ACE Paragraph for “In a Station of the Metro” by Ezra Pound

Much of Modern literature deals with the importance of time, but Ezra Pound assumes an unusual position on the matter. In his poem “In a Station of the Metro,” Ezra Pound employs fragmented sentences, imagery, and diction to convey his views on time. His poem is only two lines long, so we are intended to view the title as part of the poem as well. There are no verbs present in the poem – there are merely fragmentary descriptions. This gives the poem a feel of a snapshot, a flash of a single moment in time. Pound’s diction reinforces this idea of temporary states. The “faces in the crowd” are as an apparition; they appear suddenly and will disperse the same way. Petals are stuck to “a wet, black bough;” the branch is only wet when it rains, and as soon as the branch dries, the petals will fall. This diction conveys vivid images, which are perhaps the most important factor in this poem. Pound combines these three things to suggest that part of what makes things beautiful is that they are temporary.