

Read the following poem, "The Evening Star" by Louise Glück, and consider it with respect to its line organization and voice. Lines in a poem can be organized according to a number of different units: the unit of image; the unit of breath, or how long the reader goes between being able to pause for breath; the unit of syntax, as represented by phrases or clauses; the syllable; the metrical foot. Using specific references to the text, identify the type or types of line organization used by Glück's poem. Characterize the poem's voice--the way the speaker sounds--and discuss the contribution that the poem's line organization makes to the poem's voice.

"The Evening Star"
by Louise Glück

Tonight, for the first time in many years,
there appeared to me again
a vision of the earth's splendor:

in the evening sky
the first star seemed
to increase in brilliance
as the earth darkened

until at last it could grow no darker.
And the light, which was the light of death,
seemed to restore to earth

its power to console. There were
no other stars. Only the one
whose name I knew

as in my other life I did her
injury: Venus,
star of the early evening,

to you I dedicate
my vision, since on this blank surface

you have cast enough light
to make my thought
visible again.