

BM1, SoSe 2010, ASSIGNMENT 1 – Analysing Poetry

Please make sure to submit your assignment stapled together but not bound in any folder. Every assignment must include a “title-page” and the statement on plagiarism.

Please address the following three tasks and questions. You may write up to three pages of text, according to the formatting specifications of our style sheet. In fairness to everybody else, any text beyond the first three pages will be ignored.

1. Communicative Situation, Theme and Figurative Speech (60 points)

(a) Communicative Situation

What do you find out about the speaker, the addressee, the communicative situation? (20 points)

(b) Theme(s)

Identify the various sections of the poem. Comment on the theme(s) and their development from one section to the next. How do they relate to the communicative situation? (20 points)

(c) Figurative Speech

Describe the analogy that informs most of the figurative language in the poem and quote three examples as evidence. Identify one metaphor from this set of analogies and analyse it closely. (20 points)

2. Genre, Metre and Rhyme Scheme (20 points)

Comment on genre, metre and rhyme scheme.

3. Spot a problem. (20 points)

Briefly suggest a way to discuss this poem in connection with other poems you have read, and why such a comparison might be relevant. You may build on your response to one or several of the earlier questions.

William Shakespeare. "Sonnet 147".

My love is as a fever, longing still
For that which longer nurseth the disease,
Feeding on that which doth preserve the ill,
Th'uncertain sickly appetite to please:
My reason, the physician to my love,
Angry that his prescriptions are not kept,
Hath left me, and I, desperate, now approve
Desire is death, which physic did except.
Past cure I am, now reason is past care,
And frantic mad with ever more unrest;
My thoughts and my discourse as madmen's are,
At random from the truth vainly expressed:
For I have sworn thee fair, and thought thee bright,
Who art as black as hell, as dark as night.

Explanatory Notes

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| 1.8: | <i>physic</i> | healthy practice, healthy condition |
| 1.8: | <i>except</i> | (to) object to, (to) protest against |
| 1.12: | <i>at random</i> | without aim |
| 1.12: | <i>vainly</i> | in vain |