

English IV-Blizzard Bag #1

Directions: Read the poems below and answer the following questions in complete sentences responding to all aspects of each question on a separate sheet of paper. Please label the top of your paper "Blizzard Bag #1."

"Sonnet 30" – Edmund Spenser

My love is like to ice, and I to fire;
How comes it then that this her cold so great
Is not dissolved through my so hot desire?
Or how comes it that my exceeding heat
Is not delayed by her heart-frozen cold:
But that I burn much more in boiling sweat,
And feel my flames augmented manifold?
What more miraculous thing may be told
That fire which all things melts, should harden ice:
And ice which is congealed with senseless cold,
Should kindle fire by wonderful device.
Such is the pow'r of love in gentle mind,
That it can alter all the course of kind.

- 1). What are your reactions to the speaker's feelings about love?
- 2). Why do you think Spenser chose to use the images of fire and ice?
- 3). Is this poem a believable description of a love relationship? Explain your opinion.

"Sonnet 75" – Edmund Spenser

One day I wrote her name upon the strand,
But came the waves and wash'd it away:
Again I wrote it with a second hand,
But came the tide, and made my pains his prey.
"Vain man," said she, "that dost in vain assay,
A mortal thing so to immortalize.
For I myself shall like to this decay,
And eke my name be wip'ed out likewise."
"Not so," quod I, "let baser things devise
To die in dust, but you shall live by fame:
My verse your virtues rare shall eternize,
And in heavens write your glorious name,
Where whenas death shall all the world subdue,
Our love shall live, and later life renew."

- 4). What images remain in your mind after reading "Sonnet 75"?
- 5). Why do you think the speaker in "Sonnet 75" wants to immortalize his love? Explain your thinking.
- 6). Reread lines 13 and 14. Do you agree with the speaker that love can overcome death?
- 7). Suppose that the object of the speaker's love in either "Sonnet 30" or "Sonnet 75" wrote a reply. What do you think would be her view of the speaker and his ideas about love?

English IV-Blizzard Bag 2

Directions: Read the poems below and answer the following questions in complete sentences responding to all aspects of each question on a separate sheet of paper. Please label the top of your paper "Blizzard Bag #2."

"Sonnet 29" – William Shakespeare

When in disgrace with Fortune and men's eyes
I all alone beweep my outcast state,
And trouble deaf heaven with my bootless cries,
And look upon myself and curse my fate,
Wishing me like to one more rich in hope,
Featur'd like him, like him with friends possess'd,
Desiring this man's art, and that man's scope,
With that I most enjoy contented least;
Yet in these thoughts myself almost despising,
Haply I tinkn on thee, and then my state,
Like to the lark at break of day arising
From sullen earth, sings hymns at heaven's gate,
For thy sweet love rememb' red such wealth brings,
Than then I scorn to change my state with kings.

- 1). What changes the speaker's mood in "Sonnet 29"?**
- 2). Can you identify in any way with the speaker of this poem? Why or why not?**
- 3). What do you think are the speaker's strongest feelings in this sonnet? Cite lines from the poem to support your answer.**

"Sonnet 116" – William Shakespeare

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-fix'ed mark
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
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 proved,
I never writ, nor no man ever loved.

- 4). What is your response to the description of love in this poem?**
- 5). What kind of person might the speaker be?**
- 6). Do you think the speaker's concept of love is a realistic one? Why or why not?**

"Sonnet 130" – William Shakespeare

My mistress' eyes are nothing like the sun;
Coral is far more red than her lips' red;

English IV-Blizzard Bag 3

Directions: Read the poems below and answer the following questions in complete sentences responding to all aspects of each question on a separate sheet of paper. Please label the top of your paper "Blizzard Bag #3."

"Sonnet 169" – Francesco Petrarch

Rapt in the one fond thought that makes me stray
from other men and walk this world alone,
sometimes I have escaped myself and flown
to seek the very one that I should flee;

so fair and fell I see her passing by
that the soul trembles to take flight again,
so many arm'ed sighs are in her train,
this lovely foe to Love himself and me!

And yet upon that high and clouded brow
I seem to see a ray of pity shine,
shedding some light across the grieving heart:

so I call back my soul, and when I vow
at last to tell her of my hidden pain,
I have so much to say I dare not start.

- 1). What are your thoughts about the feelings the speaker expresses in this poem?**
- 2). How would you describe the relationship between the speaker and his beloved?**

"Sonnet 292" – Francesco Petrarch

The eyes I spoke of once in words that burn,
the arms and hands and feet and lovely face
that took me from myself for such a space
of time and marked me out from other men;

the waving hair of unmixed gold that shone,
the smile that flashed with the angelic rays
that used to make this earth paradise,
are now a little dust, all feeling gone;

and yet I live, grief and disdain to me,
left where the light I cherished never shows,
in fragile bark on the tempestuous sea.

Here let my loving song come to a close,
the vein of my accustomed art is dry,
and this, my lyre, turned at last to tears.

- 3). What type of music would convey the overall mood of "Sonnet 292"?**
- 4). How would you describe the speaker's feelings on the loss of love?**
- 5). Think again about the two situations presented in these poems. Do you think it is more difficult to cope with a love that is hopeless or with the death of someone you love? Explain your answer.**

If snow be white, why then her breasts are dun;
If hairs be wires, black wires grow on her head.
I have seen roses damask'd, red and white,
But no such roses see I in her cheeks,
And in some perfumes is there more delight
Than in the breath that from my mistress reeks.
I love to hear her speak, yet well I know
That music hath a far more pleasing sound;
I grant I never saw a goddess go,
My mistress when she walks treads on the ground.
 And yet, by heaven, I think my love as rare
 As any she belied with false compare.

7). Were you surprised by the description in "Sonnet 130"?

8). What do you think might have been Shakespeare's purpose in writing this sonnet?