

PART I: Give a brief explanation (in a few sentences) of 3 out of the following 5 excerpts from poems we've studied in class. Mention how the passage relates to the overall idea/theme of the poem and explain any significant images, symbols, figures of speech, etc., contained in the passage. [15 pts]

- 1) "The Rights of Woman" - Anna Barbauld (5 pts.)

Try all that wit and art suggest to bend
Of thy imperial foe the stubborn knee;
Make treacherous Man thy subject, not thy friend;
Thou mayst command, but never canst be free.

- 2) "Holy Thursday" - William Blake (5 pts.)

Now like a mighty wind they raise to heaven the voice of song,
Or like harmonious thunderings the seats of heaven among.
Beneath them sit the aged men, wise guardians of the poor;
Then cherish pity, lest you drive an angel from your door.

- 3) "Expostulation and Reply" - William Wordsworth (5 pts.)

The eye—it cannot choose but see;
We cannot bid the ear be still;
Our bodies feel where'er they be,
Against or with our will.

- 4) "Frost at Midnight" – Samuel Taylor Coleridge (5 pts.)

Therefore all seasons shall be sweet to thee,
Whether the summer clothe the general earth
With greenness, or the redbreast sit and sing
Betwixt the tufts of snow on the bare branch
Of mossy apople-tree, while the night thatch
Smokes in the sun-thaw; whether the eave-drops fall
Heard only in the trances of the blast,
Or if the secret ministry of frost
Shall hang them up in silent icicles,
Quietly shining to the quiet Moon.

- 5) "Ode on a Grecian Urn" – John Keats (5 pts.)

Heard melodies are sweet, but those unheard
Are sweeter; therefore, ye soft pipes, play on;
Not to the sensual ear, but, more endear'd,
Pipe to the spirit ditties of no tone:
Fair youth, beneath the trees, thou canst not leave
Thy song, nor ever can those trees be bare;
Bold lover, never, never, never canst thou kiss,
Though winning near the goal—yet do not grieve;
She cannot fade, though thou hast not thy bliss,
For ever wilt thou love, and she be fair.

PART II - Short Essays: Read the following questions carefully and **answer them in short essay form** (i.e., in 2-3 paragraphs each). In your interpretations, **MAKE SOME SPECIFIC REFERENCES** to the works we have read. **Each essay** will be graded based upon: (1) concrete mention of the writers' ideas; (2) any reference to important figures of speech (irony, symbolism, simile, personification, metaphor, etc.) and (3) the clarity of your ideas & expression of them. Please be sure to number your responses.

- 1) "The Solitary Reaper," is one of Wordsworth's poems which we did not cover in class. Explain briefly the *key* concepts about "Nature" that you find in it and how this poem reveals ideas also contained in some of his other works. ~~With which other Romantic poet, Blake, Coleridge or Keats, does he resemble more in understanding the function of Nature based upon his use of images and ideas in this poem? Explain using references to 1-2 of the other poet's works to illustrate your answer. [20 pts.]~~

like that
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is his use
of

The Solitary Reaper

Behold her, single in the field
Yon solitary Highland Lass!
Reaping and singing by herself;
Stop here, or gently pass!
Alone she cuts and binds the grain,
And sings a melancholy strain;
O listen! for the Vale profound
Is overflowing with the sound.

No Nightingale did ever chant
More welcome notes to weary bands,
Of travelers in some shady haunt,
Among Arabian sands;
A voice so thrilling ne'er was heard
In spring-time from the Cuckoo-bird,
Breaking the silence of the seas
Among the farthest Hebrides *
Will no one tell me what she sings?
Perhaps the plaintive numbers flow
For old, unhappy far-off things,
And battles long ago:
Or is it some more humble lay,
Familiar matter of to-day?
Some natural sorrow, loss, or pain
That has been and may be again?

* Islands off the west coast of Scotland

Whate'er the theme, the Maiden sang
As if her song could have no ending;
I saw her singing at her work,
And o'er the sickle bending;--
I listened, motionless and still;
And, as I mounted up the hill,
The music in my heart I bore,
Long after it was heard no more.

3) Anna Barbauld, Charlotte Smith, and Mary Wollstonecraft all deal with the important realization that women should exist on a par with men, even though the society at that time did not understand or accept gender "equality" in most situations. *Explain in 2-3 paragraphs, two (2) of Wollstonecraft's central ideas from her essay which you think are "revolutionary" or groundbreaking. Select one (1) poem by either Smith or Barbauld that connects with her ideas and explain how you see that poet echoing a similar idea on the role of women (i.e., quote a few key lines or sentences and explain their significance). [15 pts.]*