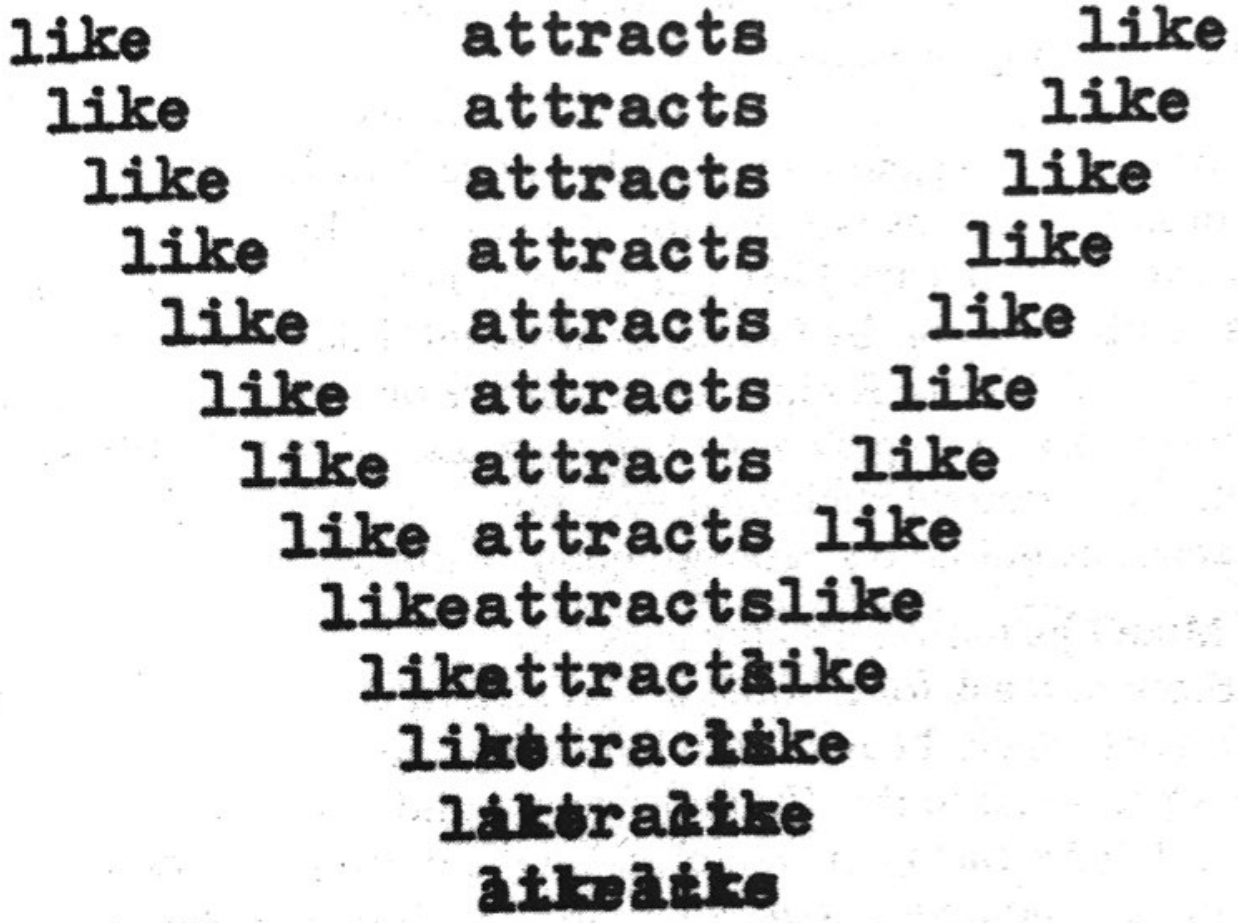
EMMETT WILLIAMS [1925–2007]

like attracts like°



[1958]

like attracts like: Ernst Jandl, in a note on his own work, observes: "'There must be an infinite number of methods of writing experimental poems, but I think the most successful methods are those which can only be used once, for then the result is a poem identical with the method by which it is made. The method used again would turn out exactly the same poem." This particular poem says what it does, and does what it says, and I can't think of three other words that would work as well in this construction." (E.W.)