



ENGL 218

Final Exam – English 218

Feb 2001-2002 -

A. Elements of Poetry

Look at the following lines and identify any use of sonics (sound effects), metaphor/simile, and allusion within them, and then write a few sentences describing the speaker, tone, and situation in the poem itself.

“I have done it again.
One year in every ten
I manage it—

A sort of walking miracle, my skin
Bright as a Nazi lampshade,
My right foot

A paperweight,
My face a featureless, fine
Jew linen.”

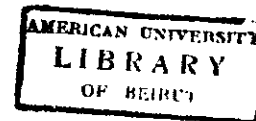


B. Stylistic Comparison

Looking at one of the following pairs of writers, in 2-3 paragraphs compare their styles in terms of syntax, diction, form, use of image, etc. I’ve provided some lines to help you, but you do not have to limit yourself to these lines when comparing the two writers.

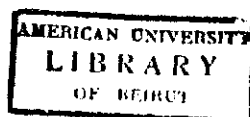
1. Frost—“...Often you must have seen them
Loaded with ice a sunny winter morning
After a rain. They click upon themselves
As the breeze rises, and turn many-colored
As the stir cracks and crazes their enamel.”

and Heaney—“Bubbles gargled delicately, bluebottles
Wove a strong gauze of sound around the smell.
There were dragonflies, spotted butterflies,
But best of all was the warm thick slobber
Of frogspawn that grew like clotted water”



2. Dickinson—“My Life had stood—a Loaded Gun—
In Corners—till a Day
The Owner passed—identified—
And carried Me away—“

and Cummings—“anyone lived in a pretty how town
(with up so floating many bells down)
spring summer autumn winter
he sang his didn’t he danced his did.”



3. Williams—"There were some dirty plates
and a glass of milk
beside her on a small table
near the rank, disheveled bed—"

and Simic—"As you hold it in your hand,
As you stab with it into a piece of meat,
It is possible to imagine the rest of the bird:
Its head which like your fist
Is large, bald, beakless, and blind."

4. Sexton—"He rested there like a building.
He grew into her foot until they were one.
The marks of the horseshoe printed
into her flesh, the tips of her toes
ripped off like pieces of leather,
three toenails swirled like shells
and left to float in blood in her riding boot."

and Collins—"Then the long white dress, a more
complicated matter with mother-of-pearl
buttons down the back,
so tiny and numerous that it takes forever
before my hands can part the fabric,
like a swimmer's dividing water,
and slip inside."

C. Thematic Analysis

Pick one of the following topics and, in 4-5 paragraphs, compare and contrast how that theme is being handled in those poems, making sure to be as specific as possible as to what points each poem is making about that theme and explaining, as best you can, how we can see it within the poem itself. Remember, how you say something is as important as what you're saying, so qualify your statements.

1. **Artistry** as seen in four of the following: "The Idea of Order at Key West," "Trumpet Player," "Digging," "Leaving the Roadside Motel," and/or one poem by Collins.
2. **Natural behavior** and/or **naturalness** as seen in four of the following: "Death of a Naturalist," "anyone lived in a pretty how town," "The Heaven of Animals," "A Blessing," "Belly Dancer," "A Martian Sends a Postcard Home," "To Earthward," and/or one poem by Simic.
3. **Female experience** as seen in four of the following: "Now That I Am Forever with Child," "Rape," "Spelling," "Belly Dancer," and/or one poem by Sexton.
4. **Responsibility** (to ourselves or others) and/or **influencing others** as seen in four of the following: "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening," "Visitors to His Cottage," "Pig Song," one poem by Hughes, and/or one poem by Simic.