

RENAISSANCE PROSE AND POETRY

FIRST LECTURE

26TH SEP

TOPIC:

“ONE DAY I WROTE HER NAME UPON THE STRAND”

BY EDMUND SPENSER

HOW TO ANALYZE A POEM:

1. To analyze a poem first, you should identify the sentences and mark them.
 - To mark a sentence, you should search for the punctuation marks that are used to end a sentence or an abbreviation such as a period, an exclamation mark or a question mark. (.,?!,)
2. The second step to analyze a poem is that you should locate the sub-sentences.
 - What is a sub-sentence? it's when a sentence is divide to two using a colon or a semi-colon (; :)
3. The third step that is needed in order to analyze a poem is to indicate the literal meaning of each sentence and sub-sentence.
 - There are two types of meanings
 - I. Literal meaning: which means taking the most basic meaning of the sentence/words.
 - II. Figurative meaning: which is having a deep or a metaphorical meaning.
4. The next step so you can correctly analyze a poem is to figure the figurative meanings in the piece.

➤ **The first and second step**

#1st sentence

One day I wrote her name upon the strand,

But came the waves and washed it away:

- 1st sub-sentence

Again I wrote it with a second hand,

But came the tide, and made my pains his prey.

#2nd sentence

"Vain man," said she, "that dost in vain assay,

A mortal thing so to immortalize;

- 2nd sub-sentence

For I myself shall like to this decay,

And eke my name be wiped out likewise."

#3rd sentence

"Not so," (quod I) "let baser things devise

To die in dust, but you shall live by fame:

- 3rd sub-sentence

My verse your vertues rare shall eternize,

And in the heavens write your glorious name:

- 4th sub-sentence

Where whenas death shall all the world subdue,

Our love shall live, and later life renew."

➤ **THE THIRD STEP: literal meanings**

- **I: is the speaker** **her: is a female/ his lover** **Means: The shore. It's an archaic word**
(which is an old word used in old English.)

One day I wrote her name upon the strand,

- **The poet used an archaic sentence structure** (sentences that don't follow the correct structure order.)
But came the waves and washed it away:

- **Means: Again**

Again I wrote it with a second hand

- **It targeted my "pains" which means "effort", he refers to the name he wrote a second time**
But came the tide, and made my pains his prey.

- **Vain: proud** **Dost : does , Assay: try , In vain : uselessly**
"Vain man." said she, "that dost in vain assay,

- **Mortal refers to the woman , "you cant make me immortal when I'm mortal"**
A mortal thing so to immortalize;

- **"I'm like my name that you wrote sooner or later ill disappear/die, she compared herself with her own name**
For I myself shall like to this decay

- **Eke : also**

And eke my name be wiped out likewise."

- **Quod: said** **Baser: lower** **Devise: decide**
"Not so," (quod I) "let baser things devise

- **People will know you forever**
To die in dust, but you shall live by fame:

- **Verse: poem** **The poet used an archaic structure**
My verse your vertues rare shall eternize,

And in the heavens write your glorious name:

- **Whenas: while** **The poet used an archaic structure again** **subdue: destroy**
Where whenas death shall all the world subdue,

- **Our love will be renewed and the cause of our rebirth**
Our love shall live, and later life renew."

NOTE:

- **Archaism: is the use of old English and sentence structure**

➤ **Fourth step figurative meaning**

Figurative speech refers to the use of non-literal wording to communicate a point.

There are many figurative devices used in poetry such as irony, metaphor and simile

❖ Rules of metaphor and simile:

- A. Compare A to B
- B. A point of similarity between both things
- C. A and B should belong to two different classes.
- D. For metaphor don't use "like or as".
As for simile you should use "like or as"

Examples:

- The world is a stage and we are players

The world is a stage is a metaphor as it meets all the rules.

And we are players is not a metaphor as it does not meet the rule number #3

As players are humans

And "We" are humans as well hence, we belong to the same class.

- That bird is like my laptop

It's not a simile as there is no similarity between them so the sentence does not meet the rule number #2.

Next week's task: is to identify the metaphors in the poem

END OF THE FIRST LECTURE.

Renaissance prose and poetry course

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