



Teevee

By Eve Merriam

In the house of
Mr. & Mrs. Spouse
He and she
would watch TV,

And never a word
between them spoken,
Until the day
The set was broken.

Then, "How do you do?"
said He to She.
I don't believe
that we've met.

Spouse is my name.
What's yours?" he asked.

"Why, mine's the same!"
Said She to He.
"Do you suppose we could be...?"

But the set came suddenly right about,
And they never did find out.

A. Read the poem and answer the questions.

(You may use the following online dictionaries if you need to: [Wordreference](#) , [Longman](#), and [Cambridge](#))

1. What poetic genre does this poem fall into? Is it a Romance, a Tragedy, a Satire, or an Epitaph?

2. What is the relationship between Mr. and Mrs. Spouse? How can you tell?

3. What was their relationship like before the TV set broke down?

4. What changed when the TV broke down?

5. Why don't we ever find out what Mr. and Mrs. Spouse's real names are?

6. Are there any similarities between the poem and your everyday life? Can you give an example?

7. What did you think of the poem?

B. As a result of the coronavirus pandemic, we have been forced to stay at home for a long time. Write a short paragraph describing what has changed in your relationship with your family members, how that makes you feel, and whether you regret anything about your attitude before the disease outbreak.

