

Lecture 1

Poetry

"Let Not Old Age Disgrace My High Desire"

By: Sir Philip Sydney

- The text of the poem and explanation is available in the book from page 20:24.

- First read the poem and use the following meanings to understand difficult words:

disgrace ذِجِبَة

heavenly مَقَرِّي

inflamed مَبْلُغِي

yield = give

bravest = blazing مَسْتَعْلِي

disgraceful مَسِيْب

show مَنظَر

unto = to

well stayed from بَعِيْد

humor = doing useless things

hath = had

high desire = i.e. in life

Contained مَحْتَوَا

doth = does

virtue قُوَّة

spend مَنقُصٌ قُوَّتِهِ فِي الْبَطَالِ

hue لَوْن

homage اِحْتِرَامًا

constant ثَابِت

raging = extreme

aspire يَطْمَح

- Then start following the coming steps to write a complete analysis on the poem:

1. Introduction: It is the first paragraph under the title "Analysis of the poem" page 22 in the book.



2. Themes and paraphrase:

The theme of the poem is praising old age. The paraphrase is the second paragraph after the title "Analysis of the poem".

3. Form, rhythm and rhyme scheme:

The poem is written in the form of a Shakespearean Sonnet. It includes fourteen lines divided into 3 quatrains and a concluding Couplet. The rhyme scheme is: abab cdcd efef gg. The rhythm is iambic pentameter: "L^ēt n^òt / òld àge / dⁱsgràce / m^y hⁱgh / d^esire." The line begins with an unstressed syllable followed by a stressed syllable and so on. There are five feet in each line.

Lecture 2

"Let Not Old Age..."

The rest of the critical analysis should include:

4. Figures of speech and language:

A detailed explanation is in the book p.23-24.

5. Features of Elizabethan Poetry:

There is an abundance of figures of speech in the poem which is a remarkable feature of the age. The theme of worldly pleasures is present in the poem, because the poet wants to enjoy life even if he becomes so old. The poem is a Shakespearean sonnet. The poet looks at man as the master of the universe. He takes images from people's daily life, nature and the Bible.

6. Conclusion: Write a summary of the critical analysis in a short paragraph of your own.

Lecture 3 Metaphysical Poetry

- The characteristics of Metaphysical poetry are explained in the book pages 119-120 from 1 → 6. Add to them the following points:

7. Brevity: poems are concise. Every line conveys a lot of meanings in very few words.

8. The poems are full of wisdom and the ideas are original.

9. This poetry is autobiographical, spontaneous, conversational and paradoxical.

- The poem which will be studied is: "Divine Meditation x" (تأمل الله) by John Donne, the leader of the Metaphysical school. Metaphysical poets are interested in the abstract world rather than the physical, so this poem is about death.

- Read the poem page 185 and use the following meanings for difficult words:

mighty - عظيم - قوي

thou = you

dost = does

Canst = can

delivery - تسليم

dwell = live

charms - الحروف والتعويذات

swell'st - تنتفخ

dreadful - مخيف

art = are

overthrow - يدمر - يعزق

thy = your

desperate - يائس

poppy - نبات كندر

strok = way

past - تمر

Lecture 4

Divine Meditation x

- Start studying the critical analysis of the poem from the book pages 189-191.
- Write an introduction to the analysis and include some of the biography of Donne in it page 179. A short paragraph is enough.
- You also need to write a conclusion = a summary of the poem in a brief paragraph.
- The metaphysical conceit which appears in the second paragraph of the figures of speech is a type of metaphor used by Metaphysical poets. The conceit draws a comparison between two dissimilar things. When the reader understands it, he becomes astonished.