. Ramsay

“approving the dignity of the trees’ stillness,”
noting the stars “trying to flash out between
the edges of the leaves”

bird circling behind
radio pole at edge of the cliff, man on short
white board dropping into the peak below it
grey light in sky above plane of the still dark ridge in the window opposite the unmade yellow and blue bed, full moon falling behind acacia branches in the window across from it cat
crouched on bricks in front of hummingbird, which suddenly takes off across the green passion vine-covered fence shirtless man leaning back on white pillow propped on stone wall, eucalyptus branches blowing against bright blue sky

Mrs. Ramsay noting “she could now see the moon itself through the staircase window,” actual moon rising above a pine branch blue opening above sandstone cliff on left, white line of wave breaking across the grey plane
pale blue rectangular shape in upper left corner of the window next to green tobacco plant leaves behind it, right-sloping edge of the rock beside it

condensation on window in front of the bird landing on the feeder in the right corner, man at table looking at curve of grey black rock

man on phone calling to say chainsaws cutting pines at edge of the yard, will have something to say later

Mr. Ramsay “swinging the compass on his watch chain to and fro,” wanting what “she always found it so difficult to give”

width of grey white fog below pale blue sky beside the point on the right, cormorants flapping toward corner above GROIN sign
pink orange width of sky above horizontal line
of still dark ridge in window opposite unmade
yellow and blue bed, trill of invisible song
sparrow arriving from right corner below it

woman in red jacket walking toward ramp with pit
bull named Fidel, who is waiting for his master
to return from Burning Man

man in grey car
listening to Alicia de Larrocha play Mozart's
Sonata for Beginners, which he too played when
he was a child

Mrs. Ramsay thinking as she
looks out the window, "nothing on earth can
equal this happiness"

white line of water
moving across the opaque grey plane, terns
diving in front of grey white wall of fog
downturned curve of waning white moon in blue sky on left, horizontal line of fog in field across from it

woman with hair falling across her left cheek claiming the man is reading the greatest novel ever written, portions of which she knows by heart

woman standing in front of white line on brick wall who wants to internalize the densest thing she can imagine, vertical blue frame next to window on left

Mr. Ramsay asking whether his wife understands what she is reading, thinking "probably not"

pelican diving into windswept blue plane in upper right corner, dark green plane of trees at top of ridge opposite it
shadow of tobacco plant leaves on the wall next
to the unmade yellow and blue bed, sun rising
above ridge in right corner

man in grey car

looking at large white bird on lagoon shore,
vulture gliding across double yellow line

woman in the white jacket thinking “we can stop
at this object for example,” man in dark green
shirt at the left end of the last row

narrator

noting the shadows of trees “darkening the pool
in which light reflected itself,” birds making
“a soft spot flutter across the bedroom floor”

circle of waning white moon in pale blue sky
above point on left, line of three pelicans
gliding toward the width of haze beyond it
circular pink white rose in front of a red-breasted finch on lower left perch of feeder, wind moving through the green of bamboo leaves in grey white of sky above it

woman in yellow shirt recalling Dennis Hopper shooting his gun outside Mabel Dodge Luhan’s house in Santa Fe, later walking in with Bob Dylan

woman in blue shirt who thinks about line floating into space of page, the woman across the table thinking it stops at the end of a sentence

Lily Briscoe’s “bag carried up to the house late one evening,” Mrs. Brast watching son “scything the grass”

pale blue sky above width of fog on horizon, white line of a wave breaking on the inside
9.9

motion of green tobacco plant leaf in window
above black and white-striped rock on sill,
goldfinch leaning to the right behind it

woman in dark green jacket hanging things on the line,
a hummingbird moving above the circular orange
flower on green of passion vine-covered fence

shirtless man leaning back against white pillow
on a stone wall reading Wordsworth, who hears
"waters rolling from their mountain springs"

Lily Briscoe surprised by an enormous pale moon
in the staircase window, wondering "what can it
all mean"

plane of grey white sky above right-
sloping angle of cliff in left corner, pelican
gliding across face of wave breaking below it
9.10

dark green plane of trees on ridge in the window
opposite the unmade yellow and blue bed, red-tailed hawk screeching from right corner
woman in grey jacket remembering picking huckleberries
with her baby strapped to her back, man in rust-colored shirt not remembering the point of his story
man in white plaid shirt wanting wine
barrels positioned asymmetrically, Schönberg claiming some things change and some do not

Lily Briscoe looking at the step where Mrs. Ramsay used to sit, thinking “one can’t waste one’s time at forty-four”
pelican disappearing
into grey plane in right corner, circular green pine to the left of last house on the sandspit
9.11

sparrow moving from lower left perch of feeder
to green of scotch broom branch in right corner,
the sweptback wingspan of a jet passing overhead

blond woman calling on phone to ask man to give
short-haired girl her cell phone number, plane
exploding into World Trade Center in New York

white-haired composer talking about technology
of distance, the dancer walking in with a copy
of The Elegant Universe

Lily Briscoe “sitting
bolt upright in bed,” noting “the grey green
light on the wall opposite”

lines of grey
white clouds reflected in nearly motionless
water’s surface, cormorants flapping across
green pine on point in the right foreground
yellow orange rectangular shape in left corner of plane on the wall, width of grey white fog hanging below top of ridge

woman on phone walking across the Brooklyn Bridge watching second plane banking into left tower, pilot turning it to get a better hit

man lifting binoculars to look at the rufous-breasted bird on lower left perch of feeder, sunlit green pine behind it

Lily Briscoe noticing the step where Mrs. Ramsay used to sit, setting up the painting “to ward off Mr. Ramsay and his exactingness”

horizontal white cloud above the still dark plane of the ridge, the tern circling below smaller white cloud in the right foreground
vertical line of window frame across flat grey
white sky in window opposite the unmade yellow
and blue bed, crow calling from the right
man
on street recalling a quick bright orange flash
of light followed by shock wave, people walking
out of buildings
firefighters walking a large
American flag across the roof of the Pentagon,
Peter Jennings reporting that 88,000 American
flags have been sold at K-Mart
Lily Briscoe
"considering what her plan of attack should be,"
brush flickering "as if the pauses were one part
of the rhythm and the strokes another"
a wedge
of white water moving in across the grey plane,
pelican gliding toward point in right corner
white-streaked sparrow landing on lower left perch of feeder below a circular pink white rose, the wall of grey white fog behind it

woman with hair falling across left cheek
imagining last moments of hundreds of people,
the short-haired girl on the roof seeing people jumping out of windows

the man from Georgia
recalling pulling the trigger on granddaddy’s gun when he was three, George Bush announcing “I’m a loving guy”

Mrs. Ramsay sitting down beside a rock, “looking up at something floating in the sea”

lines of white water moving across grey green plane in right corner, white of gull perched on triangular orange tip of GROIN sign
motion of tobacco plant leaf in left window
below a mass of darker green cypress branches
reflected behind it, shape of bird gliding down
from left corner

short-haired girl’s building

evacuated by a bomb threat at Port Authority,
car door opening into her bike on 14th St

shirtless man in green shorts leaning back
against a stone wall, orange and brown moth
landing on the circular green leaf beside it

Mrs. Ramsay looking at clouds going and leaves
shaking, “making of the moment something
permanent”

line of three pelicans disappearing
into the grey white wall of fog in left corner,
man on a long white board paddling toward it
song sparrow’s call arriving from behind curve of pine branch in right corner, the horizontal grey white cloud covering the top of the ridge beyond it

hummingbird in front of dark purple flower above brick plane, circular orange flower in foreground

woman from East Setauket noting eyewitness account of the “precise and elegant” plane hitting the building, short-haired girl announcing people have begun to smell bodies

Mr. Ramsay sitting in the boat “with his legs tightly curled,” Lily Briscoe looking at canvas “with its uncompromising white stare”

sunlight reflected on grey plane in the left foreground, the grey white cloud below shoulder of ridge
light green of bamboo leaves moving below grey white sky in window on right, a grey white wall of fog in front of the invisible ridge

the man

leaning back on a white pillow in a green chair looking up at sweptback wingspan of jet moving across blue sky, whiteness of a cloud passing above branch in left foreground

the television

image of the plane striking the South Tower, list of dead including body parts

the narrator

noting how “a cloud falls to a green hillside and gravity descends,” Mr. Ramsay dreaming how “arms were stretched out to him”

swell moving in across windswept grey plane in right corner, slope of point slanting to the left beyond it
circular pink red flower on green passion vine-covered fence in the left foreground, the bird disappearing into the upper right corner

woman

on the 44th floor of the South Tower feeling it move after second plane hits, Neville Brothers singing “Will The Circle Be Unbroken”

man

noting Osama Bin Laden quotes from the Koran urging his men to kill Americans, George Bush promising “we will rid the world of evil doers”

Mr. Ramsay feeling into his pocket for his book, girl in boat staring at the shore “whose points were all unknown to her”

curve of dark green trees in back of last house on the sandspit, white line of wave moving across channel
song sparrow’s call arriving from a branch below
the window opposite unmade yellow and blue bed,
empty column of feeder in lower right corner

woman with hair falling across left cheek
horrified to think the short-haired girl
witnessed people jump from windows, wave
functioning as hope

Dorothy Wordsworth
observing clouds move “in one regular body,”
star coming out “a moment in a lake pale blue sky”

Lily Briscoe thinking of Mrs. Ramsay
resting “in the extreme obscurity of human relationships,” one color in the painting
“melting into another”

whiteness of egret
crossing grey white sky, seal’s head on right
white-streaked chickadee on curved copper bar above the feeder, the circular pink white rose to the right of a red finch on lower left perch

man in red jacket looking up at four black birds on the telephone wire, two more on horizontal pole to the left

woman from East Setauket noting Bush admits futility of dropping two-million dollar bombs on an empty Afghan tent, man in black tee-shirt reading the words "DEAD WHOLE WORLD DIED"

Lily Briscoe "thinking again of Mrs. Ramsay on the beach," girl in the boat thinking people on shore "have no suffering there"

bird turning across grey-white sky, slope of sandstone-colored cliff below it
diagonal lines of high thin white clouds in pale blue white sky above still dark ridge, Jupiter climbing above Venus through it

girl on phone noting smell of smoke and bodies still in air, troops in the streets like a war zone

woman with hair falling across left cheek thinking that the scarlet tanager on the feeder is actually lesser goldfinch, the “characters” in poem not only alive but real

Minta Doyle dragging Mr. Ramsay’s books around garden, “sticking in leaves to mark the place”

circular dark green pine on point to the right, whiteness of the gull perched on triangular orange tip of the GROIN sign opposite it
pink light on left-sloping shoulder of the ridge
in upper right corner, diagonal line of rock
sloping up to the left in the foreground

George Bush planning to direct every necessary
weapon toward eradication of terrorism, noting
that "freedom and fear have always been at war"

man in plaid shirt counting 37 PROHIBITED signs
between pack station and trailhead, not one
advising HAVE A GOOD TIME

Lily Briscoe
stepping back to get canvas into perspective,
Minta Doyle “standing half-way up by the window”

diagonal pink white clouds slanting across blue
white sky above ridge, silver line of light
moving across dark green plane below it
horizontal line of pink white clouds in blue white sky above shoulder of ridge, grey white clouds opposite it

man in blue jacket noting shadow of red truck passing across pale green slope to the right of it, backlit triangular peak on the left

woman in wraparound dark glasses looking down at heart-shaped phthalo green lake, plane of the larger lake above it

Lily Briscoe again feeling her desire to drown “looking for a pearl brooch on a beach,” saying to Mr. Bankes “how a light there needed a shadow there”

parallel lines of shadows slanting down to the right across surface of ridge, silver light on the windswept plane of the lake
9.24

line of faint blue sky between grey white fog
and top of ridge, red-tailed hawk screeching
from left corner

        man with red pack noting
silver thread of spider’s web curved across
plane of black rocks, white line of a jet’s
trail slanting above it

        man in blue green
shirt walking through forest of yellow orange
aspen leaves, sound of stream rising from lower
right foreground

        Lily Briscoe “standing there
with the hot sun on her back,” thinking how she
“would move the tree to the middle”

        diagonal
plane of grey white rocks reflected in grey
white surface of the lake in front of it,
sunlight on triangular peak beyond it
grey white cloud hanging in black forest green
canyon of ridge on left, pink red passion vine
flower on lighter green of fence in foreground

man in grey car looking at high white clouds
piled up in bright blue sky, red and white
stripes of flag on the left

George Bush
explaining that if you harbor a terrorist
"you’re just as guilty as a terrorist,"
Secretary adding that it won’t be an antiseptic war

Lily Briscoe recalling how William Bankes
"lifted his hand to screen his eyes," realizing
"Mrs. Ramsey has faded and gone"
silver width
of fog below shoulder of ridge on right, dark
grey swell moving across the plane below it
blue plane of sky above line of ridge in window
opposite the unmade yellow and blue bed, shadow
of tobacco plant leaves on wall beside it

man

in black sweatshirt noting crosshatched pattern
of yellow lines on black moth’s wings, white
moth on the sill above it

man on radio

claiming death toll is now 6,734, Bush
announcing the creation of financial world’s
Most Wanted List

Mr. Carmichael’s book falling
onto the grass, Lily Briscoe noticing curves
“flourishing around a centre of complete
emptiness”

grey white film of cloud
disappearing behind the point on the left,
whiteness of gull perched on tip of GROIN sign
9.27

pink white cloud slanting up across pale blue
sky above still dark plane of the ridge, white-
streaked chickadee landing on curved copper bar
above the feeder

hummingbird darting over top
of green rose bush, Rumsfeld naming the new war
Operation Enduring Freedom

Dorothy Wordsworth
noting sky’s “rich yellow fading into pale blue
& streaked & scattered over with steady islands
of purple melting into shades of pink,” William
writing “A violet by a mossy stone/ Half-hidden
from the eye”

Lily Briscoe calling Mrs Ramsay,
imagining “leaping from the pinnacle of a tower
into the air”

pale blue white haze on horizon,
slope of sandstone-colored cliff in left corner
9.28

small white cloud moving across bright blue sky
at top of blue-framed stairwell window, a pair
of small dark birds veering to the left

FBI

Director admitting we are under a heightened
state of alert, Hillary saying to Letterman
“we’ve got to start flying again”

William

Wordsworth recalling how Coleridge bounded
across a pathless field, his sister seeing
“loose-growing half-curling rough black hair”

Macalister’s boy cutting a square from the side
of the fish, Lily Briscoe attacking the problem
of the hedge

       blinding silver line of sunlight
reflecting off motionless grey green water’s
surface, tern banking below cloud on left
yellow circle of sun rising above the right-
sloping shoulder of the ridge, white-streaked
chickadee landing on lower left perch of almost
empty feeder below it

silver-haired man hoping
they won’t drop a bomb on his street, blond man
noting sunlight on sweptback wingspan of a jet
passing overhead

linguist claiming the plane
hitting building is like bullet hitting head,
bumper sticker on the white pickup reading
“Liberalism = Terrorism”

Mr Ramsay’s “legs
curled under him,” girl in boat thinking people
on shore “don’t feel a thing”

birds gliding
toward blue green plane in upper left corner,
line of waves breaking below point on right
shadows of tobacco plant leaves moving across
the wall opposite the unmade yellow and blue
bed, finch crossing toward branch in corner

naked woman waking from dream of mummified
body with legs bound in back of it, string
concealed in heal of left shoe

Coleridge
manuscript note claiming that poem was composed
“in a sort of Reverie brought on by two grains
of Opium,” interrupted by person from Porlock

Lily Briscoe again moved by “some instinctive
need of distance and blue,” looking out at boat
“now half way across the bay”

circles of light
flickering across blue green water’s plane, blue
white haze below shoulder of the ridge beyond it
silver of planet in pale blue sky above upturned curve of pine branch, sweptback wingspan of jet passing to the right of it

depth row inmate

who founded the CRIPS writing children’s book opposed to gang violence, journalist noticing his love of chicken wings

Dorothy Wordsworth reporting “some swallows flying about & about,” recalling “a melancholy parting after having sate together in silence” with Coleridge
girl

in boat seeing how “in the green light a change comes over one’s entire mind,” the body shining “enveloped in a green cloak”

horizontal width

of blue white haze in the right corner, low sun on slope of sandstone-colored cliff opposite it
cross-hatched yellow lines on black moth’s wing
against pink rock in the window sill, the white
wall of fog in front of invisible ridge in left
corner

man on radio claiming the war will be
"unlike wars we have seen before, Bush calling
mobilization of troops a “crusade”

man in black
and white checked shirt recalling pushing pencil
in Okinawa, white-haired woman adding the liquor
there was cheaper then the stuff they put in it

boy in boat thinking about his father, wanting
to “take a knife and strike him to the heart”

pale green plane of point below blue whiteness
of sky in right corner, wingspan of a pelican
gliding above the back of the wave toward it
rectangular grey plane of sky in window opposite
unmade yellow and blue bed, sound of invisible
jet passing overhead

woman with hair falling
across left cheek watching man in front of pink
brick grid, man who draws the plane “exaggerated
in the backward sweep of the wings”

character
who pronounces “Nazis” with short-a, the green
leaves of the trees outlined by vertical blue
lines of the window on the left

narrator
noting “a streak of wind here and there,”
lighthouse in haze looking “an enormous distance
away”

cormorant flapping across the motionless
grey green plane from the left corner, circular
dark green pine to the right of the GROIN sign
V-shaped wedge of grey white cloud against still dark plane of ridge in window on left, circular orange flower on green of passion vine-covered fence in right foreground

man in black tee-shirt knocking on the green front door, left cheek and ear lobe numb where doctor excised melanoma

man in red jacket spelling “dénoûement” at the beginning of “SENTENCE,” “SOUND/ (system)” arranged in lines on next page

girl in the boat supposing the leaf had “a place in the universe,” Lily Briscoe “still standing and looking out over the bay”

line of wave moving across flat grey water’s plane, nine pelicans flapping in from the right corner
small grey cloud passing across bright white
light of a waning full moon above left-sloping
shoulder of ridge, Jupiter to the left of Saturn

Rumi claiming “we are in love with love/ Muslims
are something else,” Bush announcing 320 million
dollars in aid to Afghanistan

the CIA calling
what happens when US foreign policy backfires
“blowback,” Pentagon labeling people killed
“collateral damage”

Lily Briscoe thinking
about Mrs. Ramsay resting in silence, wondering
what we feel “at the moment of intimacy”

pink
line in grey white cloud above right-sloping
shoulder of ridge in upper left corner,
cormorant flapping in from point
down turned curve of waning white moon in blue
grey sky above triangular peak on left, planet
fading above knife-edge ridge on the right

man
in blue green shirt looking across at grey plane
of Hourglass Couloir, red-orange leaves on slope
below sunlit plane of ridge on left

grey white
cloud above peak in upper right corner, the man
in the blue jacket standing against grey cloud
in upper left foreground

Lily Briscoe thinking
that “things seemed to have happened so often,”
noticing that “the moment at least seemed
extraordinarily fertile”

wall of green trees
against grey white sky on the right, sudden
staccato of first bird chirping above it
blue black emptiness of sky in the U-notch
between triangular peak on left and vertical
wall across from it, curve of half moon facing
Jupiter rising above Venus

man with melanoma
cut from upper left thigh unzipping the orange
and blue tent, still thinking of “living it up
in the Hotel California”

width of horizontal
grey white cloud above distant ridge in lower
left corner, man in blue jacket looking down
through space of sky above it

Lily Briscoe
dipping her brush into blue paint, going out
“until at last one seemed to be on a narrow
plank”

pink orange light on left-sloping
shoulder of peak, moon in pale blue sky above it
triangular white opening in grey plane of sky above line of the still dark ridge, horizontal pink white clouds in pale blue sky to the right of it

man in maroon sweatshirt looking at red camera wedged between rocks in left foreground, oval plane of phthalo green lake in the lower right corner

husband standing at pay phone being told that the war has started, flaming yellow orange plane of aspen on slope across from him

girl in boat looking at Mr. Ramsay still reading his book, who looks up “to pin down some thought more exactly”

pink light striking curve of ridge in upper right corner, diagonal lines of shadows slanting to the left
three-note descending sequence of bird’s call arriving through window opposite the unmade yellow and blue bed, pink orange on right-sloping shoulder of ridge

George Bush announcing the campaign against terrorism might be extended beyond Afghanistan, adding that “we face a united and determined enemy”

red-haired woman yelling about order of plates in cupboard, husband noting Messiaen’s theory of “the charm of the possibilities”

Mr. Ramsay “waving his arms in the air with excitement,” boy in boat feeling he might do anything

diagonal blue opening of sky in upper right corner, grey white cloud moving below shoulder of ridge opposite it
pale blue white haze in front of the vertical plane of the ridge in window on left, sunlit orange flower on green passion-vine covered fence in right foreground

Secretary of Defense unable to confirm the deaths of four UN workers in Kabul, Taliban chiefs prepared to sacrifice two million lives to maintain independence

silver-haired man in front of flesh-toned rectangular plane on left, Debussy noting movement of water across a plane of rocks

girl in boat noticing a leaf “losing its sharpness,” the sea “more important now than the shore”

line of sun reflecting across nearly motionless water’s surface, moon in pale blue sky above it
angle of bird slanting from lower right corner of vertical window on the left, the pale blue white sky above the horizontal line of still dark ridge behind it

Coleridge observing “pillars of misty light” falling below sun hidden by clouds, “great half moon setting behind the mountain ridge”

man in post office also reading Virginia Woolf, shaved-headed man patching ding on nose of board

girl in boat dipping her fingers into the water, thinking “how we perish each alone”

lines of white water moving across reef to the left of point, man on a long white board slanting across light blue green plane of wave breaking in left corner
horizontal pink white cloud in pale blue sky
above the still shadowed plane of the ridge,
bird calling in the window opposite unmade
yellow and blue bed

woman on the radio
claiming people in New York are planning to move
to Alaska, janitor in Tower One recalling people
jumping from windows

Pentagon spokesman noting
crosshair sights of missile trained on building,
woman pointing out that the military facilities
are located in heavily-populated heart of Kabul

Lily Briscoe still “looking out over the bay,”
thinking of the sea “without a stain on it”

white layer of foam on grey plane after wave
breaks, line of sun reflecting from left corner
brown bird perched on telephone wire slanting from peak of roof to pole in upper left corner, red finch landing on feeder in right foreground

man in blue shirt recalling his daughter’s walk-on line in Days Of Our Lives, “never mind your turn will come”

man in black shirt reading shapes of blue and red and green and black letters, “next it’s you Swainson’s thrush”

Lily Briscoe looking at the sea “which had scarcely a stain on it,” Mr. Ramsay sailing further and further away

sunlight-speckled line of swell moving in across the blue green water’s plane, white curve of spray blown back from the wave breaking into the left foreground
10.14

pink orange light in grey white square of sky across from unmade yellow and blue bed, song sparrow calling from the lower right corner

blond woman with white-haired baby walking toward the green French door, noting the orange rectangular shape on top of the yellow column

woman at end of table pointing out that M13 Galaxy has several hundred thousand million stars, a pair of orange and black butterflies circling above the purple flower

Lily Briscoe remembering “that razor edge of balance between two opposite forces,” thinking about “some such feeling of completeness”

white of jet’s trail parallel to the horizon, pale blue sky above it
streaks of high thin white clouds in pale blue sky above pine branch, bird perched on curved copper bar above feeder in lower left corner

man on phone recalling meeting Ike in Boston hotel in 1945, having presence of mind to say “Nice going Ike”

man coming home from Bali having watched the riots in Jakarta on CNN, short-haired girl getting ready to watch Hitchcock’s *Vertigo* the first time

Lily Briscoe looking at “purples and grey-greens of flowers,” recalling “some such feeling of completeness”

four blue-white lines of jet trails slanting across the edge of the cliff, sound of opaque green waves breaking into the right foreground
10.16

oval-shaped black and white rock on the table
next to shadow of small white flower above it,
angle of green tobacco plant leaf in the window
on left

woman in pink shirt asking if Bush
sees the war in religious terms, National
Security Advisor claiming the US is doing
everything it can to minimize the loss of human
life

red EXIT sign above the door to the left
of the guitarist, woman in black dress bending
toward piano

Lily Briscoe knowing something
evaded her, asking if “the line of the wall
wanted breaking”

low sun reflecting across
opaque grey plane, a film of high thin white
clouds in pale blue sky above point on right
10.17

plane of grey-white rectangular sky in window
opposite the unmade yellow and blue bed, four
brown finches rising and falling across pale
green scotch broom on right

man in bright
green shirt who watches what the waiter does,
woman in beige Chinese top seeing man filming
woman on a blue video screen

missile striking
Red Cross building in Kabul, the Senate building
closed for second straight day

Andrew Ramsay

"killed in a second by a shell," Lily Briscoe
noticing things happening for the first time

horizontal whiteness of cloud below right-
sloping shoulder of ridge, pelican flapping
above line of white water in right foreground
white width of mist above the horizontal plane in front of still dark ridge, blue-white pink light coming into the sky

man with German accent smoking two packs of cigarettes a day, claiming you live two weeks longer with Ultra-Lites

Nobel prize winner asking “why have we got these people shouting in the streets in far-off places,” adding there’s no intellectual life in converted countries

Mrs. Ramsay’s instinct “distressing to people who did not share it,” Mr. Carmichael losing “interest in life”
circular dark green pine on tip of point, whiteness of gull standing on the triangular orange tip of the GROIN sign in right foreground
10.19

four-note sequence of song sparrow’s call
followed by a short fast trill in the window
opposite unmade yellow and blue bed, fog lifting
from plane of field below it

short-haired girl
waking from dream of being shot at by terrorists
outside subway station, men with guns seeing her
riding a bright blue bike

Secretary of Defense
claiming the best defense in a war on terrorism
is good offense, Reggie Jackson paying $30,000
to trademark “Mr. October”

Mr. Carmichael
bowing to Mrs. Ramsay, “whom for some reason he
did not much like”

line of low sun reflecting
across nearly motionless plane, line of a jet’s
trail disappearing into clear blue sky overhead
10.20

yellow rose in green glass bottle on the table in the upper right foreground, streaks of high thin white clouds in pale blue sky above ridge on the left

woman in Kandahar whose son saw human flesh strewn along street like rubbish, journalist pointing out the 14-year old boy with grenade launcher

man at Yankee Point recalling trajectory of 16-inch shells flying overhead, asking why he doesn’t have bad dreams

Mr. Ramsay stretching out his hand to his wife, Mrs. Ramsay “letting herself be helped by him”

horizontal width of grey white cloud hanging below shoulder of ridge in right foreground, line of black cormorants flapping below it
angle of lighter green tobacco plant leaf
against grey white sky in window on right,
circular orange flower above darker green
passion vine-covered fence in left corner

man

at edge of the cliff noting three-note falling
sequence of golden-crowned sparrow's “oh dear
me,” peregrine falcon flapping from the left

Ahmad Jamal’s right hand running down keyboard,
left hand asking the drummer to bring the volume up

Mrs. Ramsay “sitting silent in the window
alone,” Lily Briscoe wondering what the hedge means

triangular blue wedge above the tree-lined plane of ridge, sunlight on sandstone-colored surface of cliff to the left of it
grey light coming into sky above still dark
plane of ridge, the planet above the upturned
curve of the pine branch in the left foreground

blond woman with hair pulled back parking white
car across the street from the white house, man
going into the grey car parked in front of it

woman in the green shirt beating on tall man’s
naked chest, the line of women in grass skirts
escorting her back across stage

Lily Briscoe

not wanting Mrs. Ramsay now, thinking that one
couldn’t imagine her painting “a whole morning
on the lawn”

plane of grey white sky curved
above the circular green pine on the point,
horizontal line of swell in left corner
angle of cloud moving across pale blue sky above horizontal line of ridge, the body of the small dark bird slanting from the left across window in foreground

dark-haired woman in black top walking in across the purple and blue floor, man in blue shirt’s back turned toward green pine against blue sky in the window behind him

Byron noting “I woke up and found myself famous,” Lady Caroline Lamb confessing “that beautiful face is my fate”

Mrs. Ramsay annoyed

“because somebody was late,” Lily Briscoe “idly stirring the plantains with her brush”

white cloud in upper left corner, line of sunlight reflecting across motion of plane below it
pink streaks in high thin cloud above still
shadowed plane of ridge, the golden-crowned
sparrow calling from lower right foreground

woman on radio asking about light at Ground
Zero, man recalling buildings draped in red
fabric

Thiebaud wanting to translate three-
dimensional world to two-dimensional surface,
meaning light in the painting to “gleam glow
glint glimmer or glare”

Lily Briscoe still
“stirring the plantains with her brush,” noting
Charles Tansley “upset the proportions of one’s
world”

circular white cloud in pale blue sky
above right-sloping shoulder of ridge, white
line of wave breaking across reef on right
10.25

sunlight on light green curve of trees in front of darker green plane of the still dark ridge,
small dark bird falling across the vertical window on the left
	naked man waking from dream of woman opening the Bible to passage on voices,
girl answering man’s question on the novel

man

on radio noting deaths of two postal workers due to anthrax, Al Qaeda Handbook calling for “calm”
even if one is required to kill one’s comrades

Lily Briscoe watching Mr. Tansley through Mrs. Ramsay’s eyes, breeze “toying with the window”

man on a long white board dropping into green wall of wave breaking into the channel, white line of jet’s trail in pale blue sky overhead
circular pink white rose in front of the curved copper bar above the feeder in left foreground, bird disappearing into green of tobacco plant leaves on right

man in grey car looking at white egret stalking across edge of lagoon, wedge-shaped grey cloud in pale blue sky adjacent to ridge

man in East Setauket watching lines running across bottom of CNBC screen, leaves on trees barely turning and bluer sky outside

Lily Briscoe hearing hinge squeak in the next room, knowing people like looking “at the slopes of a hill”

horizontal white cloud in pale blue sky above point on right, grey gull perched on tip of the GROIN sign
bird landing on feeder across from the circular orange flower on the passion vine-covered fence, another disappearing between slats of the fence below it

man in red glasses asking “are not our senators still wearing togas,” a letter containing anthrax spores noting “Allah is great”

woman in red helmet riding toward horizontal grey plane, bird chirping from bush on right

Lily Briscoe looking up “as she had seen Mrs. Ramsay look up,” Mr. Ramsay stopping “dead in his pacing in front of her”

sunlit slope of sandstone-colored cliff in the left foreground, wingspan of the pelican gliding across the nearly motionless water’s plane
blue opening in grey white sky above upturned curve of pine branch in right corner, the bird slanting from up the feeder to the cypress tree on the left

Robert Mitchum lighting up another cigarette in *Out of the Past*, noting “sometimes memory is like an ill wind”

man on the phone bringing bottle of scotch to the motel, groin muscle beginning to heal after a week of not running

Lily Briscoe “trying to smooth out something she had seen,” having a sense of “one thing falling where another had fallen”

white plane of sky tilted above the tree-lined slope of the ridge in right corner, horizontal line moving in across the nearly motionless plane
grey white plane of sky above a small white bird
flapping across dark green slope of ridge, sound
of invisible song sparrow calling from the right
foreground

woman at bar telling man with gold
tooth she had sex with him in dream last night,
the silver-haired man whose temperature gauge
goes out in gold car

Randy Johnson striking
out four of first five Yankee batters he faces,
wanting to go full nine innings “to finish what
I start”

Mrs. Ramsay saying to Mr. Ramsay she
will marry him, Lily Briscoe “smoothing the way
for her ants”

line of five pelicans gliding
across the horizontal grey plane, dark green
wall of swell approaching from right corner
10.30

three-note descending sequence of golden-crowned sparrow calling through window opposite unmade yellow and blue bed, grey white cloud moving across invisible plane of ridge

Shelley
looking at “fast-cloud shadows” above Mont Blanc, noticing how the “universe of things flows through the mind”

John Cage thinking
past literature is material rather than art, wanting to play “the entire field of sound”

Lily Briscoe asking what it meant to Mrs. Ramsay “when a wave broke,” feeling “constantly a sense of repetition”

triangular wedge of dark green trees in canyon of ridge on left, bird circling against grey plane of sky in upper left corner
10.31

horizontal width of grey white fog below tree-lined top of still dark ridge on left, white clouds moving across pale blue sky above it

Secretary of Defense announcing air strikes against Taliban “are taking a toll,” British Major noting the news “is getting a bit hairy”

woman with blond streak seeing her chihuahua humping stuffed animal, man with fuzzy hair hearing Montgomery Clift “erecting himself beside my bedroom window”

Mr. and Mrs. Ramsay walking off together “arm in arm,” bedroom door slamming in the morning

white opening in grey white plane of clouds above ridge on left, line of wave moving across windblown water’s surface
11.1

grey white of fog above circular light green shape of rose spilling over front fence, angle of red roof slanting to the right

short-haired girl in wraparound dark glasses wanting to start the landscape with whites and yellows, umbrella-shaped dark green tree in the right foreground

man in green chair watching Schilling throw eight straight fastballs in first inning, American flag found beneath the rubble of Tower Two

Lily Briscoe noting that Mrs. Ramsay “sat silent,” sequence of things “setting up an echo which chimed in the air”

wall of grey white fog hanging in front of the invisible ridge, faint blue oval of light opening overhead
red-breasted male finch opposite the brown-streaked female on lower perch of half-full feeder in right corner, blue opening in grey white wall of fog above it

Arab-looking man warning woman on sidewalk not to be in Manhattan next Tuesday, Postmaster General claiming “your security and peace of mind are paramount to us”

Stanislav Richter wanting to play 100 dynamic grades of sound, Ingres wanting to paint 1000 shades of grey

Lily Briscoe noting silences sometimes falling between Mr. and Mrs. Ramsay, who “perhaps concealed something”

grey wave approaching across nearly motionless water’s surface, gull disappearing into wall of fog
sound of a jet passing above the grey white wall of fog in front of the ridge, a small brown bird falling toward cypress branch in left foreground

short-haired girl at far end of table recalling standing against wall next to a large abstract painting, critic claiming art world is eating its young

   Eva Marie Saint in a white slip yelling at Brando to “keep away from me,” followed by the silence of their passionate embrace

   Mr. Ramsay “roaming under the window” where his wife sat, Mrs. Ramsay pretending not to see him

   silver circle of sun’s reflection in the grey green water’s plane, white of gull perched on triangular orange tip of GROIN sign
green plane of tobacco plant leaf against pale blue sky in window above table, width of fog hanging below plane of ridge in left corner

woman in green silk Chinese dress reading passage from Rilke’s letter to a young poet, man with a white beard reading about turning water into wine

man with black right eye playing John Lewis’s version of Bach’s Prelude, woman and two girls in grass skirts dancing the hula

Mrs. Ramsay looking over her shoulder with some William Bankes at her side, Mr. Ramsay turning “smooth as silk”

pelican gliding above grey green wall of wave in the left corner, white edge of wave breaking across inside channel
condensation on the window in front of blue
white sky above plane of the field, unseen
golden-crowned sparrow calling from right
foreground

long-haired man with earring
recalling walking toward mouth of channel, sound
of waves breaking through grey white wall of fog

announcer noting man on first and third with one
out, Schilling trying to work his way out of his
first jam

Lily Briscoe looking at the window
“where she had seen him,” Mr. Ramsay walking
with his wife “among the pear trees”

white
line of jet’s trail slanting across pale blue
white sky in upper right corner, right-sloping
plane of tree-lined ridge disappearing below it
11.6

yellow rectangular shape in upper right corner of grid in relation to light blue square below it, crosshatched shadows of tobacco plant leaves on window above it

naked man waking from dream of opening door to blond woman's green and white cottage, woman with hair falling across her left cheek typing novel on the make-up table

radio talk show host asking why a woman would breast-feed her four year old son, caller suggesting she wants to be noticed

Mr. Ramsay sitting opposite Mrs. Ramsay "as usual," some quiver between them "as of a blade in the air"

cliff reflected in motion of blue grey plane below it, line of white water moving below point on right
11.7

bird’s shadow slanting across the white wall
across from the unmade yellow and blue bed,
plane of ridge in the rectangular window
opposite it

   woman on radio claiming breast-feeding is a “learned behavior,” obstetrician
   recommending a C-section “so you can keep your
   honeymoon vagina”

   woman in black scarf noting
   “no language is neutral,” black woman recalling
   “a white man in a red truck jumping out at you”

Lily Briscoe thinking how “Mrs. Ramsay would
glance at Prue,” Mr. Ramsay throwing plate
through window

   flock of small birds rising
above shoulder of wave across the channel,
sunlit edge of the grey cloud overhead
11.8

sunlit curve of trees in front of still dark
plane of the ridge behind it, bird falling
across vertical plane of window in right
foreground

man on radio noting 542 bodies
recovered from the World Trade Center, a total
of 4,591 dead “is still an estimate”

Rumsfeld

admitting that Osama bin Laden is probably still
alive in Afghanistan, adding “we are determined
to get the Taliban out of there”

Mrs. Ramsay

letting her flowers fall from her basket, Lily
Briscoe standing back to look at her picture
“with all her faculties in a trance”

low

sunlight reflected in motion of horizontal
plane, lighter green face of wave above it
11.9

horizontal line of pink cloud in pale blue sky
above curve of trees in small square window,
plane of ridge in the window opposite it

Tolstoy claiming the greatest art occurs during
time of war, soprano breaking into “Oh say can
you see”

    man next to white keyboard calling
Billy Strayhorn Duke Ellington’s “alter ego,”
alto sax coming back on the upbeat

Mrs. Ramsay

walking fast “as if she expected to meet someone
round the corner,” Lily Briscoe noticing someone
near the window “throw an odd-shaped triangular
shadow over the step”

    white curve of spray
blown back from wave breaking into channel,
half circle of moon in blue sky above it
crow calling from cypress branch in left corner
followed by a song sparrow’s trill, blue white
sky in rectangular window opposite the unmade
yellow and blue bed

        hard hats at Ground Zero
reading “Welcome to Hell,” hundreds of millions
of pounds of debris hauled away in trucks

        Lady
Bird Johnson wishing she could have been of more
use to her husband, confessing that “when he is
pierced I bleed”

        Lily Briscoe calling out
“Mrs. Ramsay,” narrator noting how “one must
keep on looking without for a second relaxing
the intensity of emotion”

        line of high thin
white clouds in pale blue sky above the point,
line of pelicans gliding to the left below it
grey white film of cloud in front of invisible plane of ridge in left corner, drop splashing into copper birdbath in the right foreground

man in Moscow settling in for the long cold Russian winter, noting Chang’s “I shade my eyes with my hand and gaze out toward you”

Bogart walking across the room in The Maltese Falcon toward Peter Lorre, telling him “when you’re slapped you’ll take it and like it”

Lily Briscoe thinking “that’s a chair,” how it “altered the composition of the picture”

horizontal width of grey white sky to the right of the point on the left, dark grey sky behind the slope of the cliff curving up opposite it
white-streaked chickadee across from finch
perched on half-empty feeder in left corner,
grey rain falling across circular green pine
behind it

Sidney Greenstreet telling Bogart
"I’m a man who likes talking to a man who likes
talking," who snaps back “now let’s talk about
the black bird”

line of black men in orange
shirts dancing in a circle counter clockwise,
hands clapping on the upbeat

Lily Briscoe
seeing a white wave pass across the window pane,
thinking “the problem might be solved after all”

angle of grey clouds slanting down to the right
across plane of ridge in left corner, circular
dark green shape of pine on point opposite it
light green leaves of new grass shoots coming up
below cypress tree, yellow orange light on ridge
fading as grey white cloud moves back in

White House spokesman noting nothing unusual was said
before plane crashed near JFK, pilots ditching
fuel into Jamaica Bay

woman with copper hair
next to piano noting Ruth Crawford Seeger died
of cancer at 51, who once wrote “when I sit by
the side of the blazing fire on a cold December
night”

Mrs. Ramsay’s death at last becoming
part of “ordinary experience,” Lily Briscoe
watching her cast “her shadow on the step”

film of white water on windswept grey plane
after wave breaks, drops splashing up on left
grey-white sky reflected in plane of wet bricks
in corner, bird slanting across glass back door
toward feeder on right
grey-haired man across
round table explaining physics of post and beam
construction, woman to his left not putting her
baby into Skinner box

Mary Shelley’s journal
noting birth of “female child not quite seven
months not expected to live,” in a few weeks
“finding my baby dead”

Lily Briscoe hardly
able to leave her easel, “so full her mind was
of what she was thinking”

shaft of sunlight
slanting through grey-white sky above right-
sloping shoulder of ridge on left, a gull
flapping across from point on the right
11.15

bird in vertical window slanting up to the right across dark green tobacco plant leaves, circular orange flower in corner of the green glass back door

man in a faded green sweatshirt talking about Emerson’s essay on “Representative Men,” spreading his arms as he walks toward lichen-covered gate

Secretary of Defense claiming appeasing Al Qaeda is like feeding an alligator hoping it will eat you last, bin Laden family’s interest in Disney and Snapple

Lily Briscoe “holding her brush to the edge of the lawn,” thinking of Mr. Ramsay still in boat

white water moving in across grey white plane at eye level, mist rising across wet slope of the cliff
11.16

curve of dark green tree in the lower left
corner of vertical grey-white plane of sky,
outline of bird taking off from the curved
copper bar above the feeder

    Rumsfeld noting

Afghanistan is a country of caves and tunnels,
General warning “the bombing will become more
and more and more focused”

    woman in pink wig

collapsing onto floor at stage left, Schubert’s
“Du bist der Ruh” moving forward toward sublime
close

    boy in boat looking at Mr. Ramsay, hand
hovering over the page “in readiness to turn it”

diagonal line of high thin white cloud slanting
up across pale blue sky in left corner, pelican
gliding above light green edge of breaking wave
sunlit lower edge of grey-white cloud in front of dark green plane of the ridge, bird landing on tobacco plant branch in left foreground man with melanoma still not strong enough to resume chemotherapy, physician not convinced benefits would be worth it

Keats on deathbed in Rome claiming that his “greatest pleasure had been watching the growth of flowers,” epitaph reading “one whose name is writ on water” wind blowing across Mr. Ramsay’s hair, making him appear “extraordinarily exposed to everything”

pattern of white birds flapping across sandstone-colored slope of cliff in left corner, the line of white water moving across toward it
light green of tobacco plant leaves in blue sky
in window above the unmade yellow and blue bed,
golden-crowned sparrow calling from the right foreground

Marilyn Monroe almost falling out
of evening dress in *The Asphalt Jungle*, wanting
to wear a green bathing suit on a beach in Cuba

Emerson wanting each man to ask of each object
what it means, claiming the physical world is
“purely symbolical”

boy seeing Mr. Ramsay’s head “now against the Lighthouse, now against
the waste of waters running away”

pale blue

white sky reflected in motion of the horizontal
grey plane below it, white curve of spray blown
back from top of wave breaking into left corner
pink orange light coming into a line of clouds below pale blue sky in the upper right corner, grey white plane of fog above the still dark ridge

Emerson claiming that the record is alive “as that which it recorded is alive,” Conrad adding that literature is always “symbolic”

man in black sweatshirt writing “sun shines its shine,” pointing out the value of things that are and the things that show it

Mr. Ramsay in the boat looking “like some old stone lying on the sand,” as if he had become the loneliness at the back of his mind

five pelicans gliding across plane of opaque green wave, grey white clouds in upper right corner
oval shape of the female golden-crowned sparrow standing on curved copper bar above the feeder in right foreground, white-streaked chickadee perched below it

Rumsfeld refusing to guess where Osama bin Laden might be hiding, Taliban leader Mohammed Omar believed to be in Kandahar

woman in Paris claiming Café de Flore has best hot chocolate, hoping that the war won’t last long

Mr. Ramsay reading quickly, lighthouse looming up above “the waves breaking in white splinters like smashed glass”

line of white water moving in across the opaque grey plane below point in left corner, grey white gull perched on triangular orange tip of GROIN sign
wet grid of brick-red plane in front of light green passion vine-covered fence in the left corner, cat walking across the black forest green glass back door

man in green shirt crouched below window seeing Leonid meteor streak across black night sky, Emerson claiming the sky is full of “tokens”

woman in pink wig feeling she’s been thrown from a tall building, pianist beginning second movement of Moonlight Sonata

boy noticing white on the lighthouse window, “a little tuft of green on the rock”

line of sunlight reflected in motion of grey plane in left foreground, plane of grey white clouds below pale blue sky in the right corner
grey white plane of sky above the horizontal
line of still dark ridge, large black bird
flapping across it

Secretary of Defense
claiming he would rather see Osama bin Laden
killed than captured alive, President promising
to keep fighting “until our victory is complete”

woman on radio noting woman in Connecticut dead
of inhalation anthrax at 94, doctor not knowing
whether her age was a factor

the boy looking
at his father “with his legs curled under him,”
the lighthouse “a stark tower on a bare rock”

drop pattern of drops splashing up from red brown
plane in left foreground, the bird flapping
across dark green pine at tip of the point
11.23

motion of flat grey plane below pink of diagonal white cloud, line of the cypress branch slanting up toward it

                      man in heather green shirt noting iridescent green throat of hummingbird hovering above flower in left foreground, wind bending eucalyptus branches in blue of sky above it

                      man in red brown shirt recalling fireflies lighting up valley in Bali, dancer’s arms positioned in front of gamelan

                      Mr. Ramsay still reading in the boat, “holding his little mottled book firmly in front of him”

                      sunlit

                      edge of grey white plane of cloud below pale blue sky in upper left corner, a white bird crossing in front of wet cliff opposite it
grey white cloud hanging in black forest green
canyon of ridge in window opposite the unmade
yellow and blue bed, bird landing on tobacco
plant branch in window above it

man in red

sweatsuit asking if man in black shirt gets C-span, reporter claiming the Taliban’s question
isn’t whether to surrender but to whom

woman

at end of table noting female tick needs blood
meal before she can reproduce, Koran’s command
to “kill the infidel wherever you may find him”

girl “tired of looking at sea,” the fish “dead
in the bottom of the boat”

oval blue opening

in grey white plane of sky, thickness of white
water moving in across the celadon green plane
condensation inside the vertical window beyond which green plane of passion vine-covered fence, birds scattering from feeder in the right corner
man in passenger seat of grey car noting a line of white birds slanting across plane of lagoon, circle of sun through edge of flat grey cloud above it
monk in Blue Cliff Record asking about enlightenment, Chao Chao pointing out cypress tree in the courtyard
girl in boat looking across at distant island, so small “it scarcely looked like a leaf”
curve of rainbow in white spray blown back from wave breaking into channel, surface of grey white cloud towering into bright blue sky above it
yellow light coming into grey white plane of sky
above upturned pine branch in left corner, shape
of backlit tobacco plant leaf on right

Brando

watching a pigeon fly toward Eva Marie Saint’s
building followed by silhouette of man’s body
falling from the roof, later noting “I could
have been somebody instead of a bum”

girl

getting into fight with man in back of cab,
small fast sketches of buildings at the Whitney
girl in boat falling asleep, lighthouse looking
“like the top of a rock which some wave bigger
than all the rest would cover”

grey white

lines of clouds to the left of the point, wet
slope of the sandstone-colored cliff opposite it
11.27

circular orange disk of sun through bamboo thicket in right foreground, line of white clouds in blue sky at the top of the ridge

Secretary of Defense claiming that 500 marines “is not an occupying force,” Boing giving pink slips to 2900 employees

musicologist noting preceding analysis demonstrates the rhythmic hierarchy “attributable to mensural music,” which may be connected to the downbeat

boy watching Mr. Ramsay “slice his cheese into thin yellow sheets with his penknife,” girl thinking “whatever I like”

lines of thin white clouds in pale blue sky above the point on the right, light green edge of a wave breaking below it
11.28

bright pink light coming into plane of low grey clouds above right-sloping shoulder of ridge, motion of tobacco plant leaves in the left foreground

man with shaved head in red hat noticing offshore island as close as his hand, silver width of sun’s reflection off flat blue plane of sea

George Bush warning that the war on terrorists is just beginning, Orwell calling Kipling a “jingoistic imperialist”

Mr. Ramsay “suddenly shutting his book,” the girl thinking that her father is there “keeping his eye on me”

line of ridge below pale blue plane of the sky in the upper left corner, a small white bird flapping across from the point opposite it
grey white cloud hanging in black forest green
canyon of ridge on the left, a white-streaked
crackadee landing on curved copper bar above
feeder in right foreground

woman with bandaged
right hand walking across hills to stop the tape
loop in her head, looking out across blue space
toward the distant triangular island

Keats
interrupting unfinished poem on the word
"celestial," the unseen bird whose sound
disappears "over the still stream"

Mr. Ramsay
looking at his watch "attentively," thinking
about the water "at the depths of the sea"

lines of grey white clouds above point on right,
line of pink orange sky on the opposite horizon
11.30

line of high thin white clouds slanting across
pale blue white sky in the upper right corner,
shadow of bird slanting down through tobacco
plant leaves below it

man in Moscow noting
small white bird flapping in from across point
is “samadhi,” man in a black wetsuit who notices
it is “in it”

woman on radio thinking of birds
as flying dinosaurs, the man adding there’s only
a small amount of old-growth forest left

girl
in boat noting a row of rocks on the left, boy
with hand on the tiller “sitting bolt upright”

horizontal line of pale blue sky in grey white
cloud above the point on the right, white gull
perched on triangular orange tip of GROIN sign
wind-driven grey white clouds moving across
invisible ridge in window on left, red finch
perched on the feeder in the right foreground

Frank Sinatra calling “Something” the greatest
love song ever written, George Harrison singing
“while my guitar gently weeps”

man in Fresno
asking in Cockney accent “how to loosen a jar
from the nose of a bear,” noting the gamelan
ensemble was high point of camp fire

water

next to rocks becoming thinned and greener, girl
hearing “the patter of falling drops”

blinding

line of sun’s reflection on the horizontal white
plane after a wave breaks, a small white bird
moving below pale blue sky in right corner
film of grey white cloud hanging into tree-lined canyon of ridge, edge of circular orange flower on green of passion vine-covered fence in left foreground

short-haired girl on the phone calling to say father of one year old child killed by a hit-run driver, people standing around in street not knowing what happened

man in black tee-shirt noting dimension and weight of hills in the middle distance, flesh tone extending into the foreground

Mr. Ramsay "looking back at the island," girl wondering "what could he see"

line after line of white water moving in across the windblown grey plane, wet slope of sandstone-colored cliff on the left
12.3

gle of the green tobacco plant branch slanted
to the left in front of bamboo thicket, the jet
passing across grey white clouds overhead

man

standing at glass back door watching a cat leap
from corner below birdbath, the finch flitting
toward hemlock stalk behind feeder

silver-haired man on the phone asking about broken
mirror on grey car, suggesting man in black
sweatshirt apply latex caulk to crack in stucco
wall

the girl in the boat for whom everything
is a blur, the boy watching Mr. Ramsay “staring
at the frail blue shape”

white body of gull

banking across windblown face of wave, blue
wedge of sky in grey white cloud above it
12.4

condensation on the window opposite pink orange light on wall above the unmade yellow and blue bed, the plane of the still dark ridge across from it

woman on radio claiming Taliban Minister of Culture went from room to room smashing images of the human body into dust, 70,000 pieces of Afghan art missing

silver-haired man walking down ramp from post office toward blue truck, noting his box number is 59 rather than 60

Mr. Ramsay perhaps thinking “I have reached it,” saying nothing

almost full circle of waning white moon in pale blue sky above cliff on the left, white gull gliding across horizontal edge of approaching wave
12.5

angle of wet brick grid slanting from green
glass back door to lighter green of passion
vine-covered fence in left foreground, grey
white cloud in front of the invisible ridge
above it

    man with tattoos on left forearm
interrupting himself in German, Japanese flying
from woman’s mouth

    woman in long maroon dress
noting that Bach’s Toccatas are improvisatory,
left hand hanging above keyboard until note
stops

    Mr. Ramsay standing up in bow of boat,
girl thinking “as if he were leaping into space”

horizontal line of grey white cloud behind green
pine on tip of point, whiteness of gull gliding
toward right-sloping shoulder of ridge on left
song sparrow calling from corner below window
opposite the unmade yellow and blue bed, grey
white wall of cloud in front of the invisible
ridge

red-haired woman on phone noting Route 66 ends in a field outside Santa Fe, physicists
hired by the bank to crunch numbers

John Wayne
telling Sinatra’s ex-wife not to go downstairs
“wearing those things,” her not believing he
would ever say he loved her

Lily Briscoe
“feeling suddenly completely tired out,”
lighthouse having “melted away into a blue haze”

angle of point sloping to the left through grey
white fog in right corner, a flock of small
white birds rising and falling toward it
film of high thin white clouds in pale blue sky
above sunlit plane of ridge, the red-breasted
male finch perched on the curved copper bar
above feeder in right corner

journalist
reporting his greatest feat was leaving
Afghanistan, recalling “a crackle of gunfire
from the prisoners’ side”

President authorized
to use all military force against perpetrators
of 9.11, Senator Feinstein following Senator
Kennedy’s line of questions

Lily Briscoe
thinking of Mr. Ramsay “landing there,”
lighthouse becoming “almost invisible”

small

white birds flapping in across grey white sky
from point, white wave breaking into channel
motion of tobacco plant leaves in lower right corner, pale orange light in green of cypress branches to the left of green glass back door

man with three steel pins in his spine noting tseetsee of invisible warbler in a tree behind him, dorsal fin of a harbor porpoise two miles out

man in red jacket looking at small white bird flapping across opaque green plane below edge of cliff, line of white water moving in across it

Mr. Carmichael "shading his eyes with his hands," saying "they will have landed"

lines of grey white clouds behind circular green pine at tip of point, half circle of white moon hanging in pale blue plane of the sky above it
sunlit edge of grey white cloud moving across
pale blue sky in upper right corner, sweptback
wingspan of jet disappearing into the grey wall
of cloud below it

woman with long black braids
reporting the toxicity of asbestos after attack,
man in corner claiming Coors in cans isn’t bad
after the first sip

FBI compiling a thousand
pages on Sinatra’s connection to the mob, blond
woman with hair pulled back wanting short-haired
girl to make “a moral decision”

Mr. Carmichael
surveying “their final destiny,” answering Lily
Briscoe “without her asking him anything”

sun
reflecting off water’s surface, birds circling
above the sandstone-colored cliff opposite it
12.10

pink light coming into line of horizontal grey
cloud in blue white sky above ridge, upturned
curve of still dark pine branch in the right
foreground

man on phone waking up to read
Magic Mountain in the middle of the night,
waning quarter moon coming up followed by a few
cold drops

fisherman in grey truck recalling
crab traps stacked above a blocked bilge pump,
green wave pouring over cabin

Lily Briscoe

turning to look at her canvas “with all its
greens and blues,” thinking about “its attempt
at something”

shaft of sunlight slanting down
to the right from dark grey cloud, horizontal
line of pale blue white sky in right corner
condensation on plane of window to the left through which horizontal line at top of ridge, line of fading white jet trail in pale blue sky above it

the short-haired girl on the phone about to descend into the subway in Harlem, claiming all her friends have moved away

Afghan poet accompanied on two-string guitar singing “you sent me 330 kisses,” man entering Betty Ford Clinic not allowed to have contact with women

Lily Briscoe looking at canvas blurred, “laying down her brush in extreme fatigue”

yellow orange circle of low sun behind a line of grey white cloud, upturned curve of waning moon in blue of sky above it
pink light coming into line of thin white cloud in pale blue sky above ridge, bird slanting up from lower left corner of the window opposite the unmade yellow and blue bed

Sissy Spacek soaping herself in the opening scene of Carrie, her husband telling her to think of getting hit by a truck

Itzhak Perlman claiming that no two violinists make the same sound, Yehudi Menuhin adding that virtuosity destroys itself

Mrs. Ramsay’s child “impeccably candid and pure,” Mr. Ramsay standing there “lean as a knife”

blinding silver line of sunlight reflected across the motion of green plane, thin white cloud in pale blue sky above shoulder of ridge
film of white clouds tilting across pale blue sky above ridge in left corner, a white stripe around the grey rock on the window sill in left foreground

man standing at the glass back door watching sparrow hop across the brick-red plane, circular pink rose to the right of a chickadee flitting up to feeder

woman on phone noting blond woman who talks like Marjorie Perloff, bearded man at green front door recalling avocado tree in the backyard

the father who

"never tampered with a fact," the boy seeing him

"narrow his little blue eyes upon the horizon"

mist on the horizon below shoulder of ridge, bird slanting across green plane above it
sunlit brightness of thin grey sky flickering through green leaves of bamboo thicket, wind moving the lighter green of tobacco plant’s leaves in left foreground

woman in black sweater recalling her house on the saddest street in the United States, shoulder-high snowdrifts and the sky a foot above it

Cary Grant in North By Northwest claiming he can’t die, two ex-wives and a couple of bartenders still depending on him

Mrs. Ramsay imagining man at the lighthouse, who sees “the same dreary waves breaking week after week”

wedge of pale blue sky opening in grey white clouds, pelican gliding above the flat grey plane on the left
low plane of pink grey cloud in pale blue sky
above right-sloping shoulder of ridge in left corner, wingspan of a large dark bird gliding across it

woman on the phone walking a blind woman to the airport curbside check-in, woman with hair pulled back giving birth to a baby girl

Sinatra in an orange V-neck sweater walking toward blond woman on couch, Angie Dickinson’s “the only husband in the world who’d proposition his own wife”

Mr. Tansley claiming the lighthouse is due west, bony fingers spread “so that the wind blew through them”

pelican circling below thin white clouds in pale blue sky, green edge of approaching wave below it
horizontal line of green tree-lined top of ridge below plane of grey white clouds in upper left corner, the light green passion vine-covered fence in the foreground

man in green shirt waking from a dream of blond woman with hair pulled back taking a blue pill before the party, no one there when she walks in so she walks out

the short-haired girl walking around on Houston Street in the middle of the night, cell phone that keeps cutting out

Mrs. Ramsay asking people to stay, “the whole of the other sex under her protection”

line of the low sun reflected off the opaque grey plane, parallel lines of grey white clouds above plane of ridge
grey white plane of sky in the window opposite
the unmade yellow and blue bed, shape of dark
green trees at the far end of the horizontal
plane of the field below it

man in Florida
taking a garden hose to the car in the garage,
the woman who can’t sleep fixing a cup of warm milk

General Tommy Franks claiming “you don’t
know what you don’t know,” George Bush adding
“we’ll get him dead or alive”

Mrs. Ramsay
looking in mirror at grey hair and sunken
cheeks, girl at table questioning “ringed
fingers and lace”

line of grey white clouds
behind green pine at tip of point, small white
bird circling in front of the ridge opposite it
pink light fading from the horizontal grey plane of clouds in pale blue sky above line of ridge, circular orange brightness of the sun rising through branches in lower right foreground

woman on second floor recalling lightning bouncing back and forth across rock walls, hummingbird in relation to shapes of climbers

man on the phone noting a rufous-sided towhee smashing into sliding glass door on deck, neck snapped

Mr. Tansley at the window next to her husband, Mrs. Ramsay wishing they would both go away

film of white cloud slanting diagonally across dark green canyon of ridge, horizontal wedge of pale blue sky in upper right corner
upturned curve of dark green pine branch above
almost empty column of feeder in lower right
foreground, the lighter green passion vine-
covered fence to the left of it

man on radio

claiming that all references to the Ur-Hamlet
are “derogatory,” entrance of Ghost usurping
Bernardo’s elegant syntax

woman on second

floor whose Mandarin is limited to 8 words,
early mackerel sky now blurred

Mrs. Ramsay

walking out of the room holding the boy’s hand,
thinking “insoluble questions”

diagonal line

of shadow slanting down to the right into dark
green canyon of ridge, line of sun reflecting
across opaque green plane in left foreground
triangular film of grey white cloud drifting across green canyon of ridge in left corner, upstairs window blowing shut

man in black jacket at the glass back door listening to sound of a helicopter landing at the firehouse, bird disappearing into cypress tree on left

FBI mole filming himself having sex with his wife, friend watching it on closed-circuit television in adjacent room

Mr. Carmichael’s yellow eyes revealing “no emotion whatsoever,” Mrs. Ramsay moving “as if she were going to meet some one round the corner”

horizontal lines of grey white cloud above green pine on tip of point, whiteness of gull standing on the GROIN sign
12.21

horizontal line of grey white cloud above sunlit slope of ridge on left, motion of green tobacco plant leaves as wind passes through foreground

long-haired man taking hormones prior to sex change operation, woman on phone urging him “keep the penis”

man on radio calling Die Valkerie a hydroelectric powerhouse, Boulez keeping the orchestra fluid and transparent

Mr. Tansley wanting to carry Mrs. Ramsay’s little bag, feeling something that “disturbed him for reasons he could not give”

white water moving in across the chaos of the windswept grey plane after the wave breaks, a faint blue patch opening in dark grey cloud above point on left
condensation on the window in front of the green plane of the ridge below flat grey sky, orange flower in rosebush to the right of the glass back door

woman in dream standing on ladder watching clear glass bowl falling toward floor, throwing the broken pieces away so the children won’t get hurt

short-haired girl in blue grey sweater recalling walking into psychiatrist’s office, who yells at her for not giving her father the green chair

Mrs. Ramsay noting lighthouse in the middle of a “plateful of blue water,” sand dunes “running away into some moon country”

pelican flapping above the grey face of the wave, motionless grey white sky above it
light blue opening in grey white plane of clouds above the back door, sweptback wingspan of jet passing below it

man in green shirt waking from dream of naked father walking into room with a surgically-attached second penis, who says he is going to stand for a rest

woman standing at harpsichord noting G-Major Preludium starts with same notes as G-Minor, an anonymous version of Dowland’s “Can She Excuse My Wrongs”

Mrs. Ramsay looking at the man in a Panama hat and yellow boots, who dips “his brush in some soft mound of green or pink”

horizontal film of grey white cloud in front of ridge on left, wet slope of the sandstone cliff opposite it
pink coming into high thin white clouds in pale blue sky above still shadowed ridge on the left, wingspan of a large dark bird circling below it

short-haired girl in grenadine lipstick getting into passenger seat of grey car, woman on front porch of white house calling man in black jeans her disciplinarian

man with grey braid noting black bill and yellow feet of snowy egret, white egret’s yellow bill and black feet

Mrs. Ramsay standing “quite motionless,” Mr. Tansley calling her “the most beautiful person he had ever seen”

thin blue line of sky in the grey white cloud behind circular green pine on tip of point, shaft of sunlight slanting to the right
sunlit green curve of a pine branch behind white
slats of window in upper right foreground, sound
of invisible wave breaking across the blue plane

man in green shirt waking from dream of sunlight
slanting across three pine trunks on a hillside,
blond woman in a single bed opposite him

man

on radio noting the action in Hamlet includes
jumping in the grave of a suicidal mad woman,
close-up camera on Glenn Close figuring out
where the poison comes from

Mrs. Ramsay

"holding her parasol erect," Mr. Tansley
thinking of her "with stars in her eyes"

white

spray blown back from wave breaking on the left,
white line of a jet trail in the blue above it
pink orange light in the grey plane of clouds
above the motionless grey white plane in lower
right corner, the small white bird disappearing
across it

  man in the dark blue V-neck sweater
looking down at green forest of trees in canyon
below him, sound of an invisible stream rising
through it

  Yehudi Menuhin noting “the great
violinist controls the vibrato,” adding that
“there comes a time when virtuosity becomes
destructive”

  Mrs. Ramsay “smoothing the little
boy’s hair,” Mr. Tansley at the window softening
his voice

  wall of white water moving in across
the celadon green plane, horizontal band of grey
white clouds above tree-lined ridge on the right
triangular edge of cloud slanting into dark
green tree-lined canyon of ridge on the left,
grey white plane of the sky tilting toward it

man in red knee-socks recalling leaning across
balcony railing at La Scala in Milan, carpenter
in the wings fixing the bridge in the second act
of Turandot

man at the piano moving from 32nd
to 64th notes, grey white cloud above the blue
grey plane on the right

Mrs. Ramsay hearing

"the monotonous fall of the waves on the beach,"
"whose day had slipped past in one quick doing
after another"

rainbow in the curve of white
spray blown back from grey green wave breaking
on right, plane of mottled grey cloud above it
condensation on the window in front of the grey green plane of the ridge in left corner, drops falling onto grid of red bricks in foreground below it

short-haired girl in flesh-colored top looking down at pale green canyon slanting across ridge, a line of white water on the flat grey plane to the left of the point

the blond woman who is suddenly “showing,” which means she will always get a seat on the bus

Mrs. Ramsay “looking down at the book on her knee,” Lily Briscoe “standing on the edge of the lawn painting”

wall of white water moving across the opaque grey green plane in right corner, slope of sandstone-colored cliff above it
12.29

pattern of small dark birds lifting and falling across grey white cloud in front of ridge, new green shoots curling up from the passion vine-covered fence below it

man in jet arrested with plastic explosives in shoe, journalist claiming it could have blown a hole in the plane

Bush promising to let General Tommy Franks speak for himself, adding “I don’t spend a lot of time looking in the mirror”

Lily Briscoe looking at color of wall and jacmanna beyond it, unwilling to change “bright violet and the staring white”

film of grey rain cloud lowering across dark green plane of ridge on left, circles of rain drops splashing into brown plane in foreground
vertical wet black trunk below angle of branch
against grey white sky in upper right corner,
sounds of birds chirping in the foreground

short-haired girl on phone wanting to get
photographer a bottle of red wine, woman
announcing they aren’t going to the party
because of the traffic

white line slanting
across black and white screen, Sinatra stepping
off bus at start of *The Man with the Golden Arm*

Lily Briscoe looking across at “rooks dropping
cool cries from the high blue,” wanting to say
“but this is what I see”

a small white bird
flapping across green plane of ridge on left,
edge of grey white cloud slanting toward it
width of fog at far end of the motionless grey plane, white circle of full moon in pale blue sky above it

    woman in black sweater asking whether van Gogh carried wet paintings back across the field to his bedroom, whose bed isn’t actually orange

    short-haired girl in the blue sweater wanting to go to Berlin for excitement, the man across the table reminding her to see Nefertiti

    William Bankes walking in garden beside Lily Briscoe, who notices “the house starred in its greenery with purple passion flowers”

    white water moving in across grey green plane in the foreground, horizontal line of dark grey cloud above green pine on the point
1.1

grey white cloud hanging in front of invisible ridge on left, motion of green tobacco plant leaves as wind moves across the lower left foreground

short-haired girl in grey car wanting man in black jacket not to ask to see her, Eudora Welty noting why she lives at the PO

pianist lying on floor beside grey couch, purple letters on the white page reading “Tora Bora red river moon”

Lily Briscoe thinking how distant views seem to outlast the viewer, how a “pulse of color flooded the bay with blue”

white circle of waning full moon falling behind horizontal cloud above tip of point, celadon green face of an approaching wave in foreground
1.2

white-streaked chickadee landing on curved
copper bar above feeder in right foreground,
grey white cloud in front of invisible ridge
beyond it

woman from East Setauket on phone
claiming man in white cloth hat ran into short-haired girl on the beach, who told man in black
sweatshirt she spent the day in bed

Picasso’s
odalisque echoing Matisse’s painting of a woman
in Nice, Matisse noting “I haven’t seen Picasso
for years”

William Bankes noticing “the far
sand hills, thinking of Mr. Ramsay “striding
along a road by himself”

grey white cloud

hanging against dark green canyon of ridge,
small white birds gliding across below it
1.3

pale blue sky above plane of ridge in the window
opposite the unmade yellow and blue bed, shadows
of tobacco plant leaves on white wall next to it

Francois Gilot noticing the black in Matisse’s
painting “was the pitch to which all else was
attuned,” Picasso claiming “this is the only
reason Matisse is Matisse”

Morton Feldman

studying Rembrandt’s self-portrait, wanting
music whose “aural dimension is obliterated”

Mr. Ramsay living “in a welter of children,“
William Bankes still “childless and a widower”

lines of white water moving across the windblown
brown plane, white underside of the gull gliding
across slope of sandstone-colored cliff above it
1.4

film of high thin white clouds in pale blue sky
above plane of still shadowed ridge on the left,
silhouette of two birds on tobacco plant branch
in right foreground

woman from East Setauket
flying over the WTC one week before terrorist
attack, which is so beautiful she thinks she
must get over fear of flying

man in white
cloth hat imagining plane coming down through
slats of Venetian blinds, the woman whose torso
is a building

William Bankes “turning to walk
the other way,” his friendship to Ramsay “lying
with the red on its lips”

silver glare of low
sunlight on white water after wave breaks, grey
white cloud below pale green plane of the ridge
bright orange circle of sun rising through green tobacco plant leaves in foreground, horizontal grey white cloud above the plane of the tree-lined ridge

man looking at David's Marat wondering why he the left upper half empty, pointing out "blood on a bone handle looks one way"

Pollock wanting the canvas on the floor so he can get closer to the painting, adding "sometimes I pour the paint out of the can"

William Bankes admitting Mr. Ramsay's children "gave him something," wondering "what did Lily Briscoe think"

horizontal line of grey white cloud above circular green pine on point, gull perched on triangular orange tip of GROIN sign
1.6

horizontal width of grey white fog above dark
green plane of ridge on the left, red-breasted
finch perched on curved copper bar above feeder
in lower right corner

woman from East Setauket
not being asked for picture ID at Kennedy,
cherry-cheeked boys with machine guns not
checking her nail clipper

woman on phone
writing a detective novel under a pseudonym,
hoping she hasn’t shot herself in foot

Mr. Ramsay’s work on “subject and object,” Lily
Briscoe focusing on “this seeing of angular
essences”

line of copper sky on horizon
opening in grey white clouds, silver drops
splashing up from plane in right foreground
1.7

flat grey white light coming into the sky
through vertical window opposite the unmade
yellow and blue bed, shape of circular green
pine in lower left corner

shaved-headed man
with walking pneumonia knocking at green front
door, whose doctor reports he’s got mold spores
in his blood stream

man in red truck claiming
Morton Feldman wanted music to compose itself,
Walter Benjamin thinking that a work of art
looks back at the viewer

William Bankes
“pausing by the pear tree,” Lily Briscoe
focusing on “the silver-bossed bark of the tree”

curve of dark grey cloud above tree-lined ridge
on left, line of sunlit white cloud opposite it
sunlit grey white cloud above the upturned curve of the pine branch in right corner, red-breasted male finch landing on half-empty feeder below it

woman in dark glasses not wanting to talk to man in red jacket at the post office, suggesting he send a letter to short-haired girl in New York

journalist claiming pursuit of Osama might be like Israel’s 20-year hunt for Adolph Eichmann, Bush announcing “I have no problem figuring out how to win the war”

Lily Briscoe’s own voice saying “contradictory things,” William Bankes objecting to dogs on chairs

grey white fog hanging across circular green pine on point, white underside of gull disappearing toward it
horizontal lines of low thin white clouds moving across pale blue sky, invisible bird chirping from lower right foreground

man on phone

noting El Greco used forms that synthesized Byzantine and European conventions, pointing out how “he impressed his fingerprints on the tips of the Virgin Mary’s fingers”

General Tommy Franks wanting to know the depth of terrorist cells, adding that “Al Qaeda is up to their ears in this”

Lily Briscoe “following the scatter of swift-flying birds,” Mr. Ramsay’s eyes “glazed over with emotion”

small white birds gliding across green slope of cliff on left, white water moving across the grey plane
condensation on the window in front of pale blue sky above plane of the still dark ridge, yellow orange brightness of sun rising through bamboo thicket on right

blond woman in grey V-neck sweater walking toward the glass back door, right hand held in front of her pudendum

shaved-headed man in bath talking to flush-cheeked woman across from him, who walks out driveway gate wearing ring on chain around her neck

Mrs. Ramsay “raising her eyes to glance at William Bankes,” Lily Briscoe “looking uneasily up into the sky”

high thin white clouds curving across pale blue sky in right corner, whiteness of a gull circling below it
shadows of tobacco plant leaves moving across sunlit white wall on left, actual green leaves moving against pale blue sky in window opposite it

woman in dark glasses with hair pulled back watching baby in pink jumpsuit crawl across sand toward edge of water, man in the blue and white tee-shirt walking toward her

man on the radio noting half of all marriages end up in divorce, the woman asking “why don’t I have compassion for myself”

Mrs. Ramsay looking from boy’s sock to chairs and table in the room, asking “was it too short”

blinding glare of low sun reflecting off white plane after the wave breaks, green wall of swell on right
1.12

triangular wedge of grey white cloud in pale blue sky above plane of ridge, white-streaked chickadee perched on feeder in left foreground

woman in blue and red skirt standing at corner of upstairs room, who insists “one is knowing more and more about oneself”

woman on left remembering lines on the wall of a building somewhere in Berlin, architect next to her talking about man who raises deer in New Zealand

Mrs. Ramsay “taking in the whole room from floor to ceiling,” the girl from Switzerland thinking “the mountains are so beautiful”

white spray blown back from green wave breaking on right, thin white cloud in pale blue sky above it
1.13

upturned curve of pine branch against vertical gray plane of sky in right corner, small white clouds moving across pale blue sky opposite it

Frank Stella wanting his painting to look good next to a Rothko, recalling “I didn’t have much time to get drunk”

man in the white cloth hat across the table recalling photograph of a man looking up at falling building, mouth gasping but hand not over it

Mrs. Ramsay thinking about a bird in flight, noticing how “its plumage changes from bright steel to soft purple”

rainbow in the curve of white spray blown back from opaque green wave on the left, slope of the sandstone-colored cliff above it
1.14

pink orange light at the edge of the dark gray
cloud to the left of cypress branch in lower
right corner, width of fog above the still
shadowed ridge

woman from East Setauket
calling to say man in white cloth hat has fallen
on the rocks, two broken ribs and blood in urine

dark-haired woman in a red jacket whose bracelet
is attached with magnets, man in blue corduroy
shirt noting there’s never an end to subject
matter

Mrs. Ramsay not speaking, William
Bankes moved “by her voice on the telephone”

line of white water at the edge of opaque gray
green plane in right corner, shaft of sunlight
slanting down from plane of clouds on the left
faint gray light coming into sky in rectangular window opposite the unmade yellow and blue bed, horizontal plane of still dark ridge below it
driver in gray car looking down at flat blue plane in the right corner, Vivaldi’s Concerto for Four Violins approaching last note short-haired girl on cell phone walking east across Park Slope, recalling the woman from Estonia looking across Berlin wall

William Bankes thinking “he would catch the 10:30 at Euston,” Mrs. Ramsay telling him “a fact about a train”
silver glare of sun’s reflection on the nearly motionless plane in lower left foreground, line of sunlit green wave approaching in right corner
1.16

film of condensation on the inside of the window in front of pale blue sky above plane of ridge, sunlit green of tobacco plant leaves in left foreground

man on radio noting bin Laden’s tape “was a piece of theater,” Bush claiming “this war is one for the textbooks”

short-haired girl on cell phone flying to Berlin, painting against the concrete wall called President Positive

Mrs. Ramsay giving meaning to words “which she had held meaningless in her mind for a long time,” her green shawl “tossed over the edge of the frame”

circular green pine against blue sky above point on right, whiteness of gull standing on GROIN sign
1.17

small grey cloud moving across blue white sky
above the still dark ridge, sweptback wingspan
of jet disappearing in upper left corner

man

in pale green sweatshirt stopped in the maroon
car in front of the post office, great white
shark coming up to board towed behind boat

Secretary of Defense pointing to the links
between Al Qaeda and the Philippines, Attorney
General claiming Americans must continue to be
vigilant

Mr. Ramsay thinking himself "fierce
as a hawk at the head of his men," Mrs. Ramsay
noting the boy’s "splendid forehead"

pale blue

sky reflected in opaque green wave approaching
on right, tree-lined plane of ridge above it
shadows of tobacco plant leaves on pink orange wall to the left of the unmade yellow and blue bed, whiteness of frost on red roof in window behind it

man on radio claiming we dropped thousands of tons of depleted uranium on Iran, pregnant woman told that her baby will be born without a brain

man in blue shirt playing CD of Walt Whitman reading 34 seconds of “America,” whom he calls a “Mother chaired in the adamant of Time”

Mrs. Ramsay “trying to get these tiresome stockings finished,” Mr. Ramsay tickling “his youngest son’s bare leg”

shape of grey white cloud on the horizon, pale blue curve of sky reflected in the plane below it
silver of sun rising through motion of green leaves in bamboo thicket, rufous-sided towhee disappearing from branch in upper right corner

man in hooded black wetsuit about to carve back up the face of the wave, the second white board popping up into his right shoulder

man in red jacket stopping on green bike at the overlook, upturned curve of new moon in blue grey sky above point in right foreground

Mrs. Ramsay "dazed and blinded," often feeling "she was nothing but a sponge sopped full of human emotions"

rainbow in curve of white spray blown back from wave breaking in lower right corner, the green plane of the ridge above it
1.20

line of low thin white cloud in pale blue sky
above the still shadowed plane of the ridge,
crow flapping across to the left above it

woman from East Setauket asking man in black
sweatshirt to bring soup bowls for the salt cod,
ever having had such an intimate relationship
with what she cooked

man in white cloth hat
feeling a draft when he sits at rectangular
table on right, man in gray sweater going
outside for a smoke

Mr. Ramsay looking “at his
wife and son,” evening air “taking the substance
from the leaves and hedges”

gray white clouds
in pale blue sky on the horizon, gull flapping
across face of green wave in right foreground
yellow orange circle of sun in tobacco plant leaves and branches in lower right foreground, film of gray white cloud in front of the ridge on the left

  man in white cloth hat putting on a pair of silver dark glasses, the silver-haired woman across the room claiming quail love curly kale

  man in black tee-shirt looking at words scrawled in a rectangular box, the first line reading "'Nature poetry' is boring"

  Mr. Ramsay thinking "like the keyboard of a piano," noting "confirmation of something on the printed page"

line of high thin white cloud in pale blue sky above point on left, wall of white water moving in across the blue green plane in the foreground
horizontal line of pink cloud in pale blue sky above plane of the still dark of ridge, red-breasted finch perched on feeder in left foreground

boy on phone calling to ask if man in blue tee-shirt is watching TV, man in white tee-shirt asking “will I see a wave as big as this again”

man in a blue green sweatshirt standing at the green front door, recalling man in Canada setting off an avalanche

Mr. Ramsay

thinking of the letter R, knocking out his pipe “with two or three resonant taps on the handle of the urn”

triangular wedge of gray cloud hanging in canyon of ridge on right, drops falling onto opaque green plane below it
1.23

yellow orange clouds through leaves in window
above the unmade yellow and blue bed, unseen
song sparrow calling from lower left corner

man at green table remembering Dickinson’s poem
about light, which capitalizes “Slant” in first
line

man in red jacket looking at the sunlit
green line of the ridge sloping to the right,
shadow of ridge opposite it

Mr. Ramsay
“trying to the end to pierce the darkness,”
thinking “he must lay himself down and die
before morning”

line of small white cloud
hanging in pale blue sky above right-sloping
shoulder of ridge on left, glare of low sun’s
reflection on nearly motionless plane below it
1.24

line of pink cloud slanting across pale blue sky
toward shoulder of ridge in upper left corner,
white-streaked chickadee landing on curved
copper bar above the feeder

blond woman
calling to ask how to take sliding glass door
out of its frame, the boy in red and white shoes
walking in front gate

roof line of a building

inspired by curves in Vermeer’s woman’s shawl,
architect seeing it in relation to a bridge

Mr. Ramsay next to the urn “with the geranium
flowing over it,” thinking to himself “what are
two thousand years”

wall of swell moving in
across the opaque green plane in the right
foreground, cloudless blue sky above it
streaks of gray white cloud above the tree-lined top of the still dark ridge, silhouette of bird on tobacco plant branch in front of the yellow orange glow of clouds in right corner

woman thinking of herself as a “piebald dark blond with reddish streaks,” man walking into room mistaking the short-haired woman for her man

in white tee-shirt shoveling rocks into the blue wheelbarrow, blond boy at the edge of the bricks watching him

Mr. Ramsay stopping by the window to gaze at his wife and son, the boy hating him “for coming up to them”

white line of jet’s trail crossing pale blue sky in upper right corner, green canyon of ridge opposite it
motionless flat gray plane below gray white sky
in the upper right corner, film of light rain
falling across green cypress tree in window
opposite it

woman on radio noting Enron executive found dead in a car in Houston,
apparent victim of self-inflicted gunshot wound

red-haired woman planning to chainsaw pine tree
in driveway, looking forward to a small scotch
before large one when she gets home

the boy

“pointing his finger at a word,” Mrs. Ramsay looking “as if all her energies were being fused into force”

horizontal line of pale blue sky
in gray white cloud above point on right,
cormorant flapping across toward it
line of thin grey-white cloud in pale blue sky paralle to horizon in the window on the right, motion of grey-blue plane in foreground below it

Bogart in *The Big Sleep* announcing that he likes his brandy in a glass, Lauren Bacall lifting her black and white checkered skirt above her left knee

man in the bedroom scratching out Old Black Joe on a violin made in London in 1770, who claims he has developed a nascent vibrato

Mrs. Ramsay “flashing her needles,” Mr. Ramsay “never taking his eyes from her face”

white wall of water moving in across celadon green plane in right foreground, pattern of birds circling against gray white cloud above it
1.28

pink edge of white cloud in pale blue sky above
snow-tipped top of ridge in left corner, rufous-
sided towhee flitting from rose to feeder below it

blond woman whose interior tectonic plates
are shifting, thinking there are never too many
pink clouds or pale blue skies

man in blue hat

noting white circle of almost full moon rising
above plane of the ridge, the planet in gray
white sky to the right of it

Mrs. Ramsay

starting “to fold herself together,” boy
standing “stiff between her knees”

diagonal

line of low gray white clouds above tree-lined
point on right, curve of white spray blown back
from celadon green wave breaking in right corner
1.29

tobacco plant leaves moving against gray white sky in window above the unmade yellow and blue bed, whiteness of red roof in window behind it

woman on phone noting the man with melanoma is beginning to experience liver failure, buildup of fluids where they don’t belong

man in tweed jacket noting Schoenberg’s name spelled with oe rather than umlaut, pianist playing his colors of summer on water

Mrs. Ramsay having “only strength enough to move her finger,” Mr. Ramsay feeling solace which two notes “give each other as they combine”

width of gray white clouds above the flat gray plane, triangular white wedge of snow on top of ridge opposite it
1.30

shadows of tobacco plant leaves across wet brick plane in lower right corner, sweptback wingspan of a jet passing through cloudless bright blue sky

woman in a black scarf standing in front of the fireplace, who thinks she is “wafted by my desire to talk to you”

blond woman across the room asking if the sound can be turned up,
girl noticing man in the blue shirt knocking over drink in cup

Mrs. Ramsay suddenly “reminded of the inadequacy of human relationships,” Mr. Ramsay “coming to her like that”

presence of gray white clouds piled up above the horizon, blinding glare of low sun reflected in motion of blue plane below it
1.31

white circle of almost full moon in bluish gray sky above cypress tree in left corner, vertical plane of the still shadowed ridge in the window opposite it

Seurat noting how in Delacroix’s portrait the shadows “vibrate,” critic adding that he “locked his door to keep his excitement to himself”

Stein claiming the words that make something “look like itself” don’t have anything to do with description, how a petticoat might be “an ink spot”

Mr. Carmichael shuffling “in his yellow slippers,” Mrs. Ramsay recalling how “he dropped things on his coat”

bright blue sky reflected in motion of green plane below it, dark green slope of ridge in right corner
angle of dark gray clouds tilting across light gray white cloud above line of still dark ridge in left corner, horizontal pink cloud above pale blue sky on right

woman in black vest asking whether she should go to France, man in blue sweater waving as the gray car drives away

woman on phone noting man with melanoma continues to feel weak, sits in sun looking out at new flowers as life slips away

Mrs. Ramsay giving Mr. Carmichael “a sunny room,” wondering if he has “money enough to buy tobacco”

half circle of waning white full moon in pale blue sky to the right of the point, circular green pine moving to the left behind the GROIN sign
2.2

gray white brightness of sky in back of cypress trunk slanting up to the left, sound of unseen bird chirping from dark green branch above it

man on radio thinking of Wittgenstein’s picture theory, by which he means the meaning of a word is a thing

                    man in gray car looking up at gray white cloud towering above ridge in left corner, horizontal cloud reflected across the flat blue plane on the right

                    Mr. Carmichael “making off to some corner,” Mrs. Ramsay thinking of men “letting go of the multiplicity of things”

backlit line of pink gray white cloud stretched across pale blue sky above shoulder of ridge, the nearly motionless gray plane below it
2.3

orange circle of sun rising through eucalyptus branches in the lower left corner, half circle of waning white moon in pale blue sky opposite it

man in black sweatshirt thinking painting is real as the world in which it stands, woman on right asking "has it been five minutes yet"

woman in gray scarf claiming a ground hog is part of the evil axis, man across the table wanting his notebook back "so I can write"

Mrs. Ramsay reading "the man's heart grew heavy," Mr. Ramsay thinking the hedge "signified some conclusion"

triangle of dark green trees in canyon of ridge in upper left corner, small white cloud hanging in pale blue sky above it
2.4

left slope of the peaked red roof below pale
blue sky to the right of blinding yellow glare
of sun rising, crow flapping into cypress branch
above it

woman on phone noting guards in blue
standing at midnight on the prison roof, feral
cats slipping through the fence

man in gray
sweater reading "Nature Poet Emily Dickinson,"
man on the right asking how can anything be
"Further in Summer than the Birds"

Mr. Ramsay

wondering how many people visit Shakespeare's
house, asking himself if the world would be
different if he "had never existed"

white half
moon in pale blue sky above wall of approaching
green swell, low thin white cloud on the right
2.5

parallel lines of high thin white clouds
slanting across pale blue white sky in upper
left corner, sound of hummingbird hovering above
tip of cypress branch in right foreground

man

in red shirt looking at the picture of the man
holding up a sign that reads “UNFAIR TO UNION
LABOR,” red-haired woman across the room who
looks pink

woman on right who says Cuban
cigars sell on the streets of LA for $60,
silver-haired man adding that cigars in Cuba are
called “tobacco”

Mr. Ramsay walking for hours
with his pipe, reaching “the edge of the lawn”

glare of low sun reflected across blue plane,
white birds flapping toward the green ridge
diagonal white line of light in gray white cloud
hanging below top of ridge on left corner, pink
line of rose bud opening against cypress trunk
in the foreground

Wallace Stevens recalling
Cézanne saying that “I see planes bestriding
each other,” who also notes that “sometimes
straight lines seem to fall”

man on phone
claiming he’s seen two green flashes in two
days, sun now half way down on slightly hazy
horizon

Mr. Ramsay looking at “the sea eating
the ground we stand on,” muttering to himself
“the father of eight children has no choice”

curve of high thin white clouds in pale blue
sky, half circle of waning white moon above it
gray white wall of low cloud moving across invisible ridge in left corner, oval-shaped green of tobacco plant leaf tilted toward it

blond woman in gray jacket walking out of post office so she won’t have to talk to man in red jacket, white car parked in driveway of white house

woman with hair falling across left cheek standing in front of brown Venetian blinds, woman in story claiming the sun never sets on Jackson Pollock’s empire

Mr. Ramsay taking “the refuge of a man afraid of his own feelings,” finding a “glory in the phrases he made”

gray white cloud above point on right, circular green pine to the left of GROIN sign
yellow orange glow of sky below cypress branch slanting up to the left in lower right window, horizontal plane of gray white cloud in pale blue sky above it red-haired woman flicking her lighter on the way to smoke, woman on left claiming whenever she goes to England she comes home to a funeral man with melanoma looking up at painting of man diving into a hole of stars, asking short-haired woman “are the shepherds going to meet me” Mr. Ramsay “looking in silence at the sea,” Lily Briscoe noting how “he changed from one mood to another” gray white cloud in front of ridge in upper left corner, cormorant crossing the gray plane below it
shadows of tobacco plant leaves on white wall
above the unmade yellow and blue bed, vertical
plane of still dark ridge in window opposite it

man on radio wondering what Wittgenstein thought
of a sentence like “I have a headache,” claiming
that philosophy begins with the world of tables
and chairs

man in chair on right asking what
life would be inside a Beethoven piano sonata,
noting the assault on the tonic “intensifies
during the development”

Mr. Ramsay “thinking
that if his little finger ached the whole world
must come to an end,” Lily Briscoe “putting away
her brushes”

plane of gray white cloud in pale
blue sky, light green swell approaching below it
2.10

bright orange circle of sun rising through
backlit plane of trees in right corner, first
light against top of eucalyptus tree opposite it

woman on phone noting man with melanoma “passed”
at 10:10 AM, man in black sweatshirt recalling
circles of light flickering on the blue green
plane adjacent to the point

Bogart calling
Tampico “some town to be broke in,” John Huston
telling him he has to make his way through life
“without my assistance”

Mrs. Ramsay “sitting
with James in the window,” Lily Briscoe seeing
“the cloud moving and the tree bending”

jet
trail fading diagonally across pale blue sky,
plane of green tree-lined ridge opposite it
horizontal pink streaks of cloud in pale blue sky above right-sloping shoulder of still dark ridge in right corner, sound of invisible waves breaking in channel below it

blond woman being warned the man with melanoma would be on dry ice in front hallway, seeing a waxy version of “him” as she walks in

shirtless man leaning against white pillow on a stone wall, orange butterfly floating above bright green plane on the left

Lily Briscoe “pretending to move her canvas,” forgetting “what she had been about to say”

curve of white spray blown back from light green face of wave breaking on left, a white gull gliding across from the right above it
2.12

upturned curve of pine branch against gray cloud in right corner, wingspan of a jet crossing pale blue sky overhead

silver-haired man recalling he didn’t recognize the man with melanoma, man next to gray truck adding his face had wasted away

man on radio claiming 125-140 native species of birds in Hawaii decreased to 25, Bertrand Russell noting people would rather commit suicide than learn arithmetic

Lily Briscoe wiping her brushes on “a piece of old rag,” a shaft of sunlight “lying level across the floor”

horizontal lines of gray white clouds behind circular green pine on point, white line of jet trail crossing above it
shapes of tobacco plant leaves in gray white sky
in the window above the unmade yellow and blue
bed, bird chirping in the lower right corner

the man at the table in front of a vertical
brick-red grid singing “Bio,” which recalls
“keeping tabs on bug bite scabs”

woman in gray
jacket who wants to move to Connecticut, noting
that bare winter trees show the infrastructure
of the natural world

Lily Briscoe “looking
along the level of Mr. Bankes’s glance at her,”
not knowing exactly “how she would have put it”

curve of white cloud tilted up in pale blue sky
in right corner, blinding circle of sun rising
above right-sloping shoulder of ridge on left
diagonal pink white cloud slanting across pale blue sky above curve of pine branch in right corner, horizontal plane of the still dark ridge below it

Kandinsky claiming “keen lemon yellow hurts the eye,” adding that “one acquires a kind of inner resonance in response to color”

woman

on the phone wanting to live in a corner during the reading, noting the days in South Hampton “are all over”

Lily Briscoe “scraping her palette of all those mounds of blue and green,” thinking Mrs. Ramsay “the loveliest of people”

gray white cloud above green ridge on right, white line of gray wave breaking below it
wedge of gray white cloud hanging against tree-lined canyon of ridge on left, circular green pine at the far edge of the horizontal plane below it

sports radio talk show host saying he’ll take Tijuana over Juarez any day, caller in a truck claiming “you didn’t go to the right places”

William Carlos Williams confessing his interest in Cézanne, who showed him meaning “can be grasped by attention to design”

Mrs. Ramsay “moving to the window,” Lily Briscoe realizing “she liked to be alone”

pale blue white sky reflected in the motion of the opaque green plane, white cloud fading in right corner
motion of green tendril above the passion vine-covered fence in left foreground, line of pale blue sky opening in grey white clouds above it

Walter Benjamin claiming that in architecture habit determines optical reception, FBI file reporting that Mies van der Rohe “conversed entirely in German”

man next to the large white screen who grew up listening to Waylon Jennings, noting that Altair is comparatively near to LA

Lily Briscoe recalling laying her head on Mrs. Ramsay’s lap, wondering to herself “was it wisdom”

white cloud in pale blue sky above point in right corner, two cormorants flapping across grey blue plane below it
grey white line of cloud above the dark green plane of the ridge in window opposite unmade yellow and blue bed, bird chirping in lower right corner

pregnant blond woman’s hand resting on stomach next to man in green shirt, who recalls writing the libretto for opera based on Turandot

Bogart closing the shutters before hurricane hits Key Largo, Lauren Bacall spitting into Edward G. Robinson’s face

Lily Briscoe’s “head on Mrs. Ramsay’s lap,” wondering how one knew “one thing or another thing about people”

diagonal line of pale blue sky in grey white cloud above point in the right corner, gull gliding across opaque green plane below it
2.18

film of grey white rain cloud moving across
nearly invisible plane of ridge on the left,
silhouette of hummingbird landing on scotch
broom branch in front of it

silver-haired man

in a white car recalling man pulling up sweater
to show scar on chest, blond woman not wanting
to pull body out of the water

Lana Turner’s
daughter accidentally stabbing her mother’s
mobster boyfriend to death, testifying it
“happened so fast”

Mr. Bankes narrowing his
“clear blue eyes,” Lily Briscoe bracing herself
“to stand the awful trial of someone looking at
her picture”

glare of low sun on grey plane,
triangular white cloud in blue sky above it
flat gray wall of cloud in front of invisible plane of ridge in left corner, cross-hatched lines of brick-red grid in right foreground

man in white cloth hat watching man taking photographs of naked body in the driveway, adding that de Chirico has had an enormous impact on him

Schoenberg believing atonal music is an irrational act, wanting Mahler’s wife to listen only for its colors and lights

Mr. Bankes tapping at the canvas with his knife, Lily Briscoe noticing “a shadow here and a light there”

gray white cloud hanging above circular green pine on point in right corner, white gull perched on triangular orange tip of GROIN sign
2.20

motion of yellow green tobacco plant leaf
slanting down to the left in left foreground,
reflection of cypress branch in window beside it

silver-haired woman in long white blouse noting
that men who fly bombers don’t see war, adding
“the sun is round and red”

woman in the red
turtleneck stopped in parking lot, recalling
that Walter Gropius’s office in Chicago was
spotless

Lily Briscoe groping for her vision
“among hedges and houses,” Mr. Bankes thinking
of his picture “of the cherry trees in blossom
on the banks of the Kennet”

circular green
pine beside the last house on the sandspit,
slope of wet sandstone cliff opposite it
pale orange coming into the horizontal grey
white cloud above plane of still dark ridge,
song sparrow calling from lower left corner

President announcing that “we have no intention
of invading North Korea,” Secretary of Defense
adding that we might use deception to confuse
the enemy

woman in red glasses remembering
white sky after Three Mile Island, claiming
“speech is made of solar particles”

Lily

Briscoe lifting the canvas from the easel,
wondering “how to connect this mass on the right
hand with that on the left”

slope of the point

slanting down to the left in lower right corner,
film of grey white rain cloud moving across it
grey white cloud draped across top of the green tree-lined ridge in the left corner, finches scattering from feeder in the lower right foreground

man in grey car listening to Pound railing against usury, which he insists "kills the child in the womb"

pregnant blond woman wondering whether to spell "grey" with an "a," noting that gray appears to have blue in it

Mrs. Ramsay looking at the girl imagining something "on the far side of the hedge," calling out to her "I want you a moment"

parallel lines of low grey white cloud in pale blue sky above the horizon, the sweptback wingspan of the jet passing overhead
2.23

blinding silver circle of the sun rising above
upturned curve of pine branch in right corner,
horizontal gray white cloud in pale blue sky
above ridge

    woman with hair falling across
left cheek thinking man in olive green shirt
should have more choices, the man with twins
changing 100 diapers a week

    President Bush
claiming he’s especially sad about murdered
journalist’s unborn child, who’ll know his
father only in others’ memories

    the boy
tugging at Mrs. Ramsay’s sleeve to go on
reading, Minta Doyle “going off after luncheon
for a walk”

    plane of green swell in the right
foreground, point on blue gray horizon behind it
2.24

curve of pink white cloud tilted across pale blue sky in upper right corner, vertical plane of dark green ridge at far end of field below it

man standing next to the green front door noting that Stravinsky’s musical language superimposes blocks of sound, John Cage thinking that music seasons the mind

woman on the phone wanting mostly to talk about what she’s learned at 99, her brother’s house on the Daniel Boone trail somewhere in Kentucky

Mrs. Ramsay recalling “the sight of them standing at the hall door after lunch,” noticing “there isn’t a cloud anywhere”

gray white cloud above circular green pine on point, pale blue sky above it
faint gray light coming into sky in rectangular window opposite the unmade yellow and blue bed, silhouettes of tobacco plant leaves in window above it

Johnny Cash gone to Memphis after leaving the Air Force in ’54, his first hit single repeating “you’re gonna cry cry cry”

Sir Ralph Richardson reading the headline announcing “they’ve shot the Czar,” Julie Christie asking Omar Sharif “what are we going to do”

Mrs. Ramsay wondering if Minta Doyle “had been seen etcetera,” reading to the boy “when he came to the sea” rainbow of spray blown back from wave breaking in lower left corner, cloud in pale blue sky above point
silver circle of sun rising behind upturned curve of pine branch in right corner, rufous-sided towhee flitting from rosebush to almost empty feeder below it  

woman with hair falling across left cheek slashed by her Abyssinian cat, the breeder thinking the only solution might be to “put him down”  

the blond woman who doesn’t have time to watch a video, never actually read past page 30 of To the Lighthouse

Mrs. Ramsay thinking of a phrase “she had made to amuse her husband,” conversation reduced to the exploits of “that bird”  

blue sky reflected in opaque blue green plane below it, whiteness of gull flapping across from the point on the right
angle of rainbow in grey-white cloud above tree-lined plane of ridge on right, sound of unseen bird calling from plane below it

journalist reporting an Afghan warlord wanting to write down the names of prisoners, a family of 10 living in cave the size of a pantry

man in red tee-shirt on front steps of four-story building recalling the woman at the far end of the room below a circular white light, who seems to be reading a poem to six year olds

Mrs. Ramsay “ashamed of her own shabbiness,” not wanting James “to grow a day older”

diagonal white line of jet trail slanting through pale blue sky, green shoulder of the ridge opposite it
white circle of full moon behind cypress branch in window above the unmade yellow and blue bed, pink clouds in pale blue sky above still dark ridge across from it man on phone getting up at 2:30 AM to walk around in the moonlight, plum tree flowering overhead man on radio claiming that for Marx "meaning does not start up there," Saussure noting that no readymade ideas exist before words Mrs. Ramsay thinking that she "would have liked always to have had a baby," recalling how Prue "took one's breath away"

lines of high thin white clouds slanting across pale blue sky above the tree-lined ridge, green shoulder of wave breaking in lower right corner
wind blowing into green of tobacco plant leaves in lower right corner, wingspan of bird turning below pale blue sky

woman at far end of table thinking about Johnny Carson’s high school bird calling contest held in her back yard, asking woman on left not to play with the baccarat candlesticks

woman in the black sweater recalling John Cage wanting us to “free the mind from its own intentions,” boy in striped shirt wanting to interrupt

Mrs. Ramsay imagining children “nested in their cots like birds,” asking Mr. Ramsay “why must they grow up”

blinding line of low sun reflecting across blue plane, right-sloping shoulder of ridge above it
3.2

gray light coming into sky above vertical plane
of still dark ridge, curve of waning white moon
in pale blue sky opposite it

   man in the black

jacket putting right hand on curve of pregnant
blond woman’s white sweater, who says she put
both “gray” and “grey” into most recent poem

woman to the left of rectangular white screen
noting that Virginia Woolf died in 1941 during
peak of German bombing, Simone Weil “determined
to know what it is to know”

   Mrs. Ramsay seeing

the life “she shared neither with her children
nor with her husband,” thinking that “people
must marry”

   white water moving across blue
green plane, lighter green of ridge above it
pink-white rose blossom hanging across shoulder of copper vase in left foreground, sunlit green tobacco plant leaf slanting to the right behind it

man in green chair recalling radiation burn on back of his wife’s thigh, how she collapsed walking around the bed to the bathroom

man with gray beard calling to ask if they can photograph the man with melanoma’s building, blond woman on the phone calling it “winsome”

Mrs. Ramsay “reviewing her conduct for the past week,” noticing “something grey in the leaves”

wedge of white water moving across the green plane on the right, white line of jet trail passing across cloudless blue sky overhead
shadows of tobacco plant leaves on pink white wall to the left of the unmade yellow and blue bed, song sparrow calling from the right corner

woman in passenger seat of gray car recalling weeping at the funeral service for girl she never met, mother wondering if she’d been father’s lover

   man on phone who can’t remember exactly when he was born, not knowing if paella is Castilian or Catalan

   Mrs. Ramsay noticing the Lighthouse had been lit, imagining people “looking up into the sky”

   waning white moon hanging in pale blue sky to the left of point, blinding silver line of low sun reflected off the nearly motionless green plane opposite it
horizonal white line opening in gray plane
above dark green ridge in upper left corner,
lighter green of passion vine-covered fence
below it

man in passenger seat of gray car
asking how to pronounce “Heraclitean,” noting
that Robert Lowell had the strength of ten men

silver-haired woman recalling the prison guard
who thought he was a target, his wife bringing
her an electric blanket

Mrs. Ramsay thinking
James will ask “Are we going to the Lighthouse,”
wanting to be “a wedge-shaped core of darkness”

line of low thin white cloud in pale blue sky
above ridge, white half circle of moon above
circular green pine on point across from it
gray white cloud in front of the circular green pine in the left corner, red male finch landing on perch of feeder in right foreground

woman

next to the red leather-topped table talking about the surface and the object, the poet balancing on the bar of risk

woman in pink sweater at far end of table recalling dancing for Milhaud, Mme Milhaud hissing “too bare too bare”

Mrs. Ramsay thinking of “all the places she had not seen,” imagining how “now and again we rise to the surface”

shaft of sunlight slanting down to the left from crack in gray white plane of sky in left corner, horizontal lines of pale blue sky opening across from it
gray white rain cloud lowering across dark green
plane of ridge in window on the left, triangular
gray breast of bird perched on curved copper bar
above the feeder

woman in front of rectangular
green plane noticing that “inside the window is
the person who is you,” wanting reader to see
empty room beyond her

the woman recalling
Picasso’s copy of Velasquez’s Las Meninas,
Mallarmé thinking it’s not the thing but its
effect

Mrs. Ramsay sitting and looking “until
she became the thing she looked at,” noting how
“one leant to inanimate things”

wedge of gray
cloud hanging in green canyon of ridge on right,
glare of sunlight on the gray plane opposite it
motion of green tobacco plant leaves in window
above the unmade yellow and blue bed, jet sound
passing through bright blue sky overhead

woman

on phone noting that Stein has sent her to Cecil
Taylor, where she ends up moving from the words
in print to sound in ear

woman in the orange

sweater recalling Kandinsky’s theory that art
must evaluate “its distance from its source,”
Mandelstam hearing the inner sound “spilling
into his fingers”

Mrs. Ramsay feeling light

rising “from the lake of one’s being,” sensing
“that there is no reason”

white cloud moving

below gray plane in front of ridge, white gull
perched on triangular orange tip of GROIN sign
3.9

slope of triangular green wedge of ridge below
gray white sky, small white bird moving across
tree-lined canyon on left

woman in passenger
seat of gray car not hearing Glenn Gould singing
when he played, Milhaud not wanting to compose
music for the moon landing

woman with hair
pulled back noting she forged man in black
sweatshirt’s name, adding she was parked
illegally

Mrs. Ramsay knowing that “no
happiness lasted,” Mr. Ramsay feeling that “he
could do nothing to help her”

blue white sky
in upper left corner reflected in the nearly
motionless plane below it, a pair of black
cormorants flapping out mouth of channel
film of diagonal gray white cloud slanting down
across dark green canyon of ridge, rufous-sided
towhee landing on fence post below the almost
empty feeder

woman next to a white screen
waking up in the middle of the night, not
knowing if she is thinking in English or French

pregnant woman in black and white striped shirt
speaking of “hibernation,” asking man in blue
shirt why he thinks about work

Mr. Ramsay
looking at the darkness of the hedge, Mrs.
Ramsay hearing “only the sound of the sea”

horizontal lines of gray white cloud above
right-sloping shoulder of ridge, the circular
green pine to the left of last house on sandspit
gray white film of sky tilting above vertical plane of gray green ridge, hummingbird perched on tip of branch slanting up the right in front of it

woman to the right of flat black column looking at what it means to live in symbiosis, how the woman “places her hands on her hair”

silver-haired woman recalling flagging down Henry Miller’s black Ford, who says he doesn’t have time for “bavardage”

Mrs. Ramsay noting how the light “had her at its beck and call,” how when she woke “it bent across their bed”

plane of gray white sky behind the circular green pine on the point, vertical gray green wall of swell approaching in right foreground
faint gray light in window opposite the unmade yellow and blue bed, the song sparrow calling from the lower right corner

woman on phone noting man at table seems to be able to see through mirror, interior detail suggesting forces of imagination

Cage speaking of “a head without any ideas in it,” Morton Feldman getting rid of ideas only when “I am deepest in thought”

Mrs. Ramsay recalling how the light “silvered the rough waves a little more brightly,” how “the waves raced over the floor of her mind”

silver glare of sun reflecting across white plane after the waves breaks, the sweptback wingspan of jet passing diagonally above it
brightness of low sun rising from cloud behind
upturned curve of the pine branch in the right
foreground, five crows landing on the circular
green pine to the left of it

silver-haired man
wanting to meet at the ramp at 6:30 AM, the bald
photographer thinking the swell will be 25 feet
at 20 seconds

the man in the black tee-shirt
recalling how the first two lines came to him
"over the airwaves," Márgarét become the girl
the word names

Mrs. Ramsay "taking the green
shawl off the picture frame," Mr. Ramsay feeling
"he could not interrupt her"

grey white wall
of cloud moving across point on right, sun’s
reflection on the grey plane in the corner
first faint pink light coming into light grey
plane of sky in lower right corner, the bird
curving from the cypress branch opposite it

woman on phone noting red-breasted sparrow
perched on telephone wire, slant of sunlight
falling from window onto girl asleep on yellow
and pink bed

man in black tee shirt picking up
a cluster of oak leaves from tree next to house,
worried about driving around counter-clockwise
through New England

Mrs. Ramsay “considering
the dahlias in the big bed,” wanting to forget
about the boy “shooting birds”

white cloud
moving across blue sky in upper right corner,
white underside of the gull gliding below it
3.15

horizontal lines of pink grey clouds in blue white sky above top of tree-lined ridge, sound of red-tailed hawk screeching from pine in right corner

woman on phone noting the same pink sky in window on right, who imagines Picasso looking at himself in mirror

man in grey car listening to Eliot asking “what you get married for if you don’t want children,” comparing the chair she sat in to a burnished throne

Mrs. Ramsay wondering if Charles Tansley “won’t fall in love with Prue,” Mr. Ramsay “looking at a spot a foot or so above them”

curve of white spray blown back from wave breaking in channel, sweptback wingspan of a jet in empty blue sky above it
3.16

flat grey white light in the vertical window
above the unmade white bed, an unknown bird
flapping across corner of grey rectangular
building opposite it

man in the grey car
noting shadow of small white cloud blowing
across the opaque blue plane, double yellow line
curving to the left

man in blue shirt looking
down at a pale yellow light moving behind wing,
grid of orange lines on flat black triangular
plane

Mr. Ramsay looking at “something red,”
Mrs. Ramsay asking “what happened if she sent
the bulbs down”

blinding silver of low sun’s
reflection on the motionless grey plane, plane
of high thin white clouds in blue sky overhead
3.17

pale blue white sky in vertical window on left
next to rectangular patch of light on a white
wall, shadow of the line slanting diagonally
across it

man in white shirt at end of brick
wall claiming "my dog is in my blood," EXIT sign
above doors at bottom of stairs

woman in black
sweater noting subject follow by the progressive
verb followed by predicate, older woman on right
thinking of the continuous present

Mrs. Ramsay
noting "Prue was going to be far more beautiful
than she was," Mr. Ramsay hoping "Andrew could
be induced to work harder"

grey white clouds
next to sandstone-colored corner of building,
half-circle of branches to the right of it
horizontal green line on top of brick-red wall
in left foreground, white underside of the bird
flapping across grey white plane of sky above it

short-haired girl in pink robe sitting in front
of black iron bars in window, Walter Benjamin
thinking that art “exploits the gap between
signifier and signified”

woman in blue dress
leaning against a table in front of the mirror,
left finger curved under her chin

Mr. Ramsay
suddenly deciding that “he would tell her what
he had felt,” Mrs. Ramsay remembering “little
paths on the edge of the cliffs”

white sky
reflected in blue green wall on left, bird
gliding across grey white plane above it
3.19

diagonal black line of wire slanting across grey white sky in vertical window on the right, upper left corner of sandstone-colored plane below it

woman in purple sweater thinking about Stein’s 1935 recording on aluminum disk, in which she claims that she works in punctuation

woman across table talking about Malevich’s early interest in outer space, woman on the left recalling that Kandinsky went to Sweden in 1916

Mr. Ramsay noticing “he did not like to see her look so sad,” Mrs. Ramsay not knowing “whether to go on or go back”

grey white rain cloud moving behind diagonal black line in right corner, dark grey bird flapping above it
3.20

film of cloud moving across vertical flat black plane in window on the left, small bird rising and falling across grey plane of sky in right corner

blond woman in saturated red sweater tilting camera toward man in the olive green shirt’s left cheek, noting she never gets closer than 30 feet to any child

woman in herringbone coat recalling rows of round houses just outside Havana, diagonal lines crossing horizontal stone plane below left foot

Mrs. Ramsay not knowing “he was looking at her,” Mr. Ramsay noting “he could not share her thoughts”

line of fence above diagonal grey plane in the left corner, window in the brick-red wall across from it
3.21

horizontal line of window frame below light grey corner of plane behind it, lines of white clouds in pale blue sky above it

short-haired girl

looking at diagonal line of shadow falling across unsaturated orange plane in left, vertical corner of building to the right of it

woman across the table claiming that Letterman hates himself, man in the blue sweater writing his name below Africa

Mrs. Ramsay looking up at lights “running like drops of silver water held firm in a wind,” Mr. Ramsay remembering walking along “with a biscuit in his pocket”

grey cloud next to brick-red wall in right corner, flock of birds flapping across it
small white cloud moving across pale blue sky
above frame of window on the right, upper left
corner of grey plane below it

Klee’s notebook
explaining how to “divide a long strip of white
into seven parts,” wanting the painting “to be
formed as a picture in layers”

short-haired
girl wanting to try on a $4700 peach apricot
Prada dress, woman on the floor recalling Vogue
photo of Mia Farrow taken after Rosemary’s Baby

Mr. Ramsay hoping “he would be off for a day’s
walk,” thinking of “those sandhills dwindling
away into darkness”

blinding silver of low
sunlight’s reflection on plane in the right
corner, shadow of a bird crossing above it
3.23

sunlit upper left corner of grey plane in window above the unmade white bed, diagonal black line slanting across pale blue sky above it

woman with green jade ring on right finger thinking about under-painting of poem, recalling door slamming shut as debris hits

woman in grey dress walking down stairs in the left corner, yellow rectangle next to blue one on the wall opposite it

Mr. Ramsay looking at the island "half swallowed up by the sea," Mrs. Ramsay noting "that he seemed more cheerful than usual"

silhouette of bare branch slanting to the right in front of grey white cloud in pale blue sky, corner of brick-red wall in left foreground
diagonal line of jet trail slanting to the left across cloudless pale blue sky, dark grey bird curving toward upper left corner of brick-red plane below it

woman on phone remembering

listening to Schoenberg’s “Hanging Garden,”
asking how man counts the spaces between “Klee’s notebook” and “below it”

sunlit left shoulder

of woman reading against a reddish brown wall,
shadow of a door above corner of white page

Mr. Ramsay possibly thinking “he would have written better books if he had not married,”

Mrs. Ramsay knowing “that he did not complain”

rectangular white plane against pale blue sky, small white cloud moving to the left above it
wedge of pink orange light on wall to the left of the unmade white bed, pale grey light in sky above still dark corner of the plane opposite it

Kandinsky thinking “a never-ending extent of red can only be seen in the mind,” how each “color cannot dispense with boundaries of some kind”

short-haired girl on phone wanting to meet man in Met at 3:30, woman in the blue dress standing behind corner of red table in right foreground

Mr. Ramsay looking down at “where the silver-green spear-like plants grew,” Mrs. Ramsay noting that “his arm was almost like a young man’s”

grey white sky next to brick-red wall on the right, wingspan of bird gliding across it
grey white light coming into sky above still
dark ridge in the window opposite the unmade
yellow and blue bed, birds calling from left
corner

woman with sunlight on left shoulder
standing next to the table, Henry James noting
that “while the days melted something rare went
with them”

man in blue shirt looking across at
rectangular brown plane above right wing, plane
of light grey sky tilted above it

Mr. Ramsay
sometimes seeming to be “different from other
people,” Mrs. Ramsay wondering “did he notice
the flowers”

horizontal brick-red line on top
of pale yellow wall in the upper right corner,
whiteness of gull flapping across toward it
plane of still dark ridge below grey white sky
on left corner, bird landing in tobacco plant
branch in upper right foreground

Zukofsky
claiming the poem is "information on existence
out of which it grows," by which he means to say
"thing in the world"

woman on phone noticing
slant of light falling on girl in pink bed’s
forehead, man in the black shirt recalling
thickness of Richter’s line

Mrs. Ramsay
looking at "the first pulse of the full-
throbbing star," Mr. Ramsay pretending to admire
the flowers

line of pink orange clouds above
right-sloping shoulder of ridge, white spray
blown back from wave breaking into channel
film of grey white fog in front of the circular green pine on the left, bird landing on curved copper bar above almost empty feeder in right foreground

blond woman in red orange skirt surrounded by pigeons in St. Mark’s Square, blurred motion of wings above right wrist

shirtless man leaning back against a white pillow on a stone wall, green tips of grass moving across from it

Mr. Bankes strolling “across the lawn with Lily Briscoe,” claiming that in Amsterdam “he had seen the Rembrandts”

blinding silver line of low sun reflected off motion of the blue green plane in left corner, two cormorants flapping toward point on right
vertical pink red plane against triangular brown wall of the adjacent house, green grass filling light blue frame of window on the stairs below it

   blond woman on right recalling the white-haired man asking about Death in Venice, man across from her falling asleep on the couch

woman on phone wanting to see Marsden Hartley's clouds again, noting "how a small brown bird swoops downward out of view"

   Lily Briscoe

noting that "she had been to Paris," adding "there were masses of pictures she had not seen"

silver line of sunlight slanting down from grey white wall of fog in lower left corner, gulls flapping from point on the right toward it
black shapes of tobacco plant leaves in window
above unmade yellow and blue bed, moonlit grey
fog in the window opposite it

woman on phone
recalling being in pool by herself on Thursday,
which must have been how William Randolph Hearst
felt at San Simeon

Jack Lemmon dressed in drag
in a pullman car bunk, Marilyn Monroe claiming
"this drink will put hair on your chest"

Mr. Bankes telling Lily Briscoe "we can’t all be
Titians," adding that "perhaps what he was
saying did not apply to pictures"

grey
whiteness of fog behind the circular green pine
on the point in the right corner, white of gull
standing on triangular orange tip of GROIN sign
yellow and green curve of scotch broom branch
moving as invisible wind passes over it, grey
white wall of fog in front of ridge beyond it

man in blue green shirt looking down at swallow
swooping across plane of red brown rock, sound
of wind whistling where another moves through
lower right foreground

Baudelaire thinking

sculpture is boring because “it presents too
many faces at once,” whereas a “painting has
only one point of view”

Lily Briscoe noting

“she would always go on painting,” Mr. Bankes
wondering whether “she had difficulty finding
subjects in London”

first light in grey sky,
shape of circular pine on tip of the sandspit
4.1

first grey light coming into the sky above curve of dark trees at the far end of the horizontal plane, sound of unseen birds calling in left foreground

Morton Feldman claiming “we’re constantly being intruded upon,” John Cage recalling Satie wanting music that doesn’t change the environment

woman on radio wanting to play chromatic run by crossing her left hand over right, Monk sounding as if he were wearing boxing gloves

Lily Briscoe seeing Mrs. Ramsay “wearing a green shawl,” Mr. Ramsay beside her apparently “looking at a girl throwing a ball”

width of fog in front of bright green ridge, wingspan of jet in pale blue sky overhead
4.2

diagonal lines of brick-red plane in green glass back door, bright yellow golden-crowned sparrow landing on curved copper above feeder in right corner

Klee drawing the image of “an active line on a walk,” claiming that “the vertical signifies the logical direction on the plane”

man in black shirt noting that “Goya invented the drip method,” thinking it’s a “good thing for me my name is Jimmy Rogers”

Lily Briscoe thinking about “things having been blown apart,” noticing “the one star and the draped branches”

grey white plane of sky behind circular green pine on tip of point in right foreground, cormorant flapping across toward it
4.3

upturned curve of pine branch against grey white sky in lower right foreground, red-tailed hawk calling from eucalyptus tree in the distance behind it

man in blue shirt looking down toward man in yellow circle of light, who listens to the sound his hand makes moving across diagonal line on right

man on radio recalling the sky “like a pewter of curiously chilled blue,” noting how heart “feels the day beginning again”

Minta Doyle “holding out her hand,” Nancy looking down at “the whole world spread out beneath her”

plane of grey sky lowering across dark green canyon of ridge, small white birds gliding across below it
hummingbird perched on diagonal green branch 
above curve of scotch broom in left foreground, 
darker green plane of ridge below grey white sky behind it

woman in pale green shirt wondering 
when the Chinese first came to Jamaica, noting 
need for labor on plantations came only after 
emancipation of slaves

woman with hair falling 
across left cheek noting 14 different languages 
on phone bill, woman across from her recalling 
plane banking into green bowl

Minta Doyle
“pitched down on the edge of the cliff,” how
“she didn’t seem to mind what she said or did”

grey sky tilting down behind pine on the point, 
plane of white water in front of the GROIN sign
4.5

light green of tobacco plant leaves moving
against grey white sky in window above unmade
yellow and blue bed, finches calling from feeder
below the window opposite it

woman in purple
sweater not knowing how she broke left wrist,
possibly having fainted falling out of bed

woman standing in front of brick wall noting
"the novel begins long before I start to write
it," admitting "sometimes I don’t find the first
page until I am halfway done"

boy "picking his
way down the cliff," the girl "holding her hand
against the sun"

edge of the motionless grey
green plane below shoulder of ridge, white
wingspan of the tern flapping overhead
small triangular white cloud hanging in still
dark canyon of ridge in right corner, silver
lines of clouds moving across pale blue sky
above it

woman in a quilted green jacket
asking man in red jacket about woman with hair
pulled back, adding she only answers the phone
three times a day

woman on the phone noting
she can hear the birds but not see them, man
wanting to sit in the chair in the luminous
green room

the girl “letting her eyes slide
imperceptibly above the pool,” resting “on that
wavering line of sea and sky”

curve of spray
blown back from wave breaking in foreground,
white bird gliding above ridge behind it
lower edge of grey white sky slanting across top
of dark green ridge, the red finch male perched
on feeder in left foreground

man in Ramallah

recalling women with toddlers running across
field in the rain, men in jeeps pulling up
shooting

Richter painting three different
versions of same dead woman, critic claiming
that he “summons the subject by depicting its
imminent disappearance”

the girl putting on
her shoes and socks “in dead silence,” Minta
Doyle standing “with tears running down her
cheeks”

oval shape of white cloud moving
across pale blue sky above point in right
corner, a line of birds rising toward it
first grey light coming into the sky in window
opposite the unmade yellow and blue bed, birds
calling from the field below it

man in green
shirt waking from dream of the woman with hair
falling across left cheek sitting across table,
waiter bringing a second bottle of red wine

man in front of a red and black painting
recalling the Puritan dilemma, on the one hand
feeling and on the other an intelligent desire

Minta Doyle sobbing “all the way up to the top
of the cliff,” boy noting “she had no control
over her emotions”

triangular silver cloud
above right-sloping shoulder of ridge in left
corner, line of pale blue sky opening above it
curve of black forest green trees against wall
of grey white sky in front of ridge, red male
finches scattering from hemlock stalk behind
feeder

man across table recalling brushing
juniper plant against woman on Park Avenue’s
original Van Gogh, woman in the blue sweater
talking about Peru

woman with hair falling
across left cheek calling about something she
didn’t talk about before, man on phone looking
at black green yellow green hills

Paul Rayley
noting road “shaded with high bushes,” imagining
Minta Doyle “pressing close to his side”
gull
gliding in from point on right, circular green
pine moving to the left behind the GROIN sign
4.10

film of grey white cloud in front of the still
dark ridge on left, two large pink white roses
draped across edge of copper vase in the right
foreground

man in blue shirt sitting in red
velvet chair next to piano, man in the plaid
shirt across from him holding up his second
glass of scotch

man from Ford Foundation
wanting to give $20,000 to anyone who will study
the Ghiberti Doors in Florence, asking why canon
is attacked

Paul Rayley looking at “the lights
of the house above the bay,” Mrs. Ramsay saying
to him “I believe in you”

plane of white sky
lowering across ridge on the left, white line
moving across grey plane of channel below it
4.11

bright silver circle of sunlit cloud above
right-sloping shoulder of still dark ridge,
silhouette of hummingbird perched on a branch
slanting up in left foreground

man in grey car
driving across Maine in the middle of the night,
Vivaldi on radio loud and clear

man in front
of red brick wall admitting that no one talks
about Henry James, who claimed “he had never
taken anyone anywhere”

Mrs. Ramsey feeling
“alone in the presence of her old antagonist,”
wondering now whether “anything would happen”

triangular grey white cloud hanging in green
tree-lined canyon of ridge on the right, gull
perched on triangular orange tip of GROIN sign
angle of light green tobacco plant leaf slanting
across grey white sky in left foreground, sound
of drop falling from gutter to copper watering
can below it

Kerouac noting how “Dizzy puts
his trumpet to his lips and blows a wet blur,”
claiming that “bop began with jazz”

Cecil

Taylor’s A-flat G-flat E-flat D-flat G-flat
slanting down page to the right, woman on right
recalling audience left when he started to read

Mrs. Ramsay “looking at her neck and shoulders,”
noticing how the rooks “rose up into the air”

horizontal line of white cloud above right-
sloping shoulder of ridge, grey white sky
reflected on face of wave across channel
pink red plane of chimney in the pale blue-framed window on the stairs, green of trees filling the space behind it

woman in beige sweater telling the man next to the blue door her last week’s dream, which ends when the man goes to see someone named Kathy spelled with “K”

man in blue shirt writing a first sentence after visiting Cézanne’s studio, how “the doctor tells me I can go home again”

Mrs. Ramsay noticing “the movement of the wings beating out,” air “cut into exquisite scimitar shapes”

white shoulder of wave breaking across the nearly motionless grey plane in lower left corner, cormorants flapping to the left toward it
parallel lines of high thin white clouds in pale blue sky above still dark ridge in left corner, sweptback wingspan of a jet passing overhead

woman with hair falling across left cheek leaving message in middle of the night, apparently having looked up and dialed the man’s number in her sleep

woman on phone recalling man on subway screaming “The Sopranos blew up World Trade Center,” noticing girls in Henry Darger’s paintings have tiny penises
girl “choosing what her mother was to wear,” Mrs. Ramsay noting “Rose would grow up”
curved white cloud slanting up across pale blue sky, left-sloping shoulder of green ridge below it
4.15

oval-shaped grey cloud moving across faint blue
white sky in window opposite the unmade yellow
and blue bed, bird calling below window blown
open beside it

tall man in blue grey shirt
quoting his “eternal return of the slightly
different,” noting that he too likes English
spelling of “grey”

woman on phone recalling
printing out the poem in Courier, seeing lines
get wider

Mrs. Ramsay “listening to a clatter
in the hall,” Jasper asking if “the same birds
came to the same trees every night”

diagonal
white cloud in front of right-sloping shoulder
of ridge, silver of sunlight reflecting across
the nearly motionless blue green plane below it
eight brown birds perched on scotch broom branch
in front of vertical plane of still dark ridge,
green of passion vine-covered fence in lower
right foreground

man in green shirt waking
from dream of woman parking blue car in green
slot, man getting out of water taking at least
fifteen minutes to dress

tall man in blue grey
shirt asking about straightness of right margin,
wondering if Robinson is man at the long white
table's family name

Mrs. Ramsay "taking her
place at the head of the table," wondering if
"it's all come to an end"

sunlight slanting
down to the right from behind grey white cloud
in upper right corner, bright blue sky above it
faint grey light in sky above still dark ridge
in window opposite the unmade and blue bed, two
owls whooing back and forth through it

Richter
admitting he likes an amateur photograph "better
than the best Cézannes," a self-portrait looking
toward the sunlit left shoulder of woman reading
against red brown wall

woman on left thinking
of the person in art "you want to think is you,"
adding that when someone holds up the mirror
"you see it's an empty room"

Mrs. Ramsay
waiting "for something to happen," feeling as if
"a shade had fallen"

blinding line of low sun
reflecting across windswept green plane, terns
circling against blue white sky on the right
4.18

blinding silver of sun coming up between backlit
trees at top of ridge, yellow and green scotch
broom branches moving back and forth in right
corner

woman on phone looking at the girl
asleep in the pink and yellow bed, camera
filming Picasso painting on glass

man in red

jacket noticing that in Olivier’s film Horatio
doesn’t read the letter from Hamlet, Olivier
speaking as one ship sails up to the other

Mrs. Ramsay asking William Bankes “did you find
your letters,” thinking how “sailor not without
weariness sees the wind fill his sails”

white
cloud in blue sky above the ridge, light green
wall of swell approaching in right foreground
4.19

line of circular orange flowers on green passion
dark green vine-covered fence in left foreground, unseen
song sparrows calling from field beyond it

woman on phone recalling Kerouac’s “Early
History of Bop” first came out in Escapade,
adding Cecil Taylor isn’t standing entirely
still

man in black jacket looking at words
curved around a white ceramic shape, “stone”
dripping on plane behind it

Lily Briscoe

noticing that Mrs. Ramsey was looking old,
thinking of a ship whose “sails have sunk
beneath the horizon”

lines of grey white
clouds on horizon, empty blue sky reflected
across nearly motionless blue plane below it
yellow pink light coming into the sky above
central plane of still dark ridge in right
corner, two birds circling above green field
below it

woman on phone thinking of Dora Maar
in relation to Picasso, wondering what it means
to say she had a life outside of his

pregnant woman asking how an eight-pound rose-
lipped girl can take over what was once her
life, everything calm only when she gives
herself completely

Lily Briscoe thinking “I
shall avoid that awkward space,” moving the salt
cellar back “to remind herself to move the tree”

white water breaking on reef in right corner,
blue grey point on horizon across from it
diagonal plane of low grey white cloud moving across the green of the ridge, invisible song sparrow calling from scotch broom in the left foreground

woman on phone planning to start embroidering shirt with scarlet “no,” noting that she is still in possession of two ears

shirtless man leaning back against a white pillow on a stone wall, shadow of circular orange flower moving back and forth across brick-red plane

Charles Tansley thinking “women make civilization impossible,” Lily Briscoe liking his blue eyes

empty blue sky reflected in nearly motionless plane below it, cormorant flapping from the channel toward it
pink orange light in sky above the still dark
ridge in the window opposite the unmade yellow
and blue bed, sound of wave breaking in channel
below it

        man on phone finding a manifestation
of the real in recent work, noting that “grey”
and “gray” appear to be two different words

shirtless man leaning back in green chair
thinking of Hamlet’s voyage to “England,”
honeybee landing on purple lavender stalk next
to left elbow

        Charles Tansley claiming “women
can’t paint,” Lily Briscoe thinking “I must move
the tree to the middle”

        lines of white water
moving across flat grey plane in upper right
corner, shadow of grey green swell on left
upturned curve of pine branch against first grey
light in right corner, chorus of birds calling
from plane of field below it

woman in dark
green shirt recalling her parents not letting
her leave Beirut to see her boyfriend, locking
herself in her room all day to read Dr. Zhivago

woman in blue V-neck sweater asking “what would
Mrs. Ramsay say,” claiming she had been in love
before

Mr. Tansley thinking “if only he could
be alone in his room,” noting that “he was not
going to be made a fool of by women”

silver
circle of sun’s reflection in the motionless
grey green plane on the left, bits of white
shells scattered over sand bottom below it
horizontal grey cloud draped across top of still
dark ridge in left foreground, blue white plane
tilted up above it

man in green shirt waking
from dream of coming home to woman with hair
falling across left cheek, two bright pink
abalone shells left on the living room floor

man in black wetsuit looking up at pale yellow
sun rising through trees at top of ridge, a pair
of pelicans circling above grey plane opposite
it

Mrs. Ramsay recalling one particular day
"become very still and beautiful," wondering
"was everything still the same"

white fog

hanging in front of invisible point, gull
perched on triangular tip of GROIN sign
4.25

blinding silver line of clouds behind backlit
trees at the top of the ridge, tiny pink-white
buds at tips of tobacco plant branches in right
foreground

man in grey car listening to O’Hara
reading “To the Film Industry in Crisis,” who
confesses “I cannot bring myself to prefer
Johnny Weissmuller to Lex Barker”

Picasso once
claiming that Juan Gris died too young, the skew
in whose portraits never had time to work itself out

Mrs. Ramsay thinking “how eventful her own
life had been,” Mr. Bankes noticing that “people
soon drift apart”

triangular white sail moving
to the left across the blue horizon, circular
green pine on the point to the right of it
triangular white wedge in grey cloud moving
toward upturned curve of pine branch in right corner, a pair of finches perched on the feeder below it

woman in a pink-orange jacket noting photo of Diego Rivera above man’s left shoulder, Hitler claiming if the woman fences for Germany he will free her father

woman next to a white screen confessing that “anything I hear may go into my book,” how in Shakespeare “everything can mean more than one thing”

Mrs. Ramsay

“sitting with her little boy,” Mr. Bankes
“drumming his fingers on the table-cloth”

lines of white water on the flat grey plane, whiteness of five gulls gliding across above it
4.27

moonlit grey cloud in lower left pane of window above the unmade yellow and blue bed, the shape of tobacco plant leaves in the window beside it

woman in black wetsuit in front of the green car recalling holding her old dog as the vet puts it to sleep, body beginning to grow colder in less than two minutes

woman in blue grey corduroy jacket giving man in maroon sweatshirt a pine box, wanting him to bury Siamese cat's ashes next to watsonia

Mr. Bankes wondering "is human life this," noting the best of friendships "are frail things"

shaft of sunlight slanting to the left from grey cloud above ridge, white spray blown back from waves breaking below it
4.28

bright yellow goldfinch rising from pine branch
to feeder in lower right foreground, sweptback
wingspan of jet passing across blue white sky
overhead

    woman to the left of yellow tulips
recalling that Plath bit Hughes on left cheek
the first time they met, later burned his mss.

Ashbery explaining that “châlets de nécessite
are rustic comfort stations in France,” adding
Aglavaine and Sélysette are characters in a play
he’s never read

    Mrs. Ramsay thinking “French
imposes some order,” William Bankes replying
“not at all”

    grey cloud blowing past full
white moon in sky above point, silver line
reflected in the windswept plane below it
4.29

yellow branch of scotch broom against dark green
curve of trees in left corner, grey white plane
of sky tilted above tree-lined canyon of ridge
in back of it

man in checked jacket arguing
man who wrote *Shepherd’s Calendar* was a city
boy, no evidence Spenser ever planned to work
with sheep

composer in black jacket who wants
to work in a garden, the card in his back pocket
claiming “Have Trowel Will Travel”

Mr. Tansley

wondering “why did no one ask him his opinion,”
Lily Briscoe “screwing up her Chinese eyes”

grey white clouds towering above dark green
ridge in the left corner, line of horizontal
whiter cloud in pale blue sky above the point
horizontal line of pink white cloud in oval-shaped opening of pale blue sky above ridge, upturned curve of backlit pine in the right foreground

woman on phone claiming Baraka threatened to accompany Cecil Taylor on piano, phone message simply “Taylor Cecil Cecil Taylor”

woman in black at piano in foreground striking the second note, woman in white at the piano behind it whose note rises toward the rust-colored curve of tree on the wall above it

Mrs. Ramsay’s nerves “taut as fiddle strings,” Mr. Tansley thinking to himself “he was Charles Tansley”

grey white plane of sky above ridge, three pelicans flapping to the right below it
pink-white rose blossoms hanging across shoulder of copper vase on table, the angle of the green tobacco plant leaf slanting to the left behind it

short-haired girl thinking about “anchor points in the composition,” arguing that all parts of the painting are “centers of focus”

André Breton noting Picasso was “one of us,” Pound claiming that on radio “you can tell who’s talking by the noise they make”

Mrs. Ramsay “free now to talk for a moment,” Mr. Tansley telling her “how he was thrown out of a boat”

lines of white water moving across flat grey plane below point in left foreground, sunlit whiteness of bird circling to the left of it
5.2

shaft of sunlight slanting to the left from grey white cloud above top of the ridge, rufous-sided towhee perched on upturned curve of pine branch in corner

man in green sweater recalling how his life was centered on the mail box, Webern asking how long does work have to be to have defining structure

woman on phone noticing almost perfect wedge shape of the man’s text, which has to do with grey/gray chop on water

Lily Briscoe thinking “she would move the tree further toward the middle,” Mrs. Ramsay thinking “there was no future to worry about”

pale blue sky opening in grey clouds above point in right foreground, the sunlit green ridge opposite it
light green slope of ridge next to the dark
tree-lined canyon in upper right corner, pink
white rose blossom in front of the almost empty
column of feeder below it

Klee wanting nature
"reborn in the picture," confessing "it is very
tempting to draw a man asleep in bed"

Barnett
Newman claiming that "aesthetics is for artists
as ornithology is for the birds," bright yellow
goldfinch landing on pine branch

Mrs. Ramsay
feeling "something was lacking," Lily Briscoe
excited "at the thought of painting tomorrow"

grey plane of sky above circular green pine
standing on the point on right corner, two
pelicans flapping from the left toward it
5.4

pink-white buds against green of tobacco plant leaves in window above unmade yellow and blue bed, grey white of sky in nearly rectangular window opposite it

woman in quilted olive jacket telling her ex- that today is their wedding anniversary, man saying he didn’t remember

man in leather jacket who didn’t get arrested in Tijuana, woman on left claiming she lived on a dirt street and didn’t speak Spanish

Mr. Bankes having a sensation “of nerves erect in his spine,” Mr. Tansley thinking “you have wasted your lives”

grey white plane of sky reflected in motionless plane below the point white of waves breaking in front of GROIN sign
5.5

small grey cloud drifting across pink-white sky
above still dark plane of ridge, invisible bird
calling from the field below it

man on phone

wondering which poem to read at John Wieners
memorial, adding that his will to say most
embarrassing things remains stellar

Spicer

advising the poet to keep self out of the poem,
noting that this will make you stay up all night

Mrs. Ramsay "looking at her husband at the other
end of the table," imagining if he said anything
"it would make all the difference"

grey white

plane of cloud hanging across green tree-lined
ridge in upper right corner, triangular blue
wedge of sky opening into canyon below it
yellow of scotch broom branches above the green passion vine-covered fence in right foreground, cloudless blue white sky above the still dark plane of the ridge

man with electric guitar noting Stockhausen’s score doesn’t indicate pitch or melody, music best approached by noticing how it makes you feel

Miro claiming “form is always a token of something abstract,” adding of Cubists “I will smash their guitar”

Mrs. Ramsay thinking “in a moment something would explode,” knowing how much Mr. Ramsay “loathed people eating when he had finished”

pale blue sky above tree-lined plane of ridge on right, green mouth of wave breaking below it
5.7

upturned curve of waning white moon in pale blue sky above pine branch, silhouette of red finch moving from hemlock stalk to feeder below it

man in blue green tie recalling Bohr’s theory that nature is probabilistic, Einstein’s claim that “God does not play dice with the universe”

critic noticing how in de Chirico the stranded ship is part of the distant mountain behind it, as if “manner and matter form an inseparable whole”

Mrs. Ramsay noting Mr. Carmichael “large and calm in the failing light,” how “devoted he was to Andrew”

pale blue sky reflected in the motionless plane below it, lines of white birds flapping toward point
silver circle of sun coming up above the still dark plane of the ridge, thin white fingernail moon in pale blue sky above pine branch in right foreground

woman on phone claiming that Frank O’Hara’s biographer is a model, being in Paris “was a continuation of the Cedar Bar”

blond woman in red thinking mother of the bride is supposed to wear beige, woman across the table admitting she doesn’t want to vacation in Tahiti

Mrs. Ramsay looking down the table at “a yellow and purple dish of fruit,” noting “arrangement of the grapes and pears”

white line of wave breaking across reef in right corner, sunlit underside of gull in pale blue sky above it
blue grey light coming into sky above the ridge in window opposite unmade yellow and blue bed, red-tailed hawk calling from plane of field below it

silver-haired man across table claiming the salmon on his plate used to be swimming, woman on right not wanting a brandy

Hemingway noting war lets men live “in the very second of the present minute,” violent death “one of the simplest things”

Mrs. Ramsay looking at night “shut off by panes of glass,” beyond it “a reflection in which things wavered and vanished”

grey white wall of fog drifting above circular green pine on tip of the point, wingspans of six pelicans gliding toward it
small white clouds blowing across pale blue sky
above top of ridge, pair of goldfinches perched
on feeder in right foreground

Picasso noting
“so many painters today have forgotten poetry,“ adding “I want to prepare a palette of words”

woman at the front of the room asking “did I mention I have a wet skirt,” noting that she also has “a little perspiration at the wrist”

Minta Doyle walking toward the table wearing “her golden haze,” admitting “she never knew what happened in the end”

blinding silver line of low sun reflecting off the nearly motionless blue grey plane in left corner, eight pelicans gliding toward the green pine on tip of point
5.11

pink white blossom falling across empty column
of feeder in lower right foreground, grey white
light coming into sky above the still dark ridge
behind it

man at front of room noting how “J.
Edgar huddles his G-man under his habiliment,”
adding that “Heady Lamarr makes me heavily
supple”

woman in white car admitting she
didn’t laugh with ex-boyfriend, man next to her
recalling getting ex-girlfriend pregnant on his
first date

Mrs. Ramsay feeling jealousy “she
had never expected to feel again,” Mr. Ramsay
liking “these golden-reddish girls”

white

spray blown back from wave breaking across
channel, osprey circling in from the left
5.12

horizontal white cloud in front of the still
dark ridge on left, motion of sunlit green
tobacco plant leaves in the upper right
foreground

man on phone noting “glitter
dazzle” is about a certain quality of light,
wanting to get four lines to interact

blond

woman with black streaks claiming “an appetite
is a hard thing to assign to a girl,” adding “I
was left to interact with what remained”

Paul

Rayley saying “we went back to look for Minta’s
brooch,” Mrs. Ramsay later recalling Mr. Ramsay
“helping her out of a boat”

sunlight striking
circular green pine on tip of point, bright
yellow edge of sun on ridge opposite it
grey line of cloud slanting diagonally across
darker grey sky in window opposite the unmade
yellow and blue bed, birds calling from field
below it

    woman on phone noting silver-haired
man liked being called by that name, odd to see
how different people recall the same event

    man

in black sweatshirt wondering about the reader
at the end of time, asking “how far should I
extend the blue line”

    Mrs. Ramsay noticing
“people entering into illusion glittering eyed,”
asking “what could be more serious than the love
of man for woman”

    white lines moving in across
the grey plane below point in left corner, gull
perched on triangular orange tip of GROIN sign
horizontal plane of the backlit ridge below
brightness of blue white sky, streak-breasted
song sparrow perched on birdbath in lower right foreground

man in black sweatshirt noting grey blue occurs a number of different times, yellow and green leaves bending in the window across canyon

man on phone wanting man in maroon sweatshirt to locate “elsewhere” off shore, thinking things happening off stage equal imaginary things happening on stage

Mrs. Ramsay “talking about the skins of vegetables,”
Lily Briscoe thinking “she was irresistible”

silver glare of wave breaking on the left, pelicans gliding across flat blue plane
silver brightness of low cloud above silhouetted plane of ridge on left, hummingbird curving up to pink white tobacco plant flowers in right foreground

man in maroon sweatshirt noting upturned curve of fingernail moon in pale blue sky above left shoulder of ridge, planet in dark blue sky above it

woman in the orange sweater recalling walking home with her father eating halva, woman to her right claiming the best halva in the whole world comes from Aleppo

Paul Rayley “bound for adventure,” Mrs. Ramsay “moored to the shore”

horizontal width of grey blue haze below blue sky to the left of point, line of white water moving across below it
grey blue light coming into sky behind upturned
curve of still black pine branch, shape of bird
swooping down from right corner

man on right

claiming grey is that area behind the eyeball
where perception takes place, blue is the sky

woman on the phone looking at three-space-jumped
next line, thinking it’s good when conversation
doesn’t end in blank conclusion

Lily Briscoe

“catching sight of the salt cellar,” thinking
about whether “she would move the tree rather
more to the middle”

film of thin white cloud

drifting across the vertical plane of the still
dark ridge in left corner, a line of pelicans
rising and falling toward point opposite it
5.17

horizontal width of still dark cypress branch against grey white sky in right corner, motion of flat grey plane below it

Pasternak calling Scriabin a “triumph of Russian culture,” Tolstoy ending chapter in War and Peace with description of children’s unnamed German tutor

man in dark blue tie claiming estate tax is due nine months after death, man on right wanting to live long enough to see what grandchildren will do

Mr. Bankes wanting “that liquid the English call coffee,” Mrs. Ramsay describing “in what state milk was delivered at the door”

blinding light at top of still dark ridge, curve of white spray blown back from wave breaking across the channel
angle of railing slanting up to the pale blue gate in the window on the left, shape of birds flapping to the right above the flat grey plane across from it

man in red sweatsuit recalling Arafat popping out of the green Mercedes, later walking back across the room to give him a kiss

man in grey silk tie looking at woman in Klimpt whose feet aren’t finished, Klee seeing yellow house across green field

Lily Briscoe still “thinking about love,” Mrs. Ramsay recalling “everything about her was so small”

white spray blown back from the celedon green wave breaking in right corner, white line of jet’s trail slanting diagonally across pale blue sky
grey cloud hanging across invisible top of still
dark ridge, the pale yellow rose above shoulder
of copper vase in left foreground

woman next
to table wanting man not to call her a racist,
noting “I don’t have time to put up with his
qualms about garlic salt”

man on the phone
wanting woman to come over to man in maroon
sweatshirt’s house, “so you can cook and I can
look at the phenomena”

Mrs. Ramsay imagining
“William must marry Lily,” realizing “she must
arrange for them to talk a long walk together”

lines of white water moving across the blue
plane in upper right corner, bright white
underside of the gull flapping overhead
motion of shadowed and light green tobacco plant leaves against grey white sky in right corner, dark shape of bird’s body moving across it

woman in lavender sweater asking why Cathy turned from Heathcliff, noting that Thoreau “scratched two million words in his notebook between 1837-1861”

man in red and black jacket wondering what Eliot meant by “the poet’s mind is a platinum shred,” imagining he must have meant shard

Mrs. Ramsay glancing at “window with its ripple of reflected lights,” thinking “there is a coherence of things”

grey clouds against tree-lined canyon of ridge, white tern circling above grey-green mouth of the channel
5.21

trapezoid of sunlight on the white wall beside the unmade yellow and blue bed, red-tailed hawk screeching from the field in the window opposite it

   woman on phone recalling man in restaurant asking her to bring a glass of Zinfandel, when it isn’t white deciding to have a red instead

Kierkegaard claiming that he hadn’t drunk but fallen into the cup of wisdom, Ashbery asking “will memory call itself to the point of being”

Mrs. Ramsay feeling “the still space that lives about the heart of things,” wondering “what did it all mean”

   sunlight reflected off windswept grey green plane in left foreground, horizontal grey rain cloud suspended to the right of point
5.22

blinding silver circle of sun rising above plane of still dark ridge in rectangular window, steam rising from black forest green window sill below it

woman on 1st Street claiming Cecil Taylor’s wordmusic is “auditory from start to finish,” noting like Stein “he does not wish to be understood”

Ashbery pointing out Roussel’s total lack of spontaneous imagination, how “one could say the same thing of a camera”

Charles Tansley “thinking of himself and the impression he was making,” Mrs. Ramsay noticing Mr. Bankes “praising the Waverley novels”

parallel lines of green swells in right foreground, sweptback wingspan of a jet in bright blue sky overhead
light coming into pale blue sky above the tree-lined top of the still dark ridge, horizontal line of a white jet’s trail moving across it

man in Baltimore thinking man in black jacket might not remember him, asking was it Stevens who said “form is not a derivative of plastic shape”

woman on the phone recalling writing words into a rectangle, imagining how the man drove through air

Mrs. Ramsay “intercepting certain sentences,” Mr. Ramsay wondering “how long would he be read”

sunlit silver left shoulder of wave breaking across channel, backlit shape of the circular green pine standing at the far edge of the sandspit
5.24

pair of finches rising and falling toward
cypress branch in right foreground, silver
circle of sun rising through film of clouds
above plane of ridge

man in front of black
screen claiming that "life began next to left
wall of random simplicity," adding this is age
of insects

FBI memo noting an Arab man wanted
only to learn to take off and land, no mention
of crashing plane into building

Mrs. Ramsay

seeing everyone “felt a little uncomfortable,”
noticing Mr. Ramsay’s “mind was turned away
again”

blinding silver line of low sun’s
reflection across nearly motionless plane,
pelican gliding across blue sky overhead
5.25

line of light green of hemlock stalks against grey-white wall of fog in front of invisible ridge, red finch perched on feeder in right foreground

woman on phone recalling how everyone turned from listening to tape of Cecil Taylor to look at slides on wall, noting “power of visual image to draw the eye”

man in black sweatshirt noticing angle of sunlight on yellow roses, asking if there’s a language that’s that real

Mrs. Ramsay “keeping guard over the dish of fruit,” Paul Rayley wondering if “she would like a pear”

shaft of light slanting across grey-white cloud above the ridge, horizontal line of blue-grey haze to the left of point
diagonal line of pink-red roses in the lower left window at end of the hall, hummingbird hovering over passion vine flower in right foreground

shirtless man in green pants placing Siamese cat’s ashes in a small pine box below watsonia, white flowers and lighter green leaves leaning over it

woman in black glasses reading “Christabel,” man on floor asking what rhymes with “eye”

Mrs. Ramsay seeing “Rose sitting between Jasper and Prue,” Prue looking “as if the sun of the love of men and women rose over the rim of the table-cloth”

white spray blown back from wave breaking in lower right corner, line of pelicans gliding toward it
grey-white cloud above diagonal line of pines
behind almost empty column of feeder in right
foreground, the sound of an unseen jet passing
above it

man in grey truck approaching a small
yellow bird on the sunlit road in front of him,
which turns out to be a small leaf

van Gogh
claiming a Japanese artist “studies a single
blade of grass,” last painting “nothing but
Prussian blue and chrome yellow”

Mrs. Ramsay
“putting her napkin beside her plate,” looking
“at the window in which the candle flames burnt
brighter”

curved white cloud in blue sky above
point on right, wedge of white water breaking
across flat grey plane of channel below it
pale yellow rose petals falling from copper vase
to table next to egg-shaped granite rock, green
oval of tobacco plant leaf in window beyond it

silver-haired man in the grey truck recalling
animals fighting over a water hole in Africa,
adding “there’s never a happy ending in nature”

man in blue-grey tee-shirt looking up at a small
plane passing below diagonal white cloud in blue
sky, woman with tattoo on inside of her left arm
announcing “today has gone by fast”

Mr. Ramsay
noting “the China rose is all abloom,” his words
“floating like flowers on water”

wall of white
fog lowering across top of cliff, white triangle
of wave breaking on the flat grey plane below it
horizontal width of sunlit grey cloud moving across plane of still dark ridge, film of high thin white cloud in pale blue sky above it

man in green tee-shirt claiming you can’t comprehend the invisible without first seeing what’s there,
woman in blue-and-white striped dress lighting up a cigarette

woman on 1st Street recalling telling Brakhage to show each short film twice, too abstract otherwise to be seen

Mrs. Ramsay standing “with her foot on the threshold,” scene “vanishing even as she looked”

windswept wall of grey-green swell approaching in the lower right foreground, three small white gulls gliding across grey-white sky above it
5.30

blinding silver circle of sun in cloudless blue
sky above ridge, a pile of pale yellow petals
beside rock on the table in left foreground

woman on 1st Street noting question marks
“whether penned in or not,” recalling being held
on the voyage out to elsewhere

woman on phone

trying to imagine Prussian blue next to chrome
yellow, asking if oranges and rosey pinks are
true to anything real

Mrs. Ramsay “standing
there with Minta’s arm in hers,” Mr. Bankes
taking Charles Tansley “by the arm”

jade green

plane of wave moving above bits of white shells
scattered across sand bottom, grey-white width
of fog adjacent to darker grey plane below it
grey-white wall of fog in the rectangular window
opposite the unmade yellow and blue bed, crows
calling back and forth from right foreground

shirtless man looking across at red-orange
flowers on green passion vine-covered fence,
noticing “action approaching the air through
which its sound becomes thought”
blond woman

with hair pulled back shaking man in light green
shirt’s hand, still not wanting to talk to him

Mrs. Ramsay “going upstairs in the lamplight
alone,” noting “the elm branches as the wind
raised them”

upturned curve of waning white
moon in pale blue sky above point on the right,
grey line of fog bank moving across the horizon
light green of hemlock stalk against grey-white wall of fog in front of the ridge, red-orange flowers on darker green of the passion vine-covered fence below it

man on phone recalling walking from world of black and white paintings on second floor to color on third, which seemed like traveling from Kansas to Oz

man in black wetsuit paddling short yellow board back toward beach, red gash on left thigh where white shark attacked

Mrs. Ramsay noticing how “leaves now and then brushed open,” how “stars seemed to be shaking”

silver of sunlight on the blue-green swell in right foreground, circular green pine to the left of the last house on the sandspit
motion of yellow ochre and green tobacco plant leaf in glass plane at end of table, brightness of pale blue white film of sky in front of ridge

man on cell phone unable to get image of shark hitting out of mind, grey-white body lunging above the blue-green surface still a blur

woman with hair falling across left cheek recalling wearing blue windbreaker over pink bikini, a line of boards leaning against seawall

Mrs. Ramsay “pursing her lips slightly,” turning the handle firmly “lest it should squeak”

line of grey-white fog bank slanting diagonally below pale blue sky to the left of point, white curve of spray lifting from jade green wave below it
grey-white sky behind the upturned curve of pine branch in lower right foreground, bright yellow scotch broom to the left of red-breasted finch perched on feeder below it

man in the blue tee-shirt recalling having seen a white shark coming up under him like a submarine, its head to tail longer than the length of his small boat.

woman on left quoting man in black tee-shirt’s “I hate speech,” which she notes is the only interesting thing in the whole world

Mrs. Ramsay hearing “words echoing as she spoke,” girl repeating “how it was like a mountain”

width of green trees slanting across ridge, white water moving across channel below it
silver circle of sun rising above the vertical plane of the still dark ridge in, pink-white roses to the left of green glass back door opposite it

    silver-haired man thinking feelings pass from fingers into painting, woman in blue robe noting “I’ll close my eyes if you won’t look”

    Klee claiming green beside grey point “is in the ascendancy,” most primitive rhythm based on a repetition of “the same unit from left to right”

    Mrs. Ramsay speaking “more and more mechanically,” telling Cam to “shut her eyes and go to sleep”

    sandstone-colored cliff reflected in nearly motionless flat grey plane, whiteness of gulls flapping in from the point
yellow-orange light coming into sky above still dark ridge in window opposite the unmade yellow and blue bed, sounds of invisible birds rising from field in foreground

woman across table wanting man in light green shirt to describe carpet immediately, woman with hair falling across left cheek claiming “the past is so irrecoverable”

woman in blue car backing around curve of dirt driveway, man in blue shirt wanting to get septic tank fixed

Mrs. Ramsay thinking Charles Tansley “looked so desolate,” looking at the moon “through the staircase window”

line of white cloud in blue sky, circular green of pine on point below it
silhouette of fat grey bird perched on curved
copper bar above half-empty feeder in left
corner, shadow of window frame slanting
diagonally across plane of table in right
foreground

man in maroon sweatshirt talking
about looking across water at red gash in left
leg of man on short yellow board, silver-haired
man across from him filming him

woman on phone
noting “paddling close to shore sounds like good
thinking,” woman down the hall not so bad if she
doesn’t speak

Prue saying “we thought of going
to the beach,” Mrs. Ramsay becoming “like a girl
of twenty”

bright blue sky reflected in nearly
motionless blue plane, haze to the left of point
eucalyptus trees moving against bright blue sky to the left of the green glass back door, red finch perched on feeder in the lower right corner

   woman in yellow ‘KUNST’ tee-shirt ironing a blue-striped shirt, woman across kitchen talking about Marguerite Yourcenar meeting Virginia Woolf in pitch black room

shirtless man leaning back against white pillow on green chair, white moth flitting above green fence

   Mrs. Ramsay “coming into the room,” Mr. Ramsay “reading something that moved him very much”

   lines of white water breaking across reef to the left of the point, wingspan of white egret flapping against bright blue sky toward it
white of jet trail moving across pale blue sky above ridge, red finch perched on the curved copper bar above the feeder

man on phone
recalling slowing blue car down on one-lane bridge, car in the rear-view mirror skidding toward him

man in a black tee-shirt walking into white room, thinking about “the ‘abstract’/ ‘inside’ of direct perception & knowing”

Mrs. Ramsay looking up “as if she expected to hear the crash of books on the floor,” Mr. Ramsay “putting this with that”

shadow of a bird passing diagonally across sandstone-colored cliff in right corner, wedge of white water moving across the channel to the left of it
pair of finches landing on dried hemlock stalk
behind almost empty feeder in right foreground,
sound of unseen jet passing across bright blue
sky overhead
dark-haired woman whose digital
camera takes picture a second after she snaps
it, man recalling the dark-haired man taking
pictures last night

shirtless man asking
whether “off-stage” is spelled with hyphen,
woman on phone noting it isn’t in Websters

Mrs. Ramsay “wanting something,” falling “deeper
without knowing quite what it was”
pale blue
sky’s reflection in the windswept blue-green
plane in left corner, lines of white water
breaking over the reef next to the point
vertical line of pink-red chimney in the blue frame of the window in stairwell, wind moving through tops of eucalyptus trees in pale blue sky above it

shirtless man leaning back against white pillow on a green chair, hummingbird hovering above a pink-white rose blossom across from him

Kandinsky thinking angles like colors have temperatures, critic claiming the grid is a means of “crowding out dimensions of the real”

Mrs. Ramsay swinging herself “from one line to another,” not knowing “what the words meant”

reflection of sunlight on nearly motionless blue-green plane, pelican circling into pale blue sky above the horizon
6.11

blinding white circle of sun rising above still
dark ridge in the window opposite unmade yellow
and blue bed, green tobacco plant leaf hanging
in pale blue sky in window on the right

man

stopping white truck to ask if blond man has
been in the water, blond woman in white pants
getting into a blue Mercedes

man beside grey

truck noting his memory of shark attack changes
each day, woman in NO SHARKS tee-shirt shifting
blond baby to left breast

Mr. Ramsay “raising
the book a little to hide his face,” wondering
if “thought ran like an alphabet from A to Z”

nearly motionless flat blue plane extending
toward horizon, blue sky tilting above it
red finch rising and falling into grey-white fog in front of the invisible ridge, pink-white rose blossoms in lower left window at end of the hall

woman with hair falling across left cheek going out to listen for Swainson’s thrush, bird book noting buff eye ring and cheek

man in white cloth hat noting image of a plane coming down Madison Avenue, slide on the right of ladders leaning toward building that isn’t there

Mr. Ramsay “trying to stifle his desire to complain to his wife,” thinking that “the whole of life did not consist in going to bed with a woman”

white water moving in across the blue-green plane, wall of fog on the horizon beyond it
whirr of hummingbird hovering in front of pink tobacco plant flowers in upper right foreground, upturned curve of pine branch against grey-white sky opposite it

man in black tee-shirt asking woman in a dark blue and white-striped sweater whether it’s possible to take a nap, also how sun falls on the building in the fall

dark-haired woman wanting paragraph that directs attention to the frame, adding “last night I dreamed we started to cross the parted Red Sea”

Mr. Ramsay “wondering if she understood what she was reading,” Mrs. Ramsay “looking up from her book”

white of water moving in across grey plane, seal’s head popping up on the right
shaft of sunlight slanting down to the right 
from horizontal opening in grey-white cloud 
above top of ridge, lemon yellow goldfinch 
flitting from feeder to dried hemlock stalk 
behind it

Kandinsky claiming that in music
"violet is red withdrawn from humanity by blue,"
red "a sound of trumpets"

man on phone noting 
the piano in relation to vibraphone in Messaien, 
adding he could barely hear the ondes martenot

Mr. Ramsay feeling "the girl is much too good
for that young man," Mrs. Ramsay remembering
"birds in the trees"
circular green pine
against grey-white sky on tip of the point,
triangle of white water next to GROIN sign
6.15

difficulty.

e of grey-white cloud moving to the right
across pale blue sky, light green line of roof
slanting up in right foreground

woman on phone

noting it was cloudy almost all day, adding “not
much is known about Kafka since his work wasn’t
read until ten years after his death”

Frank

O’Hara claiming Larry Rivers entered a room

“like a demented telephone,” Rivers wanting

viewers to get something from his work

Mr.

Ramsay “wanting the thing she always found it so
difficult to give him,” Mrs. Ramsay wanting only
to hear “the asperity in his voice”

pale blue

sky’s reflection in the horizontal green plane,

lines of white water to the left of the point
grey light coming into the sky above vertical
plane of still dark ridge in window opposite
unmade yellow and blue bed, sounds of birds
rising from field below it

woman on phone
making hors d’oeuvres, having stayed up all
night to finish novel about “people we might
know”

man in blue shirt recalling the first
time he heard Pygmy music, noting that to say it
made him happy would be an understatement

Mrs. Ramsay not telling her husband “that she loved
him,” Mr. Ramsay thinking to himself “you are
more beautiful than ever”

white spray blown
back from wave breaking into right foreground,
circular green pine on tip of point behind it
6.17

small white clouds moving to the right across blue of sky above ridge, yellow of rose petals fallen on table in right foreground

Kandinsky noting that in Monet’s haystack “painting itself comes into the foreground,” Blue Rider Almanac printing “The Yellow Sound”

woman on phone recalling when Mrs. Dalloway hears Big Ben, thinking the most shocking moment in literature occurs in “Time Passes”

Mrs. Ramsay smiling when “she looked out the window,” believing “nothing on earth can equal this happiness”

line of green swell approaching below blue whiteness of sky above horizon, cormorants flapping across from point in right corner
sunlit upper edge of horizontal white cloud moving across top of green tree-lined ridge, bird slanting in across the bright blue sky above it

woman across table recalling Eakins pulling loincloth off male model, man in a blue corduroy shirt thinking "he went too far"

Lucy admitting "the only thing I liked about my Cuban blank was his Cuban blank," Desi noting that he could rhumba standing up and lying down

Lily Briscoe asking "do we leave the light burning," Andrew noticing "it's almost too dark to see,"

blinding silver width of low sun flickering across windswept blue plane in left corner, grey-white wall of fog moving below point
6.19

blinding silver circle of sun rising above still
dark ridge in window opposite the unmade yellow
and blue bed, song sparrows calling from field
below it

man in grey car looking at vulture
picking over a seal carcass on shore of lagoon,
which might have been attacked by a shark

man
on phone man stopping at American cemetery south
of Mont Saint Michelle, row after row of graves
of men who made the final sacrifice
darkness

"creeping in at keyholes and crevices," airs
"asking the red and yellow roses on the wall-
paper whether they would fade"

line of dark
blue swell on the nearly motionless blue plane,
grey-white of fog below top of ridge on horizon
pink-orange light coming into sky in the window opposite the unmade yellow and blue bed, red-tailed hawk calling from lower left corner

silver-haired man recalling Edward Hopper’s picture of cars in parking lot next to beach, explaining how clay comes out of the extruder shaped like a frame

man in faded green visor noting that “we” when scanned comes out “ire,” adding that SEE and TALK are supposed to be underscored

Mr. Carmichael “reading Virgil,” the air “going to the window on the staircase” blue-whiteness of haze on horizon to the right of the point, line of small white wave breaking across the channel to the left of the GROIN sign
triangular grey cloud moving across pale blue sky above ridge, silhouette of red male finch moving from column of feeder to dried hemlock stalk behind it

woman with hair falling across left cheek noting a ruby-crowned kinglet perched on rose bush, bird book noting "broken white eye ring gives a big-eyed look"

Cézanne thinking "lines parallel to the horizon give breadth,"
wanting "blue to give the impression of air"

Mr. Carmichael blowing out the candle, trees gleaming "in the yellow moonlight"

sandstone-colored cliff reflected in the nearly motionless blue-green plane, a line of white fog drifting across backlit plane of ridge across from it
grey-white wall of sky tilting toward the nearly motionless grey plane below it, light blue gate at the top of the stairs in window opposite it

woman in white shirt leaving key on table next to green front door, man in a striped tee-shirt taking two spotted cats in cage toward grey car

silver-haired man driving 40 Chevy Woody around the lagoon, woman next to him having a bad hair day

Mr. Ramsay “stumbling along a passage one dark morning,” Mrs. Ramsay “having died rather suddenly the night before”

grey line of fog slanting across to the right behind circular green pine on tip of point, pelican lifting above the windswept blue plane opposite it
6.23

pink-white clouds moving to the right across pale blue sky in upper left corner, two small birds flapping across flat grey plane opposite it

   Tony Curtis leaning back in swimming pool below his 32-year old wife Jill, whose Porsche is parked in the garage next to his two Trans Ams

   man in passenger seat of the white car claiming second prostate biopsy was “normal,” man in plaid shirt asking about 91-year old OBGYN

   night “full of wind and destruction,” questions “which tempt the sleeper from his bed to seek an answer”

   grey-white of cloud moving across green point in the right corner, pelican gliding across the light grey plane opposite it
line of white water breaking across the flat
grey plane in second window on right, lighter
grey-whiteness of the sky descending toward it

man at square table recalling a grey-shouldered
kestrel hovering above slope of cliff in right
foreground, man in a white cloth hat falling
toward ball on the asphalt

woman with hair
falling across left cheek opening window at 4
AM, cat bringing in a dead mouse with pink feet

birds making “a soft spot flutter slowly across
the bedroom floor,” the stillness making “form
from which life had parted”

tree-lined ridge
slanting across right corner, slope of grey-
green wave breaking in foreground below it
6.25

grey-white of sky in front of invisible ridge,
circular red flower on dark green of passion
vine-covered fence below it

man in black turtleneck recalling that Churchill wrote
"democracy is the worst form of government except all the others," woman in green vest
claiming John Adams composed "Nixon in China"

Ali’s daughter admitting she takes 40 vitamins per day, adding "a lot of people want me to get in the ring and do the rope-a-dope"

Mrs. McNab
"tearing the veil of silence with hands," light bending "to its own image on the bedroom wall"

dark green of pine on tip of point in right corner, mouth of green wave in foreground
red-breasted finch landing on branch of circular pink-white rose blossoms slanting across almost empty feeder in right foreground, four females on dried hemlock stalk behind it

Tony Curtis recalling Marilyn Monroe telling Jack Lemmon “I love working with you but not with Tony,” later telling Tony “I love working with you but not with Jack”

woman leaving message on phone machine, noting that “it’s nice not to feel guilty about anything”

Mrs. McNab “looking sideways in the glass,” seeming to say “how it was getting up and going to bed again”

light grey fog lowering across slope of point, white water on grey plane to the right of GROIN sign
width of first grey light coming into sky above
still dark ridge in window opposite the unmade
yellow and blue bed, outline of tobacco plant
leaves in window on the right

man on radio
noting that Chet Baker’s tone is “completely
“emotionless,” playing in an army dance band
convinced him he had no interest in learning
music by the book

dark-haired woman on phone
reading Kafka’s The Trial, having driven her car
into a “NO PARKING” sign

Prue “leaning on her
father’s arm,” Mrs. McNab continuing “to drink
and gossip”

triangle of white water moving
across grey-green plane in right foreground,
pelican flapping to the left above horizon
upturned curve of pine branch against white
cloud moving across bright blue sky in upper
right corner, brown bird hopping toward green
glass back door

man in green tee-shirt waking
from dream of walking past woman nursing a baby,
Walter Cronkite reporting that a plane has made
an emergency landing near Palm Springs

silver-haired man moving toward front corner of house,
thinking it might be man in black tee-shirt's
birthday

Prue having died "in some illness
connected with childbirth," the weeds tapping
"at the window pane"

pale blue sky reflected
in the blue-green plane below it, width of grey-white fog slanting diagonally across the horizon
diagonal film of high thin white clouds slanting across bright blue sky above the ridge, circular red-orange flowers on green passion vine-covered fence in lower left foreground

woman on phone taking drugs for sciatica, having taken a fall while trying to hang a picture on living-room wall

Ginsberg’s photograph of Philip Whalen sitting in a wooden chair, white sink on wall behind him

sunlight filling room “with yellow haze,” Mrs. McNab looking “like a tropical fish oaring its way through sun-lanced waters”

low white streaks of clouds curving horizontally across blue sky in upper right foreground, cormorant flapping across toward point
6.30

blinding silver circle of sun coming up above
plane of still dark ridge, dark green leaves
moving against blue sky opposite it

Louis
Armstrong at back of the bus singing “High
Society,” Grace Kelly asking Bing Crosby “isn’t
it enough you ruined my life”

woman on radio
sitting at the edge of a bog outside Picayune,
Mississippi reporting on the shop of horrors
inside pitcher plant

the children “pelting
each other with handfuls of grass,” Andrew’s
death mercifully “instantaneous”

upturned
curve of waning white moon in pale blue sky
above circular green pine on point in right
foreground, line of grey fog on the horizon
sunlit line of jet’s trail slanting across pale blue sky above still dark ridge, finch perched on curved copper bar above feeder in the left foreground

short-haired girl on cell phone noting she stayed at bar last night until 3, woke up with a headache

silver-haired man taking handfuls of Ibuprofen before root canal, the blond woman across from him not recalling who pulled her wisdom tooth

Mr. Carmichael bringing “out a volume of poems that spring, dream “but a reflection in a mirror”

rainbow in the curve of white spray blown back from wave breaking in right foreground, line of pelicans gliding across the blue-green plane below it
yellow-green of hemlock stalk against grey-white
wall of fog in front of invisible ridge, which
begins to bend as wind hits

Barnett Newman

starting to paint “as if it had never been
invented before,” wanting painting to give
viewer “a sense of place”

woman on phone

noting sweet smell of melons ripening on kitchen
table, asking if poems have to come from a place
of feeling

Mrs. McNab picking “flowers to take
home with her,” standing “arms akimbo in front
of the looking-glass”

lines of white water

moving in across the blue-green plane below
point in upper left corner, white-streaked
undersides of pelicans flapping toward it
horizontal pale blue sky opening in grey-white cloud above ridge, swallow rising and falling toward the green glass back door in the left foreground

   man on the radio recalling dog walking out of Lee Marvin’s bedroom in Malibu with woman’s panties in mouth, Marvin calling it “an unforgettable portrait of a time and place”

man in black tee-shirt looking at Rottweiller barking at bartender in The Talk of the Town, red lights on wall behind it

   Mrs. McNab noting that Mrs. Ramsay “died very sudden at the end,” thinking of her “stooping over her flowers”

grey-white of sky lowering across ridge, sandstone-colored cliff on the right
grey-white light coming into the sky above still
dark ridge in window opposite the unmade yellow
and blue bed, sound of birds in field below it

strobe-light on trumpet player in Vinyl hitting
high A-sharp, having put man in black sweatshirt
on the guest list

Kandinsky claiming “in music
a light blue is like a flute,” noting how yellow
“can never have profound meaning”

Mrs. McNab
seeing Mrs. Ramsay “as she came up the drive
with the washing,” once more recalling her
“stooping over her flowers”

horizontal
whiteness of fog bank below bright blue sky
beside the point, a pattern of birds circling
above windswept blue-green plane in left corner
7.5

sweptback wingspan of a jet passing below high thin white clouds in bright blue sky, bird flapping to cypress branch in the left foreground

man on radio claiming Sinatra didn’t want to lip-sync in front of the camera, Sinatra insisting “you look like an unmade bed”

musicologist recalling that for Richard Rogers the titles always came first, on opening night “O what a beautiful morning” made the audience sigh

Mrs. McNab’s wagging her head “this way and that,” house “left like a shell on a sand hill”

upturned curve of waning white moon hanging in bright blue sky in left corner, pelican diving into blue plane below it
pale yellow-orange sky in window opposite unmade yellow and blue bed, sound of crows calling back and forth from cypress branch in left foreground

radio talk show host asking Jose Canseco whether he ever used steroids, Canseco explaining “it’ll all be in the book”

Rosemary Clooney recalling Billy Strayhorn sitting on her bed each morning, adding that when she asked for two pills “they would send me a hundred”

Mrs. McNab’s dream wavering “like a spot of sunlight,” swallows nesting “in the drawing room”

two pelicans gliding to the right a foot above blue-green plane in right foreground, circular green pine on tip of sandspit to the left of the GROIN sign
7.7

bright silver line at top of the still dark
ridge just a moment before the sun comes up,
hummingbird hovering in front of open green
glass back door

man on radio claiming Ted
Williams once said he hated everything about
baseball except hitting, DiMaggio calling him
“greatest hitter I’ve ever seen”
girl on cell
phone recalling getting hit on 59th Street Bridge
by man on roller blades, gash on upper left leg

broken glass “tangled over with grass and wild
berries,” lighthouse beam sending “its sudden
stare over bed and wall”

shoulder of green

wave breaking into channel, high thin white
clouds curving across blue sky above point
swallow rising and falling across the backlit
plane of ridge, blinding silver circle of sun
rising into pale blue sky above it

shirtless
man leaning back against white pillow on a stone
wall, crow calling through blue brightness above
telephone pole in the left corner

man on couch
in hooded black sweatshirt noting how “fin cut
through paynes grey surface,” how “blond man
says chicken breasts are served”

someone
asking “would Mrs. McNab see that the house was
ready,” hoping “to find things as they had left
them”

width of grey-white fog bank on horizon
next to the point, cloudless blue sky reflected
in the windswept darker blues of plane below it
first grey light coming into the sky above still
dark plane of ridge in window opposite unmade
yellow and blue bed, sound of south swells
breaking into the channel

painter noting
Sargent “used to work on the same subject over
and over,” wanting more emotion with the least
number of strokes

woman on phone remembering
driving the blue car back home last night, man
in passenger seat noting pattern of red lights
on the dashboard

Mrs. McNab seeing the man
“lean as a rake,” feeling “tea warm in her”

wingspan of a pelican diving into nearly
motionless blue plane in left foreground,
cloudless blue plane of the sky above it
profile of finch landing on a scotch broom
branch against grey-white wall of fog, drop
falling from crack in gutter to watering-can
beside the green glass back door

man in grey truck leaving envelope in mail slot, recalling
woman on couch who says that “life is so long
and boring”

Marlon Brando in the back seat explaining to brother “I don’t know Charlie,”
Rod Steiger yelling at him “the point is we
don’t have much time”

Mrs. Bast “putting down her cup,” Mrs. McNab “sitting in the wicker arm-
chair by the nursery fender”

lines of white water breaking across horizontal blue plane,
circular green pine on the point above it
plane of bright white cloud moving to the left across pale blue sky above top of ridge, two finches perched on the dried hemlock stalk behind feeder in lower right foreground

blond woman on phone noting her son “went and got his diploma for us,” wondering if she should throw away her old paperback copy of *Hamlet*

woman with hair falling across left cheek claiming Kenneth Koch had told his friends “don’t look into the abyss,” wanting them to write instead about happiness

Mrs. Bast watching “her son George scything the grass,” quiet “like mist rising”

grey-white fog above tip of point, whiteness of tern flapping across overhead
circular orange flower above vase on the table
turned toward grey-white light in window behind it,
hummingbird in front of a pink-white tobacco
plant flower in upper right corner

Pinkerton

noting “someday I will marry a true American
wife,” followed by Madame Butterfly offstage
claiming “I want to be called Mrs. Pinkerton”

woman in beige sweater holding a sleeping baby
at the end of a bench, engagement ring on finger

Lily Briscoe’s “head on the pillow in the clean
still room,” the night “flowing down in purple”

line of pelicans gliding in across grey-white
fog to the left of the point, lines of white
water moving across the blue plane below it
7.13

sound of an invisible jet passing through grey-white sky overhead, red finch on the lower left perch of feeder in foreground

woman in a white tee-shirt lying on her back across unmade yellow and pink bed, noting Feldman’s use of painting as a “metaphorical medium”

woman with hair falling across left cheek recalling blond man blowing smoke from a hash pipe toward her face, saying she now lives in a box with a closed lid

Mr. Carmichael “shutting his book,” Lily Briscoe clutching “at her blankets as a faller clutches at the turf on the edge of a cliff”

white lip of grey-green wave breaking in right foreground, plane of white clouds in pale blue sky above it
upturned curve of backlit pine branch above two red finches perched on the feeder, green bamboo leaves moving as wind passes in window on right
dark-haired woman lifting beige sweater to put baby on her breast, wondering if man in black sweatshirt wants to come to dinner next week
man in black tee-shirt behind slide projector noting “only such I am,” noticing that the “n” in “only” and the “u” in “such” are inversions of one another
Lily Briscoe asking “what does it all mean,” unable “to contract her feelings”
radio pole on top of cliff against grey-white sky in upper right corner, four cormorants flapping across the grey plane below it
7.15

first light coming into the sky in the half-open window opposite the unmade yellow and blue bed, sound of birds starting up in field below it

man in black tee-shirt reading “fog sun red fir,” woman in purple sweater noticing four nouns in a row
blond woman on phone planning to mail Heidegger’s Basic Writings back to man at kitchen table, adding black to the painting of the yard

Mr. Ramsay “marching up and down the terrace in a rage,” Lily Briscoe wondering “what does one send to the Lighthouse indeed”

whiteness of a tern flapping above circular green pine on tip of the sandspit, pelican gliding across windswept blue-green plane
silhouette of song sparrow against grey-white sky disappearing from curved copper bar above the feeder, deer bounding back over the green passion vine-covered fence

Ellsworth Kelly asking “how do you get to a painting that’s real,” noting how most people don’t “really investigate what they see”

woman on phone recalling the cardiologist holding half-naked man in his arms, listening more closely to his enlarged heart

Lily Briscoe seeing “the link that usually bounds things together has been cut,” noting “how unreal it was”

pelican diving into grey-green plane in the left foreground, gulls screeching toward it
rufous-sided towhee landing on dark green pine branch behind feeder in right foreground, sound of hummingbird whirring across grey-white of sky to the right of it

woman on phone whose child “seems to be climbing out of post-partum crash,” feeling “the strange almost electrical charge that underlies all matter”

woman in a beige sweater calling breast feeding “the best thing going,” adding that “it is the proper beginning of all life”

Lily Briscoe seeing “grey-green light on the wall,” noting “the extraordinary unreality was frightening”

pelican gliding toward circular green pine on tip of point, grey-white wall of fog tilting behind it
hummingbird hovering in front of circular orange flower on the green passion vine-covered fence, drop falling into watering-can next to green glass back door

blond woman at table asking what Heidegger means in the poem called “Roman Fountain,” recalling a painting next to clothes on the line

woman at the bar wanting the man in the black sweatshirt to find her a Size 38 cowboy suit, Hank Williams claiming he loves “thunderstorms and neon signs”

Mr. Ramsay “walking up and down the terrace,” Lily Briscoe knowing “what she wanted to do

grey-white sky in front of circular green pine on tip of point, wingspan of gull flapping toward the GROIN sign
7.19

yellow-green of hemlock stalk against grey-white wall of fog in front of invisible ridge in right foreground, sound of jet passing overhead

man on right claiming Eigner’s poems should be set in typewriter font, man on phone noting poems “vary in terms of their typographic settings”

woman on phone hoping man in black tee-shirt will end class when the bell rings, noticing that “the page becomes the other book’s page”

Mr. Ramsay stopping “with his hand on the door,”

Lily Briscoe’s “mind still rising and falling with the sea”

pelican plunging toward flat grey plane in left foreground, line of white water moving across to the left of the point
7.20

pattern of small dark birds curving down across
grey-white sky in left foreground, hummingbird
standing on dried hemlock stalk behind feeder

woman on phone thinking about Toklas/Picasso
petit-point chairs, claiming that she knows
about how embroidery enters Stein’s writing

man on right noting “everything that exists
exists in its material condition” asking if
reference to Heisenberg principle is “decent
rhetorical flourish”

Lily Briscoe setting “her
clean canvas firmly upon the easel,” Mr. Ramsay
changing everything “even with his back turned
to her”

slope of point slanting down toward
grey plane, grey-white wall of fog behind it
grey-white of wall fog on top of ridge in window
opposite unmade yellow and blue, sound of crows
followed by trill of song sparrow in the field
below it

Mr. Skeffington telling Bette Davis
“the bird on the wall is stuffed,” who replies
that the bird on her hat is stuffed too

woman
in oval glasses recalling finding her father’s
candy in the nightstand, woman in plaid pants
wanting to play Hank Williams’s high lonesome
sound again

Lily Briscoe “playing at the one
thing one did not play at,” thinking “one can’t
waste one’s time at forty-four”

grey-white sky
above cliff in the right corner, mouth of grey-
green wave breaking into foreground below it
back of dark green chair slanting across lighter green passion vine-covered fence, sound of drops falling from gutter to watering-can beside green glass back door

woman on phone noting she had erotic dream about man in the black sweatshirt, who tells her he likes to sleep too

Proust admitting that sexual pleasure is for him “weaker than that obtained from drinking a glass of cold beer,” knock on the bedroom wall meaning his grandmother will be there soon

Mr. Ramsay stopping next to Lily Briscoe’s side, who says to herself “she would give him what she could”

wedge of white water on the grey plane after wave breaks, poles on cliff in right corner
upturned curve of pine branch against grey-white sky in lower right corner, female finch perched on feeder below it

man in blue-striped shirt
noting Breton’s *Nadja* opens with the greatest Knock Knock joke, which goes “Who am I or rather who do I haunt”

man in black sweatshirt asking why Hamlet and Ophelia can’t retire to a cottage twenty miles from Elsinore, making a connection between scheme of the play and offstage action

Mr. Ramsay asking “should she look at the sea when I am here,” Lily Briscoe feeling “this demand that one should surrender to him entirely”

grey-white sky above point on right, pelican moving across grey-green plane below it
7.24

diagonal line of ridge slanting up to the left across vertical plane in the lower right corner, blinding circle of sun rising in grey-white haze on horizon

...woman in passenger seat of grey car bursting into tears, driver having asked whether her husband is a good provider... 

man in black sweatshirt a reading passage from The Rainbow, Anna and Tom listening “as one person listens”

Lily Briscoe noting “the whole horizon seemed swept bare of objects to talk about,” Mr. Ramsay “scraping the ground with his toe”

grey-white sky behind circular green pine on tip of point in the right corner, five cormorants flapping across the motionless grey plane opposite it
triangular wedge of grey peak slanting above
plane of tree-lined ridge in right foreground,
diagonal line of dark grey cloud in grey-white
sky above it

Cézanne claiming that the edges
of objects "recede to a center of our horizon,"
noting how in orange "there is a culminating
point"

man in yellow and blue plaid shirt
hearing different timbral groups in Brahms'
First Symphony, smoke on hills above white high
desert plain

Lily Briscoe drawing "her skirts
a little closer round her ankles," Mr. Ramsay's
need for sympathy pouring "in pools at her feet"

grey-white haze behind ridge in left corner,
silver of sun in pale blue sky above it
grey-white of rain cloud moving across tree-lined top of ridge in right foreground, black bird gliding down to edge of green plane below it

man in passenger seat of red truck looking at bird flapping up dirt road, Shostakovich Trio in E-Minor starting Third Movement

blond woman recalling a grizzly bear standing on the trail with elk calf in its mouth, 30 degrees below zero with no humidity

Mr. Ramsay lifting "right foot and then his left," Lily Briscoe never having "seen boots made quite that shape before"

horizontal plane of tree-lined ridge in left foreground, oval-shape of grey cloud floating in grey-whiteness of sky above it
diagonal line of high thin pink-white clouds
slanting across pale blue sky overhead, birds
calling from dark green wall of trees in right
foreground

Cézanne claiming that “light does
not exist for the painter,” adding “the Louvre
is the book in which we learn to see”

white-haired philosopher in yellow and green plaid
shirt noting that writing lets eye and ear
communicate, “A” originally an Egyptian
pictograph of cow’s head

Lily Briscoe

“thinking of her callousness,” Mr. Ramsay
seeming “to her a figure of infinite pathos”

blue opening in cloud above ridge, rain cloud
lowering across triangular grey peak next to it
upturned curve of waning white moon in pale blue sky on right, triangular wedge of sunlit ridge below it

    short-haired woman in blue jacket
recalling dream of man on the left holding rattlesnake by the tail, who wants to take it home for a pet

    man in the blue-green tee-shirt
noting goldfinch flitting to branch in the right foreground, dun-colored female perched in shadow next to it

    Lily Briscoe realizing "her feeling had come too late," James and Cam "young enough to be drawn acquiescent in their father's wake"

line of green of trees at the top of the left-sloping shoulder of the ridge in left corner, plane of cloudless bright blue sky above it
7.29
diagonal plane of rock slanting up to the left
below cloudless blue sky, wingspan of magpie
flapping across green plane in lower right
foreground

white-haired philosopher in purple
and black jacket claiming his career as a spy is
useful in deciphering Kant, noting that “divide”
is singular rather than plural

shirtless man
leaning back against a black bag on a granite
rock, shadow of a green tree slanting across
sunlight green plane on left

Lily Briscoe
“holding her brush,” remembering kitchen table
“all edges and angles”
silver circle of sun
rising above tree-lined top of ridge on left,
plane moving through pale blue sky overhead
7.30

line of pink-white clouds slanting across pale blue sky above plane of ridge in upper right corner, sound of wind moving through trees across from it

   man in red-orange shirt

standing on rock in front of white cloud,
Schoenberg noticing that “the paths of harmony are tortuous”

   Pollock claiming his “painting doesn’t come from the easel,” adding “when I’m in my painting I’m not aware of what I’m doing”

Lily Briscoe “curiously divided,” Mr. Ramsay having made “her pull her skirts about her”

curve of white moon in cloudless blue sky,
dark green tree reflected in stream moving through lighter green of the plane below it
horizontal line of pink-white clouds in pale blue sky above shoulder of ridge, white half moon tilted up in dark blue sky above it

man in blue tee-shirt drawing diagonal line to show right margin, white-haired philosopher in yellow and green plaid shirt noting architecture of its shape

Mormon cowboy recalling his oldest son’s prizewinning poem, which concludes “I better not mess with my dad’s hat”

Lily Briscoe looking “blankly at the canvas,” which “placed itself white and uncompromising directly before her”

line of bare branch slanting up to the left across blue-white sky, curve of white moon hanging in darker blue emptiness above it
concave curve of tree-lined ridge below blue-white sky in upper right corner, triangular wedge of black forest green trees in right foreground

Mormon cowboy in a white hat claiming the good word for today is “legs,” adding “let’s go home and spread the word”

psychoanalyst from Toronto noticing how cowgirl in blue shirt digs her spurs into horse’s flank, thinking she does the same thing to her husband

Lily Briscoe’s easel “rammed into the earth so nervously,” her brush “trembling in a painful but exciting ecstasy”

silver circle of sun above branch in upper right corner, a large brown bird lifting off from a granite rock
orange sunlight on triangular grey peak against
grey-white sky in right corner, sound of birds
in the foreground

Cézanne trying to look at
“same subject from a different angle,” noting
that “we must render the image of what we see”

Cage claiming an experiment is an action whose
outcome isn’t known, man in blue shirt watching
magpie flap from grey rock to top of green pine

Lily Briscoe scoring “canvas with brown running
nervous lines,” asking herself “what could be
more formidable than that space”

parallel

lines of high thin white clouds slanting
diagonally across pale blue sky above ridge,
upturned curve of a waning white moon above it
first grey light coming into sky above left-sloping shoulder of still dark ridge, curve of quarter moon across from it

man in grey tee-shirt emerging from orange and blue tent with blood-caked left cheek, asking man in blue down jacket “what happened”

man in blue-green shirt recalling offstage action in performance of *The Crucible*, Giles Corey pressed to death calling “more weight”

Lily Briscoe “exposed without protection to all the blasts of doubt,” exchanging “fluidity of life for the concentration of painting”

grey-white sky behind right-sloping shoulder of tree-lined ridge in upper left corner, sound of wind moving across green plane below it
8.4

sunlit green slope of tree-lined ridge below
blue-white sky in left corner, black crow
flapping toward pine in foreground

man

on left noting Sean Connery hasn’t lived
in Scotland for 20 years, man beside him
wanting to lift a glass of black and tan

white-haired man recalling helping Iris Murdoch
into cab “when she was dead drunk,” Sir Leslie
Stephens’ book *Playground of Europe*
Charles
Tansley “carrying a book about under his arm,”
Lily Briscoe “losing consciousness of outer
things”

shadow of vertical green tree slanting
across lighter green ridge, plane of thin white
clouds curving across pale blue sky next to it
faint grey light coming into sky below white
curve of moon in left corner, triangular grey
peak below planet across from it

man in blue
shirt tapping blond woman on left shoulder, who
turns toward him without any sign of recognition

white-haired man wondering what lake is nearest
the Great Salt Lake, woman from Czech Republic
noting the Snake flows to the Colorado

Lily
Briscoe “stepping back and screwing up her
eyes,” Mrs. Ramsey looking “up and over
her spectacles”

diagonal line of white
cloud against pale blue sky in upper left
corner, left-sloping shoulder of shadowed
green ridge slanting to the left below it
film of high thin white clouds moving across bright blue sky in upper right corner, plane of triangular grey peak in foreground below it

man in blue tee-shirt recalling Cage’s 4’33,” whose silence teaches us to hear ambient sound

man in blue helmet who hangs off rock wall from red and blue slings, paying out blue rope as man in blue-green tee-shirt backs off into space

Lily Briscoe “looking from her canvas to the drawing-room steps,” wondering “what is the meaning of life”

pink-orange light on tip of grey peak above width of snow, thin white curve of moon in blue-white sky opposite it
grey dawn light in sky above horizontal clouds in lower right corner, Orion tilting on left side toward it

white-haired man in green field smoking end of Cuban cigar, asking “why isn’t pink part of the spectrum”

man from Chile paddling canoe across blue-green plane of lake, triangle of massive granite peak against pale blue sky in left corner

Lily Briscoe trying “to make of the moment something permanent,” thinking “in the midst of chaos there was shape”

edge of ridge below shadowed left shoulder of triangular grey peak in right corner, diagonal line of white cloud against blue whiteness of sky across from it
8.8

thickness of sunlit grey-white cloud moving across top of triangular peak in left corner, angle of ridge slanting to the right below it

blond woman from Tanzania looking across table at man in sandstone-colored shirt, who wants to go back to the third world “for further inspiration”

man in white helmet looking down at silver of wind moving across blue lake, man from Chile noting “I’m just a normal human being”

Lily Briscoe looking at “very distant and entirely silent little brat,” noting “sail “even now being hoisted”

silhouette of still dark peak in upper left corner, silver pattern of stars in moonless blackness of sky above it
first pink light on plane of hills in lower right foreground, cloudless pale blue sky tilting toward blue-white haze below it

man from Chile moving up ridge in grey dawn light, whistling first four rising notes of Handel Suite

man in red truck driving along two lane desert road toward Nevada, violins in Morton Feldman’s String Quartet coming in on top of the cello

James silently “at one end of the boat,” Mr. Ramsay “waiting impatiently for a breeze”

sunlit white cloud moving across bright blue sky above triangular grey peak, plane of tree-lined ridge slanting to the left below it
8.10

pale blue-white haze in front of plane of ridge in lower left foreground, blinding silver circle of sun rising through cloudless blue sky above it

Hans Hoffman calling color “perception of plastic differences in the quality of light,” noting that “the essence of the picture plane is flatness”

man in red truck driving toward distant plane of backlit ridge, yellow-orange circle of sun suspended in blue-grey whiteness of sky above it

Mr. Ramsay taking “out his tobacco pouch,” James keeping “his eye all the time on the soil”

sandstone-colored ridge slanting to the right in right foreground, shadowed line of hills against blue whiteness of sky opposite it
8.11

grey-whiteness of fog in window opposite unmade yellow and blue bed, sound of finches on dried hemlock stalk in lower left foreground
girl next to grey car claiming Moholy-Nagy wanted to work with shadow, man in white cloth hat recalling his overviews of people in street

Hoffman calling color intervals “expression of related forces between two or more solid forms,” vision “the stimulus of the optic nerve by light”

James and Cam “sitting at opposite ends of the boat,” Mr. Ramsay “looking there and there”

blue-white plane of sky reflected across glassy nearly motionless plane of channel, whiteness of tern circling across from left foreground
upturned curve of pine branch against grey-white
to wall of fog in right foreground, red male finch
on lower left perch of feeder below it

blond
girl’s sunlit head floating on the blue-green
plane of the lake, yellow and green of trees
opposite it
girl on the phone wanting to bring
man in blue tee-shirt a bowl of fresh raspberry
ice cream, man in the black tee-shirt thinking
about tape of a conversation on the particular

James steering “with his eye fixed on the sail
and on the horizon,” Cam “feeling proud of him
without knowing quite why”
thickness of grey
fog behind circular green pine on tip of point,
white lines of waves moving in across below it
grey-white plane of sky behind curve of black forest green trees in left corner, pink-white rose petals in birdbath below feeder in right foreground

short-haired girl in dark glasses wanting man in the blue tee-shirt to write down *The Grapes of Wrath*, thinking red cuts on shins look like heroin tracks

man in the glass back door thinking man on phone was the most serious musician onstage, blond ex-wife thinking he had a cocaine problem

Mr. Ramsay waving “his hand toward the shore,” thinking of himself “walking up and down between the urns”

white shoulder of wave breaking across the grey-green plane, line of pelicans flapping across above it
yellow breast of goldfinch on the feeder in left foreground, width of ridge below grey-white wall of fog tilting down toward it mosquito biting inside corner of sleeping girl’s right eyelid, who wakes up with bites all over her face

silver-haired man with bruise on forehead recalling diving from board into the sand bottom, coming up unable to move arms or legs

Mr. Ramsay “getting in his dream some reflection of the exquisite pleasure women’s sympathy was to him,” James turning “his head to look over his shoulder at the island”

grey-white sky hanging across top of tree-lined ridge, left edge of grey-green wave breaking across channel
hummingbird hovering in front of pink-white
tobacco plant flowers in upper right corner,
pattern of green leaves against grey-white sky
above it

critic claiming Gauguin “is neither
here nor there,” noting how Picasso transposes
thought and feeling into “aggressively visual
terms”

woman with hair falling across left
cheek planning to use play for a story when
novel is done, thinking biographers aren’t
paying attention

Cam “murmuring to herself,”
Mr. Ramsay recalling his wife’s “arms stretched
out to him”

whiteness of tern flapping toward
point in right corner, the circular green pine
on the tip of the sandspit next to GROIN sign
dun-colored female finch perched on curved copper bar above the feeder in right corner, circular orange flower on green passion vine-covered fence to the left of it

man on phone noting that he didn’t find a size 38 cowboy suit in Wyoming, bar in Jackson Saturday night filled with bikers and girls

man in faded green visor looking at line of pink amaryllis in yard, which seem to have sprung forth from Emily Dickinson’s breast

Mr. Ramsay asking himself “did he not rather like this vagueness in women,” James seeing “his sister’s head against the sail”

grey-white sky hanging above top of ridge, pelicans gliding from the right below it
red finch moving down from dried hemlock stalk to feeder, brown bird rising and falling toward dark green cypress branch across from it

woman on phone planning to paint studio with non-toxic paint, will get to the bar with jewels in window by 10:30

woman with tattoo on right shoulder writing True West on woman in tank top’s left shoulder, recalling Agnes Martin’s claim she uses rectangles to lessen weight of squares

Cam “gazing at the shore whose points were all unknown to her,” James searching “the infinite series of impressions which time had laid down”

grey-white sky above green pine on point, gull perched on triangular orange tip of GROIN sign
dried hemlock stalk moving across the green
passion vine-covered fence, a red-tailed hawk
screeching from darker green of trees beyond it

woman with hair falling across left cheek seeing
baby white shark washed up on beach, decapitated
seal rolling in the waves below the point

man
on radio recalling Elvis found in his bathroom
lying dead in his vomit, his father repeating
when they carried him out “I’ll join you soon”

Cam wishing “to move some obstacle that lay upon
her tongue,” James watching how she “dabbled her
fingers in the water”

grey-white sky reflected
in nearly motionless grey-green plane below it,
lines of white water breaking across channel
blue-grey of sky above dark green curve of trees in left corner, female finch landing on curved copper bar above just-filled feeder on right

woman at the end of the table trying on a pair of rock shoes, man on right claiming you can sex a snake by walking by a shoe store man in blue shirt wanting to go back to the north woods, man opposite him thinking that Hemingway’s sentences put “and” after “and” after “and” Cam noticing “Macalister’s boy tug the hook out of the gills of another fish,” watching Mr. Ramsay “feeling in his pockets” grey-white plane of the sky hanging across the tree-lined ridge, pelican diving toward the grey-green plane below it
motion of oval green tobacco plant leaves
against grey-white sky in right foreground,
circular red flower on darker green passion
vine-covered fence below it

man in a green
shirt waking at 1 AM with both thighs cramped,
green cup of scotch tipped over on bed beside
him

red-haired woman walking from the front
doors to refrigerator, putting ice in a curved
glass before pouring the vodka

Lily Briscoe
looking at the boat “with all before it blank,”
Mr. Carmichael pulling his hat “down over his
forehead”

horizontal streaks of grey-white
clouds above motionless grey plane in right
corner, edge of wave breaking into channel
blue-white sky above plane of ridge in window
opposite the unmade yellow and blue bed, sound
of drop falling from gutter to the watering can
below it

man on phone noting Kurosawa’s *Dreams*
will be gloomy “if you don’t want to look death
in the face,” a coincidence “that someone else
would want to see it”

Larry Rivers thinking
“my life wasn’t going to be about living but
about art,” adding “I make gestures with my
paint”

Lily Briscoe “taking up her brush
again,” thankful that “the problem of space
remained”

sunlit plane of the ridge behind
circular green pine on tip of sandspit, white
tern flapping above the grey plane opposite it
red finch chirping on lower left perch of feeder
in right foreground, female curving toward dried
hemlock stalk behind it

Ralph Stanley claiming
"I never sing the same line twice," adding "'Man
of Constant Sorrow' is a couple of hundred years
old"

man on radio thinking Gould's Schoenberg
"is nothing if not modern," Maurizio Pollini's
version "European and more beautiful"

Lily
Briscoe thinking Mrs. Ramsay was glad "to rest
in silence," hole in sand "like a drop of silver
in which one dipped and illumined the darkness
of the past"

silver sunlight reflected off
grey shoulder of wave breaking into channel,
wingspan of the pelican flapping across it
white-streaked chickadee perched on curved
copper bar above feeder in upper right corner,
upturned curve of pine branch against grey-white
sky above it

man in black tee-shirt recalling
waking in the morning with the pines gone, man
who cuts trees for a living claiming “nothing
wrong with sky”

woman on the phone wanting
“private and imaginative life,” summer long
enough “to get all the way out of the shell”

Mr. Bankes thinking a hole in Minta Doyle’s
stocking meant “the annihilation of womanhood,”
Lily Briscoe “squeezing her tube of green paint”

grey-white sky above green pine on tip of point,
pelican diving into grey-green plane below it
grey-white plane of sky in window opposite
unmade yellow and blue bed, sound of finches
rising from empty feeder in lower right corner

woman on phone in Idaho recalling opening letter
from man in olive-green linen shirt, small white
stone reminding her of hiking in mountains

man

in grey car noting whiteness of egrets lined up
along shore of lagoon, man on the radio noting
pattern of the braided rings on Saturn

Lily

Briscoe “taking the green paint on her brush,”
making “up a whole structure of imagination”

grey fog hanging above ridge in upper left
corner, reflection of a pelican flapping
diagonally across grey plane below it
green motion of tobacco plant leaves in window
against darker green of bamboo thicket, song
sparrows calling back and forth from field
beyond it

woman in black jacket watching
performance of The Cherry Orchard in apple
orchard, boy asking the actor if apple he ate
was real

man in black sweatshirt reaching red-
stained fingers toward a fat ripe berry, yellow
jacket curled around the berry above it

Minta

Doyle putting “bare arm on his shoulder lest he
should tell her,” Paul Rayley having “taken up
with another woman”

grey-white sky lowering
above ridge, tucked-back wingspan of pelican
plunging into the grey-green plane below it
bird slanting down to the left across grey-white
plane of sky in right foreground, drop falling
from gutter to watering can beside the green
glass back door

red-haired woman thinking

oxygen is pumped into Las Vegas casinos to make
people stay awake, 16 French-speaking tourists
lined up at the Paris bar

silver-haired man

from Cuba recalling "I was a cook in Castro's
army," noting "no white man can dance the cha-
cha-cha"

Lily Briscoe "stepping back a foot,"
thinking of telling Mrs. Ramsay "the marriage
had not been a success"

flicker of sunlight

reflecting off grey shoulder of wave breaking
across channel, wall of white water behind it
pink-orange sky above still dark ridge in window
opposite the unmade yellow and blue bed, redbilled hawk screeching from field in right corner

woman on phone recalling Ellsworth Kelly’s “random placement exercises,” noting
it’s odd to see a huge blue painting entitled “BLUE”

Williams believing the poem’s meaning is “grasped by attention to the design,” Cézanne painting “so that there would be meaning without saying anything at all”

Lily Briscoe “stepping to and fro from her easel,” imagining a reddish light “burn in her mind”

white circle of sun behind white plane of sky, oval mouth of grey-green wave breaking into foreground below it
south wind moving through dark greens of cypress branches in the upper left foreground, sweptback wingspan of silver jet passing through blue sky above it

man on radio announcing “Bonds just hit one faster than the speed of sound,” red-orange circle of sun in haze above freeway

woman on phone noting “this is the poem I was talking about,” adding “a cloud appears a ruined cloud”

Lily Briscoe thinking of “how Paul went to coffee-houses and played chess,” how “William Bankes was shocked by her neglect”

silver line of low sun reflected in nearly motionless blue-grey plane on left, upturned curve of waning white moon in pale blue sky across from it
8.29

rufous-sided towhee hopping across brick-red plane in right foreground, circular red flower on the green passion vine-covered fence above it

man across table looking at words in The Rainbow “italicized in their full meaning,” for example Will not “interested in the thought of himself or of her”

    Ashbery thinking of point after which “life cannot be one continual orgasm,” when “pleasant surprise is promoted to the front rank of the emotions”

    Lily Briscoe remembering how Mr. Bankes gave her “plenty of time to wash her hands,” noting that “many things were left unsaid”

    sunlit canyon of ridge on the right, white waves breaking across channel below it
grey-white sky lowering across top of black
forest green ridge on the right, hummingbird
hovering at mouth of pink-white tobacco plant
flower in upper left foreground

woman in pink
sweater holding hot water bottle up against her
chest, asking man in the red jacket whether she
should throw away a box of their correspondence

critic noting Eliot’s statement on Henry James,
who “had a mind so fine no idea could violate it”

William Bankes claiming Mrs. Ramsay “was
astonishingly beautiful,” Lily Briscoe thinking
“beauty was not everything”

grey wall of fog
moving across right-sloping shoulder of ridge,
white underside of gull flapping in below it
8.31

silhouette of female finch perched on upturned curve of pine branch in right foreground, grey-white plane of sky behind it

woman in white sweater asking what women have that’s like baseball, the man next to her answering “breasts”

man in white cloth hat walking toward kitchen sink to put cold water on head, wondering if good closer or bad closer will show up

Lily Briscoe asking “how could one express in words these emotions of the body,” thinking about how words “struck the object inches too low”

lines of radio poles on edge of cliff against grey-white sky in upper left corner, slope of grey swell moving across below it
blinding silver circle of sun in grey-white sky
above upturned curve of pine branch in right
foreground, sound of jet passing overhead

woman across table telling man in black
sweatshirt about a dream in which he tells her
something about her mother, a film of someone
putting Vaseline on Gertrude Stein’s eyelids

man with three steel pins in spine noting
finches don’t have post-ocular eye ring,
painting of bird better than photos

Lily
Briscoe “turning to Mr. Carmichael,” thinking
“What does it mean”

triangular wedge of white
water moving across the grey-green plane, width
of pale blue sky above fog at edge of the cliff
silhouettes of three finches perched on dried hemlock stalk behind feeder, red-tailed hawk screeching from eucalyptus tree in the left corner

woman in white sweater asking what piece a violin prodigy might be asked to play, man on the phone thinking of Beethoven’s String Quartet in C-Sharp Minor

girl in brown tweed skirt sitting on a railing by the parking lot, who says she wants to be the editor of Vogue when she grows up

Mr. Carmichael “sailing serenely through a world which satisfied all his wants,” Lily Briscoe thinking of “the things she could not say”

wall of fog in front of point on right, wingspan of gull flapping overhead
grey-whiteness of sky tilting across invisible ridge in left corner, yellow-green of tobacco plant leaf moving as wind passes it
critic claiming Jane Freilicher describes “the most indescribable of visual phenomena,” believing that “a couple of greens stroked into a yellow may say it all”
woman on a plane looking down through “layers of clouds coming in to New York at sunrise,” noting “streaks of the palest blue sky”
Lily Briscoe asking “could things thrust their hands up and grip one,” again wondering “what did it mean”
upturned curve of green tree-lined ridge in upper left corner, blue-green wave breaking in foreground below it
width of white cloud slanting diagonally across pale blue sky above plane of ridge, sunlight hitting sweptback wingspan of jet passing overhead

man in faded green visor thinking about Kerouac trying to write down sound of sea in Big Sur, no one picking him up when he tried to hitch back to 3rd St

man in passenger seat of grey car recalling a and o sounds in a late Emily Dickinson poem, which goes “A faded Boy – in sallow Clothes”

Lily Briscoe crying out “Mrs. Ramsay!” noticing “a sense of someone there”

shaft of sunlight slanting through cloud hanging across plane of ridge, silver reflected on motionless grey plane below it
crosshatched pattern of dried hemlock stalk
against blue-white sky above still dark ridge,
finches rising and falling toward green cypress
branch in right corner

man in green tee-shirt
waking from dream about woman with hair falling
across left cheek, whose husband drills a hole
in spine of Shakespeare’s First Folio

David
Bowie admitting influence of Baudelaire, his
lipstick and makeup “devices to create new
distance from the subject”

Lily Briscoe
thinking of Mrs. Ramsay “stepping with her usual
quickness across fields,” imagining “it was some
trick of the painter’s eye”

sunlight reflected
off shoulder of wave, gull perched on GROIN sign
circle of sun rising through grey-white of fog cloud moving across the ridge in right corner, sound of drop falling to watering can beside green glass back door

man in a blue shirt suggesting that in Kurosawa’s *Dreams* “images have a compelling reality,” boy walking toward the bridge in van Gogh’s painting “like entering the phenomena of a poem”

man in shadows asking “am I really killed,” man in foreground claiming “you dreamed it while you were unconscious”

Lily Briscoe “looking out to sea,” Lighthouse “an enormous distance away”

silver line of low sun reflected across plane of the channel, blue-green shoulder of wave breaking in left corner
width of grey-white cloud above nearly
motionless flat grey plane in lower right
corner, wave breaking on rocks in foreground
below it

woman with pearls moving toward door
to have a smoke, claiming she calls the shaved-
headed man “Rasputin”

woman in blue sweater
across the table asking if Richard III comes
after Henry IV, man in the black sweatshirt
recalling the king “so wan with care”

Cam

“looking at the shore,” her mind’s imagination
“in that underworld of waters where the pearls
stuck in clusters to white spray”

grey-white
fog moving in across point in the right corner,
lines of white water moving in across below it
line of blue railing slanting diagonally up
toward blue plane of gate in left foreground,
grey cloud moving across above pink-white sky
opposite it

      short-haired man in black shirt
performing death of Hotspur, a circular blue
performing his own death, circular pale blue
light glowing in left corner

      man in faded
green visor thinking about Mathew Arnold’s
description of sea in “Dover Beach,” Whitman
calling Arnold “one of the dudes of literature”

Mr. Ramsay “reading a little shiny book,” James
imagining “I shall take a knife and strike him
to the heart”

      grey white plane of the sky’s
reflection in the windswept grey-green plane
below it, pelican gliding into right corner
faint pink width of sky above the flat grey
plane in window on the right, two small birds
rising and falling from right to left across it

woman across table claiming “Saudi Arabia never
cared anything about me,” adding glass of wine
might have made her cheeks red

man in black
jacket claiming “I wasn’t under house arrest,”
woman in tweed jacket adding “you had heart
palpitations”

James thinking of Mr. Ramsay
sitting “at the head of the table dead silent,”
how he could make “people do what they did not
want to do”

curve of white spray blown back
from blue-green wave breaking in left corner,
upturned curve of tree-lined ridge above it
upturned curve of still dark pine branch against yellow-orange of sky in left foreground, sound of wave breaking in channel woman on radio claiming iambic in Shakespeare is the heart beating, Duke in *Twelfth Night* wondering “if music be the food of love” man in blue vest drawing the crescent of Venus, fingernail moon suspended above the horizontal grey-black plane James wanting an image to “round off his feeling in a concrete shape,” recalling how his father “came striding down the passage” cloudless blue sky reflected in the nearly motionless blue-white plane in right foreground, white line of wave breaking in front of the point
grey-white fog in front of the invisible ridge
in window opposite unmade yellow and blue bed,
red-tailed hawk screeching from right corner

woman on the radio claiming Mozart finished
seven of Requiem’s twelve sections, his wife
left with children to feed and no money

CIA

operative remembering how husband told her not
to believe he was dead, American flag in living
room flown above the prison where he was killed

James recalling people speaking “in an ordinary
tone of voice,” the Lighthouse a “misty-looking
tower with a yellow eye”

blinding silver line
of low sun reflecting off left shoulder of wave
breaking into channel, orange tip of GROIN sign
dried hemlock stalk slanting across grey-whiteness of fog in the right corner, four finches perched on feeder to the left of it

man in green shirt waking from dream of boat attached to the shore, the man in the passing boat tossing his camera into the water

short-haired girl on cell phone noting the butcher’s brother was killed on 102nd floor of Tower One, remains found in four different places

James becoming “sensitive to the presence of whoever might be in the room,” the lighthouse “barred with black and white”

grey-white sky above circular green pine on the tip of the point, wedge of white water moving across channel
9.13

grey dawn light
9.14

triangular wedge of granite peak
9.15

yellow-orange glow on upturned curve of grey peak
silver circle of sun rising above right-sloping shoulder of still dark ridge, sound of a drop falling from gutter to watering can in left foreground

man in black jacket noticing chickadee camouflaged against granite rock, Clark’s nutcracker screeching from whitebark pine overhead

man in blue shirt looking down at rocks reflected in celadon green lake, oval shape of white cloud moving across bright blue sky above it

Cam “watching her father write,” recalling Mr. Carmichael “turning the paper”

white line slanting diagonally across grey triangular peak in the upper right corner, whiteness of clouds in blue sky above it
upturned curve of pine branch against blue-white sky in upper left foreground, finches chirping in dark green of cypress tree across from it

woman with hair falling across left cheek thinking about last summer, man in passenger seat wondering “why can’t we dwell in this zone of multiple possibilities”

woman in tortoise-shell glasses smoking a cigarette, man in red tee-shirt walking up with a glass of scotch

Cam recalling “standing there with her book open,” thinking “one could let whatever one thought expand”

silver of sun’s reflection across shoulder of wave breaking into channel, pelicans gliding across pale blue sky overhead
width of pink cloud moving across blue-white sky
in window opposite unmade yellow and blue bed,
song sparrow calling from right foreground

woman with American eagle tattooed on left
shoulder recalling Henry James’ claim that
“history is obstinate necessity,” Ashbery noting
“a flower can generate an idea of what it looks like"

man in grey car recalling woman asking
which ear to put gardenia behind, noting pine
trees singed where fire passed through

Cam

“looking back over the sea,” Mr. Ramsay looking
up “not to see anything”

reflection of clouds
in the nearly motionless in blue plane, pelican
gliding behind triangular tip of the GROIN sign
pink-orange glow in the sky above right-sloping shoulder of still dark ridge in right corner, sound of wave breaking in channel below it

blond woman in blue shirt thinking her ex-husband might be getting Alzheimer’s too, his father not remembering her name

woman on phone thinking about the poem “as a thought perceiving itself,” wondering if the action in a play could “render what’s occurring in the language”

Lily Briscoe thinking “the sea was more important now than the shore,” noting how Mr. Ramsay “seemed to be swallowed up in that blue”

circular green pine on point above flat blue plane, diagonal line of a jet’s trail overhead
grey-white width of mist rising from field below still dark ridge, finch landing on curved copper bar above feeder in right corner

man in purple shirt noting that Bowie’s Ziggy “went down so he or she could rise again,” adding that “the album is form in rock”

critic claiming that fashion models are naming their sons “Auden,” Randall Jarrell calling the later Auden “a rhetoric mill”

Lily Briscoe “looking at the long glittering windows and the plume of blue smoke,” noting “the unreality of the early morning hour”

silver of low sun reflecting across blue-white plane of channel in the left foreground, wingspan of pelican gliding overhead
finch landing on dried hemlock stalk against
grey-white plane of sky in window on the left,
green mass of passion vine-covered fence below it

woman on phone noticing Mia Farrow’s smile
in “The Purple Rose of Cairo,” confessing “I’ve
loved Tennessee Williams my whole life”

woman in sea-green shirt claiming sciatica is getting worse, TB scar on lung possibly from growing up in China

Lily Briscoe watching “how the sea changed slightly,” conscious of “some such feeling of completeness”

blinding yellow-silver of low sun reflecting across nearly motionless plane of channel in left corner, cormorants flapping in from point on right
grey-white sky in rectangular window opposite
the unmade yellow and blue bed, unseen red-tailed hawk screeching from lower right foreground

woman in New York noting
relationship of colors in Gunta Stöltzl’s weavings, how structure of fabric “delineates the formal outcome of its design”

man on phone
noting t’s and n’s in Keats’ line, which makes tongue burst the grape against palate

Lily Briscoe wondering “if the line of the wall wanted breaking,” thinking “she could not achieve that razor edge of balance”

fog
lowering across radio pole on edge of cliff, mouth of wave breaking in foreground below it
upturned curve of pine branch against grey
whiteness of sky in upper right foreground,
sound of drop falling to watering can beside
green glass back door

woman on radio claiming
the Mekons took punk ethic most seriously, lead
singer noting “if you didn’t have a Mohican you
weren’t punk”

Ginsberg intoning “come along
Tallahassee,” woman telling man in blue tee-
shirt “write it down”

Lily Briscoe sensing
“there are moments when one can neither think
nor feel,” noticing “everything this morning was
happening for the first time”

mass of grey fog

behind circular green pine on tip of point, line
of pelicans flapping across above the GROIN sign
dried hemlock stalk slanting to the left behind feeder in right foreground, finches scattering across grey-white sky toward green of cypress tree above it

woman on phone wanting to see Jayne Mansfield’s Pink Palace, knowing she will only be able to look through gate

man on radio noting Tennessee Williams lived at 632 St. Peter Street, from whose window he heard the streetcar named Desire

Lily Briscoe “thinking how many shapes one person might wear,” Mr. Carmichael “sitting in his room in St. John’s Wood alone”

grey sky reflected in nearly motionless grey plane below it, whiteness of tern flapping toward triangular orange tip of GROIN sign
9.25

line of circular orange flowers in green rose
bush on left, sound of jet passing above plane
of grey-white sky overhead

man on left noting
how Keats line “hides the green hill in an April
shroud,” man in the blue and white striped shirt
reading “with how sad steps O moon thou climb’st
the skies”

short-haired girl thinking of still
lives painted in her mother’s garden, which gave
her “an intense connection to the natural world”

Lily Briscoe thinking Mr. Carmichael’s poetry
“extremely impersonal,” how “he wanted very
little of other people”

triangle of white
water moving across plane of channel, pelican
disappearing into grey whiteness of fog above it
angle of pink-red flower above green of passion
vine-covered fence in left corner, grey-white
fog hanging across plane of ridge beyond it

woman on phone thinking how well Sidney’s
pentameter fits our English, noting “the bus
will only crawl a certain pace”

man on right
recalling selling a Fender Telecaster to finance
his trip to Mexico, asking “have you seen a leaf
from here to the wall”

Mrs. Ramsay’s “instinct
like the swallows for the south,” Lily Briscoe
admitting “one could not imagine Mrs. Ramsay
standing painting”

grey-white fog behind
circular green pine on tip of point, V-shaped
line of pelicans gliding across above GROIN sign
pink-white clouds above plane of ridge against
grey-white sky above it, sound of wind moving
through still dark pine branch in upper left
foreground

woman on phone recalling Jayne Mansfield died in car accident near Biloxi,
adding “the top of her head was taken off”

Larry Rivers noting Jackson Pollock ran over
sculpture in the driveway, critic noting Rivers
“can do anything he wants with a brush”

Lily Briscoe “idly stirring the plantains with her
Brush,” thinking of Mr. Tansley “who did not
know one picture from another”

sandstone-colored cliff reflected in motionless grey
plane, cormorants flapping across above it
9.28

line of grey rock ridge slanting up to the left
in right foreground, film of grey cloud moving
across grey peak beyond it

man in passenger
seat of red truck recalling talking to long-legged woman from Bulgaria, whose ex-husband
says he doesn’t want to have children

woman
with baby noting she too has been facing those
morning hours, claiming “ungodly best describes
my experience”

Lily Briscoe seeing Mrs. Ramsay
“looking for her spectacle case,” noting “there
were ants crawling about among the plantains,“

yellow-orange aspen slanting across granite
slope in left corner, glare of sun in grey
whiteness of cloud hanging across from it
blue-white sky above plane of still dark ridge
in window opposite the unmade yellow and blue
bed, shadow of tobacco plant branch slanting
across wall on the left

man in blue jacket

noting yellow-orange of aspen leaves in left
foreground, whiteness of snow falling through
grey of sky beyond it

man in red truck noting

Wagnerian influence in Bruckner’s Ninth, light
and shadow on planes of ridges in front of it

Lily Briscoe thinking that “one wanted fifty
pairs of eyes to see with,” remembering Mrs.
Ramsey “sitting in the window alone”

grey

clouds moving across circle of sun in right
corner, snow on rock in foreground below it
9.30

pink-white cloud slanting across grey-white sky above right-sloping shoulder of ridge in right corner, red-tailed hawk screeching from trees below it

short-haired girl on phone asking whether man in white tee-shirt has an addiction to adrenalin, is climbing mountains keeping him out of trouble

man in blue shirt across table claiming “the true form of poetry is 5,000 feet straight up without a rope,” moon rising in fog sight unseen

Lily Briscoe imagining the time Mr. Ramsay “looked down at her,” Mrs. Ramsay thinking “the time has come”

line of grey clouds above plane of cliff in left corner, white edge of wave moving across below it
pale orange glow above upturned curve of still
dark ridge in right corner, sweptback wingspan
of jet passing through blue-white sky overhead

Emerson noting “pure October weather which we
distinguish by the name of the Indian summer,”
when “the solitary places do not seem quite
lonely”

woman on phone noting the chairs
Toklas embroidered with Picasso’s designs,
admitting “I really don’t want to go on writing
about Stein”

Lily Briscoe “thinking how they
walked off together,” Mrs. Ramsay’s “impulses
and quicknesses”

shaft of sunlight slanting
down through plane of clouds above ridge, half-
circle of waning moon in pale blue sky above it
10.2

first bird chirping in grey light of the window
opposite the unmade yellow and blue bed, sound
of waves breaking into channel

man in black
tee-shirt noting light getting fainter as sun
goes south, hard to tell green from blue lines

Creeley postcard postmarked 1972 claiming "this
by being here/ becomes it," man in the driver's
seat hearing the pressure of voice in boldface
of Pieces

Lily Briscoe standing "looking at
the steps," recalling how Mrs. Ramsay "would
turn her head"

blinding silver line of sun
reflecting across the nearly motionless blue
plane in left foreground, curve of white spray
blown back from wave breaking across the channel
10.3

upturned curve of pine branch against grey-blue sky in right foreground, edge of waning white moon in blue-white sky above it

Tennessee
Williams calling Monroe and Olivier “most exciting combination since black and white,” Mitchum adding she “seemed like a lost child”

woman on phone seeing Giant for the sixth time, claiming James Dean would have been in Godfather if he hadn’t died in 1955

Lily Briscoe seeing some quiver “which came and went between them,” noting Mr. and Mrs. Ramsay “after that hour among the pears and cabbages”

sunlight
flickering off blue plane of the channel, backlit green of wave breaking on the left
10.4

circular orange flower on the green passion
vine-covered fence in right foreground, finch
flitting down to feeder from pine branch behind it

    woman with tattoo of eagle on left shoulder
noting she used “misanthrope” three times, man
across table hearing “misanthropic birdsong”

    Emerson wanting poet to explore “manifold
meanings of every sensuous fact,” imagining
“every new relation is a word”

        Lily Briscoe
letting “flowers fall from her basket,” noting
“an odd-shaped triangular shadow over the step”

    white gull flapping behind the circular green
pine on tip of sandspit, white line of jet’s
trail in cloudless blue of the sky above it
silver circle of the sun rising through tobacco plant leaves in window above the unmade yellow and blue bed, shadow of bird leaving diagonal branch on white wall in the right foreground

Cecil Taylor claiming “you will hear certain words again and again,” noticing “leaf types arranged thusly as chromosomes”

Hazel Dixon singing “will we be missed when others succeed us,” noting “the good old songs that have stood by me for so long”

Lily Briscoe “holding her brush to the edge of the lawn,” wanting to be “level with ordinary experience”

white fog behind green pine on point, whiteness of gull perched on triangular orange tip of GROIN sign
song sparrows perched on the green passion vine-covered fence below feeder in right foreground, sunlit silver of jet passing through blue sky above it

man in blue shirt wondering what Dickinson’s “Further in Summer than the Birds” means, woman on left noting the sound of “earth” embedded in “Further”

Keats imagining bright star looking down at earth “with eternal lids apart,” man at end of table wanting language that is true to the condition of things

Mr. Ramsay “extraordinarily exposed to everything,” head “against the waste of waters running away”

ridge reflected in nearly motionless blue plane of channel on right, cloudless blue sky overhead
10.7

upturned curve of still dark pine branch against grey-white sky in right corner, planet shining in blue-grey sky above it

Bertrand Russell calling T.S. Eliot “exquisite and listless,” noting his wife “will soon be tired of him”

Judy Garland walking toward the Metropolitan with Robert Walker, admitting to him “I really ought to see it too”

Mr. Ramsay “holding his little mottled book firmly in front of him,”
James noticing “he went on reading quite unconscious of what they thought”

silver circle of sun reflected in nearly motionless blue plane on left, white bird flapping across toward the last house on the tip of the sandspit
10.8

whiteness of fog hanging on the green plane
below still dark ridge, sound of drop falling
from gutter to watering can next to green glass
back door

woman from East Setauket noting she
has to make sure her parents don’t slip on ice,
man in black tee-shirt thinking “maybe we’ll
live together in heaven”

woman on phone

sitting in tub when husband asks “are you
happy,” back-peddling from the thought she loves
someone else

Cam thinking the island “scarcely
looked like a leaf,” imagining bedrooms “fading
and disappearing”

crow flapping across slope
of sandstone-colored cliff in left corner, sun
reflecting off the blue-black plane opposite it
10.9

silhouette of dried hemlock stalk slanting
across grey plane of fog in left foreground,
sound of unseen jet passing overhead

   woman

getting stung by a bee on tattooed left ankle
claiming she will stop breathing in 20 minutes,
woman in green plaid shirt noting a bee can fly
at 15 mph

   woman on phone remembering 23 poets
standing to say what a genius Kenneth Koch was,
man just off the plane from Paris reading his
eulogy in French

   Cam thinking "I can go on
thinking whatever I like," how the boat was
"sailing so fast"

   white circle of sun rising
through fog in upper left corner, cormorant
flapping across flat grey plane below it
first grey light coming into the sky in window
opposite unmade yellow and blue bed, silhouette
of still dark tobacco plant leaves in the window
above it

blond woman next to red truck noting
her house costs $7,000 a month, confessing she
needs to sell it soon or marry a rich husband

man on bench admitting strangeness of "Admit
impediments" in Shakespeare’s marriage sonnet,
asking what "love is not love" might mean

Mr. Ramsay "thinking that," apparently knowing "all
the things that happened in the world"

white

edge of wave breaking across plane of channel,
line of seven pelicans flapping toward point
across the grey-white plane of fog above it
width of still dark branch slanting across grey-white sky in upper left corner, triangular top of smaller green tree below it

man on right imagining “things can light up in their bare presentness,” looking at the “direct expression of suchness in Dickinson’s “Four Trees”

woman on phone noting a sense of loneliness when poem is over, which might be “like having a friend not die but move away”

Mr. Ramsay asking “but why make a fuss about that,” Cam thinking that “this was what James had been wanting”

grey-white plane of fog lowering across invisible ridge in right corner, edge of the circular green pine on tip of the sandspit below it
film of thin white clouds moving across blue-white sky in right corner, still dark ridge slanting to the left below it

man in green jacket recalling waking from a dream of being late for plane to Paris, thinking man in black jacket should write an opera when poem is done

woman on phone noting Cecil Taylor “practices daily for hours,” doesn’t care that he isn’t “represented everywhere in every way”

Cam wondering “what was he thinking,” Mr. Ramsay “staring at the frail blue shape which seemed like a vapor of something that had burnt itself away”

white circle of sun rising through grey clouds, sound of an unseen jet passing overhead
white circle of sun rising through backlit green tree in lower left foreground, angle of branch slanting across pale blue-white sky above it

man in blue shirt recalling Keats’s letter complaining about Coleridge’s “irritable reaching after fact,” which might be an ability “to sympathize with something outside oneself”

Whitman on ferry from Brooklyn to Manhattan addressing an as-yet-unborn reader, noting “others will see the islands”

Mr. Ramsay “nodding his head,” Lily Briscoe “suddenly completely tired out”

white cloud slanting across blue sky in upper left corner, shadowed plane of triangular grey peak to the right of it
grey-whiteness of fog lowering across circular green pine in the lower right foreground, sound of red-tailed hawk screeching from tree opposite it

woman in Boston sending the shirtless man Songbirds of America, which explains the song sparrow’s song “starts with three unaccented notes”

woman in Paris calling Italy “life within a small tornado,” Paris “a grey hole without no redemption”

Cam “addressing herself silently to James,” Mr. Ramsay telling him “well done”

width of fog moving below the green top of the tree-lined ridge in upper right corner, lines of white waves breaking across nearly motionless blue plane of channel below it
upturned curve of pine branch against grey
whiteness of sky in upper right corner, black-
capped chickadee landing on feeder in foreground
below it

blond woman sending postcard of table
and empty chair at Café de Flore, noting she’s
"still very married"

shirtless man leaning
back against a white pillow on a stone wall,
orange and black butterfly stopped on yellow
rose blossom in the right corner

Mr. Ramsay

"looking back at the island," Cam noticing “one
could hear the slap of the water"

grey of fog

lowering across circular green pine on the tip
of the point, tucked-back wingspan of pelican
plunging into motionless grey plane below it
angle of tobacco plant leaf moving against
darker greens of bamboo thicket, unseen jet
passing above grey-whiteness of sky overhead

man in red truck noting presence of 53 melodic
modules in Terry Riley’s “In C,” Cage claiming
“an experiment is an activity whose outcome is
unknown”

woman stopped in front of the piano
with her hands above her head, Cecil Taylor’s
voice projected through speaker next to rust-
colored tree

Mr. Ramsay standing “as if he
were leaping into space,” Lighthouse “melted
away into a blue haze”

curve of white spray
blowing back from wave breaking across channel,
line of pelicans flapping across from the point
grey-white fog lowering across top of the ridge in left corner, descending oh dear me of golden-crowned sparrow’s song arriving from foreground below it

dark-haired woman on phone recalling waking from dream in which she is surrounded by sharks, adding “I can cry on cue when the scene calls for it”

man on boat in channel calling out “there’s a shark over there eating a seal,”

man with spike through left earlobe yelling “everybody out of the pool”

Lily Briscoe looking at her picture “with all its greens and blues,” noting “its attempt at something”

triangle of white water moving across channel, cormorant flapping toward point in right corner
10.18

grey-white streak of cloud above ridge in window
opposite the unmade yellow and blue bed, song
sparrow calling from lower left foreground

woman on phone looking at center of circle
passing through vertices of triangle, noting
"proofs are in the heart of mathematics"

man
in green shirt wondering what it means for words
to be concrete, Pound claiming Chinese presents
"pictures of actions and processes in nature"

Lily Briscoe drawing a line “in the centre,”
thinking to herself “I have had my vision”

line of white water moving across flat grey
plane in the lower right foreground, circular
green pine on point against grey plane above it