NOTES ON “SUMMER IN ENGLAND”

The use of light

 “caressing pencils of light”

 white houses

 transfiguration seems to be Godlike

 London is in God’s hands – sinless

 Countryside swathed in light too – from the moon

 Bountiful: “silken harvest,” bread of life – corn?

 Apples

 Juxtaposition of beauty and ugliness of war (“convulse”)

Juxtaposition of the sun rising and men falling (chaste vs impurity)

 Horrors of war: men shot through the eyes

Quote from the Bible – dying on a kiss, rather than on a cross – Christ’s blessing?

The use of sound

 Uses iambic tetrameter – has rhythmic feel – nursery rhyme

Rhyme scheme: ababcc all the way through until the final

 line (trimester)

 Soft sounds of city and country: “caressing pencils of the

 sun,” “moon after moon,

“chaste young silver sun went up / softly, a thousand shattered men”

 surprising when soft words suddenly turn harsh

 flowers and fruit followed by disfigurement

 Love hides its face – can’t be seen when hatred abounds

 S sound is slippery, soft – beguiling –men are fooled by what

 man can and does do –

 On the battle field – does the human race finally reveal

 itself?

 Sound and meter lulls us into a false sense of security

 We are all the sacrificed