

Paper #3

Annotations to Poems

For the past few weeks, we have been discussing poems and poetry. For your third paper, please provide annotations on one poem discussed in class and one of the following: Hopkins, “Spring and Fall,” (842), Donne, “The Good Morrow” (745); Brooks, “First Fight, Then Fiddle” (898); Dickinson, “I dwell in possibility” (699). Get in at least eight terms from the [poetry terms](#).

Getting there: Read and listen to the poem first. After working toward what you think is the meaning or the poem, go back and suggest some of the words, images, sounds that take us there. No need to annotate the obvious or literal, but go beyond a translation to highlight/annotate words with special sounds, meanings, connotations, and figures of speech. Consult a dictionary to look up words you don’t know. Note important features, such as the speaker or situation. Consider the ways the poem both uses and departs from poetic conventions (some poems, for example, may have depart slightly from the form of the sonnet, or may have a regular meter for the post part but irregular in certain key sections).

Try to get in your annotations while noting our poetry terms. To help your reader keep track, note that reference in parentheses (). Try also to use the comment feature to help think about the poems as more than two dimensional but as works that reach deep into the language, history, feeling. For example:

Heart weeps.

Commented [VNR1]: “Heart” is personified (1).

Head tries to help heart.

Commented [VNR2]: Heart is a metonymy (2) for emotion. Head for reason.

Head tells heart how it is, again: You will lose the ones you love. They will all go.
But even the earth will go, someday

....

You don’t have to annotate each line but choose those words, images, sounds, that contribute to overall meaning. At the end of your annotations, you should insert a few lines of interpretation:

This poem personifies both the head and heart to stage a debate between reason and emotion. In the end, the tone is despairing, as “head” is all “heart” has, though it may not be enough.

If a longer poem, you could say more.

Note: make sure you get an accurate sample of the poem to paste into your document.

Due: Friday 10/17. In class on Friday 10/8, we will discuss your two poems in groups.