

Musée des Beaux Arts Key Info

Writer: W. H. Auden | Generated: Jan 26, 2026

Key Facts:

- **Writer:** W. H. Auden (1907 - 1973)
- **Original Title:** Musée des Beaux Arts (French for "Museum of Fine Arts")
- **Written:** December 1938 (during Auden's visit to Brussels, Belgium)
- **First Published:** 1939 in the journal New Writing, later in Another Time (1940)
- **Form:** Free verse poem (no fixed rhyme or meter; two stanzas)
- **Genre:** Modernist / Reflective poem
- **Tone:** Calm, ironic, thoughtful, and reflective
- **Point of View:** Third-person observer (the poet as a viewer of art and human life)
- **Total Lines:** About 21 lines
- **Total Parts:** Two stanzas
- **Place Setting:** Musées Royaux des Beaux-Arts de Belgique (Royal Museums of Fine Arts of Belgium, Brussels)
- **Time Setting:** Late 1930s, on the eve of World War II