

FOURTH ASSIGNMENT

The fourth paper will be due on December 14th (Friday), deposited in my mailbox no later than 2 PM. Anyone wishing an extension must request one by e-mail. In no cases will extensions be granted later than Tuesday, December 18th, at 2 PM. Papers must be submitted in hard copy. In this case, it will not be necessary to supply copies of the poems discussed.

The paper should be eight pages long, that is to say, about 2800 words in length. This number may include quotations essential to your discussion but not extensive quotations of stanzas or of entire poems. Use the character-counting feature on your word-processing program to obtain the number of words and print the number on your title page. One further requirement. Please number the pages of your essay—it will make it easier for me to refer to your work in writing my commentary.

TOPICS

1. Of some lines of Wordsworth's Coleridge remarked in a letter: "I should have recognized them anywhere; and had I met these lines running wild in the deserts of Arabia, I should have instantly screamed out, "Wordsworth!" Comment on the work of any poet that we read this term after Milton from the standpoint of metaphor, theme, situation and/or view of life, in a way that would lead a reader to identify the work as characteristic of the poet in question. During the course of your exposition be specific at length in reference to the text of at least three of the author's poem.

2. Alternatively compare the work of any two poets, one of which must be a poet whose work we read after we read Keats.

3. Compare at length one poem by each of two or three authors whose work or works usefully compare with one another from the standpoint of theme, situation, or view of life. The idea here is to identify difference despite similarities and so highlight the salient characteristics of each. At least one of the poets in question should be chosen from among those that we read this term after Keats. Here are some suggestions:

Wordsworth's *Tintern Abbey* with Coleridge's *Frost at Midnight* or Yeats's *Prayer for my Daughter*.

Keats's *Ode on a Grecian Urn* with Wallace Stevens's *Sunday Morning*.

Wordsworth's *Solitary Reaper* with Stevens's *Idea of Order at Key West*

Milton's *Lycidas* and Stevens's *Sunday Morning* (from the standpoint of religious images now treated as myths)

Keats's *Nightingale*, Yeats's *Among School Children*, Wordsworth's *Immortality Ode*

Keats's *Nightingale* with Frost's *Stopping by Woods and Come In*

Donne's *The Good Morrow* with Larkin's *Aubade*. (An aubade is a poem about day-break)

Frost's view of Nature with that of practically anybody else.

Wordsworth's *Tintern Abbey* with Frost's *Directive*

Arnold's *Dover Beach* with Stevens's *Idea of Order at Key West*

Wordsworth's *Three Years She Grew* with Stevens's *Emperor of Ice-Cream*

Keats's *In Drear-Nighted December* and Stevens's *The Snow Man*

Auden's *Lullaby* with Yeats's *Prayer for My Daughter*

Yeats's *Sailing to Byzantium* and Keats's *Ode on a Grecian Urn*

Donne's *Nocturnal on St Lucy's Day* with any poem by Stevens or Frost

Frost's *The Most of It* and/or *Come In* and Wordsworth's *It is a Beauteous Evening*

This list does not include much by Auden or Larkin (neither does it mention Eliot's *Love Song of J.*

Alfred Prufrock but I shall offer some suggestions about these poets as we read them.

4. Or you might want to compare three (or even four) short poems that share a theme or subject matter but treat the theme or subject matter each in its own way, absorbing it into a different view of life, as for example, one sonnet each from any three or four authors or these short poems about clothing—Donne’s *Elegy XIX*, Jonson’s *Still to be Neat*, Yeats’s *A Coat*, Wilbur’s *Love Calls us to Things of this World*. Or you might want to write about any three or four poems that center upon a bird. Once again, any discussion must include a work by at least one author read after Keats.
5. For those made desperate by the above choices, a last option is to provide a detailed analysis of any poem of at least sixty lines. Your choice is limited to the work of Wordsworth and the works of those poets that we read after reading Wordsworth.