



Amy Lowell, *The Bungler*

Born of a wealthy and prominent family, Amy Lowell was educated at home. She had a lively social life and travelled a lot. In 1897-98 she also started a severe diet to improve her health in an attempt to solve her increasing weight problem, but the diet only caused further health problems. In the 1913 issue of *Poetry*, Amy read a poem by Hilda Doolittle (H.D.) and decided that she, too, wanted to be an Imagist. She went to London to meet Ezra Pound and other Imagist poets, introduced by a letter from *Poetry* editor Harriet Monroe. People were attracted also by her famous name and eccentricity as Amy dressed like a man, and smoked long, thin cigars.

Her works, mainly poems, include *A Dome of Many-Coloured Glass* (1912), *Sword Blades and Poppy Seeds* (1914), *Men, Women and Ghosts* (1916), a book of both narrative poems and tales divided into scenes.

*The Bungler*¹ is dedicated to a lover and is the description of how the poet feels both psychologically and physically.



You glow in my heart
Like the flames of uncounted candles.
But when I go to warm my hands,
My clumsiness² overturns³ the light,
And then I stumble⁴
Against the tables and chairs.

GLOSSARY

- 1** clumsy person
- 2** lack of grace
- 3** knocks over
- 4** almost fall

ACTIVITIES

- 1** Explain how the poet feels in your own words. What feelings emerge? What kind of love is depicted?

