

Assignment 13

Compare, Persuade, Debate

- *picture*. The picture is of William Wordsworth as a young man.
- *literature*. Read “Tintern Abbey” and “Intimations Ode” by William Wordsworth once more this week and answer the questions at the end of this assignment sheet. Bring your answers to class, and I will assemble you into groups in which you can discuss your answers with classmates. Each group will then submit *one* master sheet, and the group that answers most of the questions correctly wins! (“Wins what?” Steve and Brendan ask. Mr. Walter answers, “You will find out!”)
- Again, with this assignment, we will be comparing works by the *same* author. By making such a comparison this coming Friday, you will learn about the distinguishing characteristics of an author (author’s genius) and even of the period in which he lived (Zeitgeist). This week we will continue to examine 1) characteristics of the Romantic Period with example poems and applying those principles to Wordsworth’s works; 2) historical developments that influenced the ideas of the Romantic Period, such as the Industrial Revolution and the Romantic Period; 3) the works of prominent philosophers who exemplify the period; and most importantly, 4) the common characteristics between the two poems assigned.
- *writing*. In three sentences, write down three important similarities of the two poems. Next week we will contextualize your analysis by explaining the similarities of the poem in terms of the Romantic Period. You will be sharing your observations of the three similarities with your classmates in class this coming Friday.



TINTERN ABBEY

MULTIPLE CHOICE READING QUESTIONS

1. What is NOT true of the descriptive passage found in stanza 1 of "Tintern Abbey"?
 - a) It is autobiographical.
 - b) The description includes a stream or river, mountains, and sky.
 - c) Nature is described objectively.
 - d) More than one sense (hearing, seeing, etc.) is involved with the description.
 - e) It tells the thoughts of the speaker.
2. Which of the following is true of stanza 2 of the poem?
 - a) The poet asserts that man's cultivation ruins the natural wild beauty of the landscape.
 - b) The pastoral dwellings of the landscape are a jarring contrast to the surrounding orchards.
 - c) The speaker only imagines that there might be a hermit in the woods where he sees smoke from a fire rise.
 - d) All of the stanza's lines illustrate enjambment.
 - e) The stanza directly contradicts what is said in stanza 1.

*The day is come when I again repose
Here, under this dark sycamore, and view
These plots of cottage ground . . .*

3. Which of the following best rephrases the wording, meaning and grammar of above lines of the poem?
 - a) The day is coming when I will once more sit under this cruel tree, and view these plots of apple orchard grounds . . .
 - b) The day had finally come when I had to, once again, rest here under this rotted sycamore, and look at these plots of cottage ground . . .
 - c) The time arrived when I again reposed in this place, under this black sycamore to view these orchards . . .
 - d) The day came when I again reposed here, under this dark bush, and viewed this landscape . . .
 - e) The time has come when I once more rest here under this dark sycamore, and see these orchards . . .
4. Which of the following does NOT describe or identify the "tranquil restoration" spoken of in stanza 3?
 - a) It is caused by the "forms of beauty," spoken of in line 2 of stanza 3.
 - b) It is a new feeling that the speaker describes, experienced in his recent trip to Tintern Abbey.
 - c) It counteracts and serves as a relief to the sensations of an urban environment described as "the din / Of towns and cities."
 - d) It is part of "that best portion of a good man's life"
 - e) It is part of that same effect which is described as a "blessed mood," described later on in the passage.
5. How is the speaker able to see "into the life of things" (last line of stanza 4)?
 - a) by viewing and experiencing nature's beauty
 - b) by pondering the nameless, unremembered acts of kindness and of love

- c) by solving mysteries
 - d) by visiting towns and cities
 - e) by daydreaming of love
6. Which of the following is NOT true of stanza 5?
- a) In the stanza, the speaker expresses a moment of doubt regarding his philosophic ideas on nature.
 - b) In the first line of the stanza, the speaker interrupts a thought that contradicts what he has been saying about nature.
 - c) There is an apostrophe in the stanza (a figure of speech in which the speaker addresses somebody or something rhetorically).
 - d) In the stanza the speaker states that the “fever of the world” is caused by overemphasizing nature’s forces.
 - e) In the stanza the speaker states that the sylvan Wye is part of what fills him with “tranquil feelings.”
7. According to the ideas expressed in stanza 6, which of the following best expresses the speaker’s response to nature as a child and as an adult?
- a) As a boy the speaker did not appreciate nature as much as when his mind matured.
 - b) As a boy the speaker was ecstatic in his response to nature, but as he aged, his emotional response became dulled to the point of indifference.
 - c) As a boy nature haunted him like a ghost, and he felt he was cruelly pursued like a wild animal, disturbed by its beauty; however, as an adult he was “disturbed” (elevated) by the humane philosophic thoughts nature brought.
 - d) As a boy the speaker was “thoughtless” about nature’s majesty and only as an adult did he have a proper response.
 - e) As a boy the speaker had an emotional, not a rational or intellectual, response.
8. Which of the following best summarizes what is expressed in stanza 6?
- a) Nature has dizzying raptures that most people cannot appreciate until they are older.
 - b) The speaker lost that youthful joy in his encounters with the nature’s beauty, but that loss was amply compensated in his maturity, which gave birth to a philosophic mind.
 - c) Nature gives the speaker, and everyone willing to open himself to nature’s influence, not only peace of mind but also a love of ourselves.
 - d) Nature is like an organism of which all humanity is a part.
 - e) The speaker was a wild creature when he was young and had little appreciation of nature, but that changed.
9. According to what is stated in the poem, which of the following would the speaker (or poet) NOT agree with?
- a) Memories of nature in its beauty can be a source of comfort and restoration in adverse environments.
 - b) The beauty of nature can have a moral influence on the human mind.
 - c) The beauty of nature can awaken our sleeping mind and give us keener insight into life.
 - d) Nature, or what is contained in nature, is part of everything, including the mind of man.

- e) Mundane life, the cruelty of people, and sinful talk can destroy what was gained by experiencing nature's beauty.

10. What is NOT true concerning the speaker's sister according to what the speaker states in the poem?

- a) The sister's aspect and voice reflect what the speaker once experienced in nature.
- b) The speaker believes that his sister's mind will be a room ("mansion") of memories of good and beautiful things.
- c) The speaker believes that his sister is also a lover of nature.
- d) The speaker is exhorting his sister to return to her first love of nature that she has since left.
- e) The speaker believes that if his sister continues to "commune" with nature, her mind will be affected by its beauty and she will experience relief from loneliness, fear and sadness from remembering her brother and his talks about nature.