



**Homework (individual, not pairs)**

Look up some of Voltaire's famous quotes (Brainy Quotes on Harrellland website) Pick out and copy at least one or two of his quotes that you think Millay might be referring to as ones that "clear the air" and briefly tell why you believe you made a cogent choice.

**Here's the sonnet:**                   **(Write your prose version next to it or on separate paper if you prefer.)**

It is fashion now to wave aside  
As tedious, obvious, vacuous, trivial, trite,  
All things which do not tickle, tease, excite  
To some subversion, or in verbiage hide  
Intent, or mock, or with hot sauce provide  
A dish to prick the thickened appetite;  
Straightforwardness is wrong, evasion right;  
It is correct, de rigueur, to deride.  
What fummy wits these modern wags expose,  
For all their versatility: Voltaire,  
Who wore to bed a night cap, and would close,  
In fears of drafts, all windows, could declare  
In antique stuffiness, a phrase that blows  
Still through men's smoky minds, and clears the air.  
(fummy means unpleasant, angry, vaporous—sort of like fumes. A wag is a witty person)

