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Clerihew Couples: or Literary Biographies in Nutshells

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The Nicholsoms
Vita Sackville-West
Liked to transvest
But did it in Paris
So as not to embarrass

Harold,
Who, though similarly appareled
And considered a swell,
Did not score quite so well.

The Wordsworths
William Wordsworth
Didn't give a turd's worth
For living in cities.
He wrote rural ditties.

Sister Dorothy
Followed him north; she
Copied their vernal
Affairs in her journal.
The Lawrences

D. H. Lawrence
Viewed with abhorrence
The lay of the land.
That's why he was banned.

Along came Frieda,
Who said, "Bert, you need a
Place where they don't act so prissily.
Let's try Sicily."

Gertrude and Alice

Alice B. Toklas
Said, "We'd go broke less
If you'd write something simple, sweet,
Like the Lady from Wimpole Street."

Gertrude Stein
Thought that was fine
And began to compose
"A rose is a rose."

The Woolfs

Virginia
Didn't want to go to India
And thought she was smitten
With Lytton.

But Strachey
Spelled his lovers H E;
So Len
Came home again.

I was shopping for diapers and asked if she was bringing any food.
She looked aghast and said, "Don't do as behave.
I propose to receive the children to
interacting and
As a development in
and four years.
In fact, it often sounds as though
My wife had a child to
fatherhood.