**AP Lit & Comp Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Poetry**

**Close-Reading Practice**

**“next to of course god america i” (494)**

**e.e. cummings**

**Directions:** Read “next to of course god america I” and respond thoroughly and thoughtfully to the following questions.

1. Describe the speaker, situation, and tone of this poem. Which words or lines convey the tone?

2. How does Cummings play off the traditional sonnet structure in this poem? What effect does this achieve, particularly when juxtaposed against his Modern syntax?

3. Identify as many allusions in this poem as you are able. What do all the sources of these allusions have in common?

4. A “jingo” is someone who professes his/her patriotism loudly and excessively. What is the connotation of Cummings’ use of the term here?

5. Beyond what is actually said, what do the rhetoric of the first thirteen lines and the description in the last one suggest about the author’s intentions in this poem?

6. Write a lengthy paragraph examining how Cummings uses literary elements such as style, tone, and diction to develop his view on patriotism.