

# 13 poets in Hell

by James Knight

**1**

*Paradise Lost* is cast into the lake of fire. Satan tells John Milton to rewrite it in 140 characters or fewer.

**2**

Filippo Marinetti languishes in a dismal rural idyll. His hand, possessed, scrawls euphonic odes to the moon with a quill.

**3**

Henri Michaux floats through the eternal peace of his inner space. "Where are the monsters?" he wonders, unhappily.

**4**

"What's this penty nonsense about 'phantasmal gnomes?'" demands Pound. Eliot tries to explain, but he has lost his voices!

**5**

Wandering lonely as a cloud of smog through the city, Wordsworth looks into an oily puddle but can't find his reflection.

**6**

Tristan Tzara cuts up a newspaper article into its individual words and scatters them. When they land they form sonnets.

**7**

Antonin Artaud wakes from troubled dreams, to find himself transformed into Pam Ayres.

**8**

Shakespeare sits in the drab fluorescence of a classroom. "Take out your copies of Macbeth," mumbles the teacher.

**9**

Fluttering letters perch on the page, spelling APOLLINAIRE. Then a noise startles them and they disperse forever.

**10**

Coleridge scratches at the door. The visions are seeping into his lungs. Where's the man from Porlock? When will this end?

**11**

SOMEONE TURNS

THE VOLUME UP  
ON E E CUMMINGS  
AND HE IS DEAFENED  
AND FLATTENED  
BY HIS OWN POEMS

**12**

William Blake realises that the physical universe is everything.

**13**

André Breton claws his way out of the negligée and lies, spent, on the tiled floor. Towers of washing-up await him.

