

Read Like This – A Strategy for Close Reading of Literature

Tell all the Truth, but tell it slant --

Review the full annotation of Emily Dickinson's "Tell all the Truth, but tell it slant" poem below.

I still don't know
what she means
by infirm or
circuit- doesn't
infirm mean
sick?

I still love the
idea of the truth
gradually
dazzling us.
Wow – that's
really deep.

Is she really
comparing the
truth to
lightning? That
seems odd.

Tell all the Truth but tell it slant--
Success in **Circuit** lies
Too bright for our **infirm** Delight
The Truth's superb surprise
As **Lightning** to the Children eased
With explanation kind
The Truth must dazzle gradually
Or every man be blind --

Her sentences
seem out of the
typical subject/
verb order. Why
does she do this?

Why are these
words capitalized
– it seems
random to me.

She uses hypens
twice; is this
important?