

Name: _____

EN142 Midterm Exam

Please answer the following questions on this document using clear and legible handwriting.

Time Breakdown

Section 1: Poetic Devices Identification (20 points): 5-10 minutes

Section 2: Short Poetry Annotation & Analysis (20 points): 10-15 minutes

Section 3: Definition Short Answer (20 points): 10-15 minutes

Section 4: Close-Reading Analysis Essay (40 points): 20-25 minutes

Section 1: Poetic Devices Identification (2 points each)

Analyze the quotations and identify the most prominent figurative language device at work (**chose one**).

Chose from: A. Personification; B. Extended Metaphor; C. Simile (1 point). Show your thought process by **underlining** that figurative language in the quotation (1 point).

1. _____ O my love's like a red, red rose,
That's newly sprung in June;
O my love's like the melody
That's sweetly played in tune.
2. _____ In this strange labyrinth how shall I turn?
Ways are on all sides, while the way I miss:
If to the right hand, there in love I burn;
Let me go forward, therein danger is;
3. _____ But, O my soul, sink not into despair,
Virtue is near thee, and with gentle hand
Would now embrace thee, hovers o'er thine head.
4. _____ [...] She thanked men—good! but thanked
Somehow—I know not how—as if she ranked
My gift of a nine-hundred-years-old name
With anybody's gift. [...]
5. _____ England! awake! awake! awake!
Jerusalem thy Sister calls!
Why wilt thou sleep the sleep of death?
And close her from thy ancient walls.
6. _____ "Hope" is the thing with feathers –
That perches in the soul –
And sings the tune without the words –
And never stops – at all –

7. _____ Thy rights are empire: urge no meaner claim,—
Felt, not defined, and if debated, lost;
Like sacred mysteries, which withheld from fame,
Shunning discussion, are revered the most.
8. _____ I know why the caged bird sings, ah me,
When his wing is bruised and his bosom sore,—
When he beats his bars and he would be free;
9. _____ I met a traveler from an antique land
Who said: Two vast and trunkless legs of stone
Stand in the desert...Near them, on the sand,
Half sunk, a shattered visage lies [...]
10. _____ But, with mien of lord or lady, perched above my chamber door—
Perched upon a bust of Pallas just above my chamber door—
Perched, and sat, and nothing more.

Section 2: Short Poetry Annotation & Analysis (10 points each)

Select **two** of the above quotations. For each poem, **perform scansion** of the meter; next, in several sentences, **identify the author** of the poem, **summarize** the poem's overall theme/meaning, and **discuss** the role of the figurative language.

Section 3: Short Answer (20 points)

Briefly answer the following questions. Feel free to use bullet points or short phrases.

1. Name two forms of poetry we have discussed in class and define their features (6 points).
2. What are some defining ideas of Romanticism? List two ideas and at least one key poet of the movement (6 points).
3. What is the term for internal repetition of rhyming vowel sounds? (2 points).
4. In their critical article, "The Philosophy of Composition," a poet breaks down their authorial process in minute detail, using one of their poems as an example. Who is the poet and what is the poem? (2 points)
5. Free-write short answer: There's something that you spent time studying that wasn't asked on the exam. What is it, how does it work, and why is it interesting to you? Explain in as much detail as you recall in short sentences (4 points).

Section 4: Short Essay (40 points)

Choose **one** of the following prompts to answer in a well-organized, argumentative short essay (two solid paragraphs). Use specific quotations from **one** of the attached poems below to support your argument.

1. In *Poetics*, Aristotle writes of two central universal human characteristics: “Imitation, then, is one instinct of our nature. Next, there is the instinct for ‘harmony’ and rhythm, metres being manifestly sections of rhythm.” Explain what Aristotle means with an example poem of your choice below. How does it illustrate these two points?
2. Poets often write about poetry or other art objects, sometimes with metaphors of different artistic mediums. Select a poem below and analyze its stance on poetry, publication, artistic creation, and/or artistic criticism. You might consider: What might be positive, and what might be negative?

Let me not to the marriage of true minds
Admit impediments. Love is not love
Which alters when it alteration finds,
Or bends with the remover to remove.
O no! it is an ever-fixed mark
5 That looks on tempests and is never shaken;
It is the star to every wand'ring bark,
Whose worth's unknown, although his height be taken.
Love's not Time's fool, though rosy lips and cheeks
10 Within his bending sickle's compass come;
Love alters not with his brief hours and weeks,
But bears it out even to the edge of doom.
If this be error and upon me prov'd,
I never writ, nor no man ever lov'd.

They shut me up in Prose –
As when a little Girl
They put me in the Closet –
Because they liked me “still” –

Still! Could themselves have peeped – 5
And seen my Brain – go round –
They might as well have lodged a Bird
For Treason – in the Pound¹ –

Himself has but to will
And easy as a Star 10
Look down upon Captivity –
And laugh – No more have I –

5

“The World Is Too Much With Us” by William Wordsworth

The world is too much with us; late and soon,
Getting and spending, we lay waste our powers;—
Little we see in Nature that is ours;
We have given our hearts away, a sordid boon!²
This Sea that bares her bosom to the moon; 5
The winds that will be howling at all hours,
And are up-gathered now like sleeping flowers;
For this, for everything, we are out of tune;
It moves us not. Great God! I'd rather be
A Pagan suckled³ in a creed outworn; 10
So might I, standing on this pleasant lea,⁴
Have glimpses that would make me less forlorn;
Have sight of Proteus rising from the sea;
Or hear old Triton blow his wreathèd horn.⁵

“In an Artist’s Studio” by Christina Rossetti

One face looks out from all his canvases,
One selfsame figure sits or walks or leans:
We found her hidden just behind those screens,
That mirror gave back all her loveliness.
A queen in opal or in ruby dress, 5
A nameless girl in freshest summer-greens,
A saint, an angel — every canvas means
The same one meaning, neither more or less.
He feeds upon her face by day and night,
And she with true kind eyes looks back on him, 10
Fair as the moon and joyful as the light:
Not wan with waiting, not with sorrow dim;
Not as she is, but was when hope shone bright;
Not as she is, but as she fills his dream.

² “Sordid” means dirty or immoral; “boon” means gift

³ “Pagan” in this period usually refers to a non-Christian indigenous person; “suckled” means nursed.

⁴ "Lea" means an open grassy meadow

⁵ In Greek mythology, Proteus, the “Old Man of the Sea,” rises from the sea at midday and can be forced to read the future by anyone who holds him while he takes many frightening shapes. Triton is the son of the sea god, Neptune; the sound of his conch-shell horn calms the waves.