Zoom Meeting 1c

Reading Seminar 1: The 16thC and the Sonnet



Zoom Meeting Information

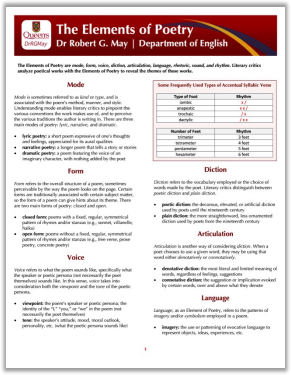
- Zoom Meetings are about 60 minutes long and are recorded.
- Recordings and PowerPoints are posted on onQ (under "Content" > "Zoom Meetings").
- Participate in the discussion by using the "Chat" window or by raising your hand under "React."
- Attendance will be taken at a random point in the meeting; your camera may be on or off.

Zoom Meetings

Please see the Course Syllabus for specific dates and times

Informational	Writing Seminars	Reading Seminars
Intro to the Course	**1b. Writing Seminar 1** (Crafting an Effective Thesis Statement)	**1c. Reading Seminar 1**
1a. Academic Integrity		
2a. Midcourse Exam Info Session	**2b. Writing Seminar 2** (Structuring an Analytical Essay)	**2c. Reading Seminar 2**
3a. TA Check-In	**3b. Writing Seminar 3** (Claim, Evidence, and Analysis)	**3c. Reading Seminar 3**
4a. Final Exam Info Session	**4b. Writing Seminar 4** (Some Notes on Grammar and Style)	**4c. Reading Seminar 4**

The Elements of Poetry


The Elements of Poetry
Dr Robert G. May | Department of English

The Elements of Poetry are mode, form, voice, diction, articulation, language, rhetoric, sound, and rhythm. Literary critics analyze poetical works with the Elements of Poetry to reveal the themes of those works.

Mode

Mode is sometimes referred to as *kind* or *type*, and is sometimes called "genre," although that is not quite right. Understanding mode enables literary critics to pinpoint the various conventions the work makes use of, and to perceive the various traditions the author is writing in. There are three main modes of poetry: lyric, narrative, and dramatic.

- **lyric poetry:** a short poem expressive of one's thoughts and feelings, appreciated for its aural qualities
- **narrative poetry:** a longer poem that tells a story or stories
- **dramatic poetry:** a poem featuring the voice of an imaginary character, with nothing added by the poet

Form

Form refers to the overall structure of a poem, sometimes perceivable by the way the poem looks on the page. Certain forms are traditionally associated with certain subject matter, but the poet is free to break with tradition in any scheme. There are two main forms of poetry: closed and open.

- **closed form:** poems with a fixed, regular, symmetrical pattern of rhymes and/or stanzas (e.g., sonnet, villanelle, ode)
- **open form:** poems without a fixed, regular, symmetrical pattern of rhymes and/or stanzas (e.g., free verse, prose poetry, concrete poetry)

Voice

Voice refers to what the poem sounds like, specifically what the speaker or poetic persona (not necessarily the poet themselves) sounds like. In this sense, voice takes into consideration both the viewpoint and the tone of the poetic persona.

- **viewpoint:** the poem's speaker or poetic persona; the identity of the "I," "you," or "we" in the poem (not necessarily the poet themselves)
- **tone:** the speaker's attitude, mood, mood outlook, personality, etc. (what the poetic persona sounds like)

Some Frequently Used Types of Accentual Syllabic Verse

Type of Foot	Rhythm
iamb	x /
anapest	x x /
trochee	/ x
dactyl	/ x x

Number of Feet	Rhythm
trimeter	3 feet
tetrameter	4 feet
pentameter	5 feet
hexameter	6 feet

Diction

Diction refers to the vocabulary employed or the choice of words made by the poet. Literary critics distinguish between poetic diction and plain diction.

- **poetic diction:** the decorous, elevated, or artificial diction used by poets until the nineteenth century
- **plain diction:** the more straightforward, less ornamented diction used by poets from the nineteenth century

Articulation

Articulation is another way of considering diction. When a poet chooses to use a given word, they may be using that word either denotatively or connotatively.

- **denotative diction:** the most literal and limited meaning of words, regardless of feelings, suggestions
- **connotative diction:** the suggestion or implication evoked by certain words, more and above what they denote

Language

Language, as an Element of Poetry, refers to the patterns of imagery and/or symbolism employed in a poem.

- **imagery:** the use or patterning of evocative language to represent objects, ideas, experiences, etc.

Mode	*poetic subgenre*
Form	*open vs closed*
Voice	*narrative qualities*
Diction	*word choice*
Articulation	*saying vs suggesting*
Language	*imagery, symbolism*
Rhetoric	*figures of speech*
Sound	*sonic qualities*
Rhythm	*metrical qualities*
Theme	*abstract concept*

sonnet

Types of Sonnet

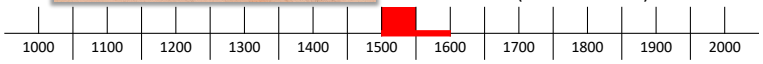
- **Petrarchan/Italian**
  - an octave and a sestet
  - usually ***abba abba cde cde***
- **Shakespearean/English**
  - three quatrains and a couplet
  - ***abab cdcd efef gg***
- **Spenserian/Link**
  - three quatrains and a couplet
  - ***abab bcbc cdcd ee***

- a 14-line lyric poem, usually in iambic pentameter (**x/x/x/x/x/**), with varying rhyme schemes depending on type
- divided into two parts, bridged by a turn or *volta*
- established by the Italian Renaissance poet Petrarch in the fourteenth century
- traditionally used to express the torment of unrequited love, but later expanded to include other subject matter (Baldick 338-39)

Sir Thomas Wyatt the Elder (1503-1542)



- educated at St John's College, Cambridge; became a courtier in Henry VIII's dangerous court
- spent many years abroad as a diplomat; was heavily influenced by Continental Renaissance poetry, especially Petrarch
- accused of an affair with Anne Boleyn; imprisoned twice in the Tower of London
- introduced the sonnet to English poetry, modifying it for English sensibilities (*NAEL* B120-22)



Sir Thomas Wyatt the Elder (1503-1542)



Sir Thomas Wyatt
[The long love that in my thought doth harbour]

The long love that in my thought doth harbour
And in mine heart doth keep his residence
Into my face presseth with bold pretence
And therein campeth, spreading his banner.
She that me learneth to love and suffer
And will that my trust and lust's negligence
Be reined by reason, shame, and reverence,
With his hardiness taketh displeasure.
Wherewithal unto the heart's forest he fleeth,
Leaving his enterprise with pain and cry,
And there him hideth and not appeareth.
What may I do when my master feareth,
But in the field with him to live and die?
For good is the life ending faithfully.

1557

Theme

- "not [the] subject [of a work] but rather [the] central idea, which may be stated directly or indirectly (Cuddon 721)
- "an idea about the world, expressed by a literary text, of general importance to people (Headrick 26)
- "an abstract concept that is made concrete" through an analysis of the Elements of Literature (*SF* 3)
- "must go beyond naming the concept … and assert what the work is saying about it" (4)

Sir Thomas Wyatt
[The long love that in my thought doth harbour]

The long love that in my thought doth harbour
And in mine heart doth keep his residence
Into my face presseth with bold pretence
And
She
And
Be
With
Whe
Leav
And there him hideth and not appeareth.
What may I do when my master feareth,
But in the field with him to live and die?
For good is the life ending faithfully.

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Unrequited love is painful, but it is less painful than never having loved.

Mode

mode	definition
lyric poetry	a short poem expressive of one's thoughts and feelings, appreciated for its aural qualities
narrative poetry	a longer poem that tells a story or stories
dramatic poetry	a poem featuring the voice of an imaginary character, with nothing added by the poet (*P* 24-26)

Sir Thomas Wyatt
[The long love that in my thought doth harbour]

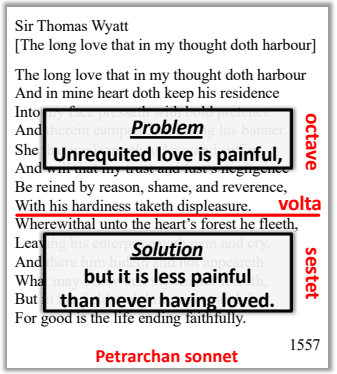
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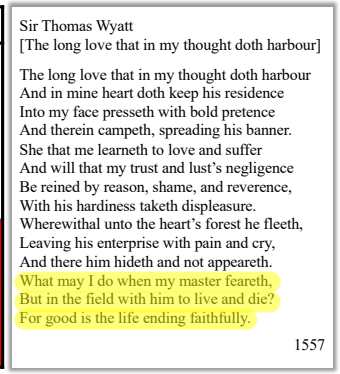
Form

form	definition
closed form	poems with a fixed, regular, symmetrical pattern of rhymes and/or stanzas (e.g., sonnet, villanelle, haiku)
open form	poems without a fixed, regular, symmetrical pattern of rhymes and/or stanzas (e.g., free verse, prose poetry) (*P* 23-24)



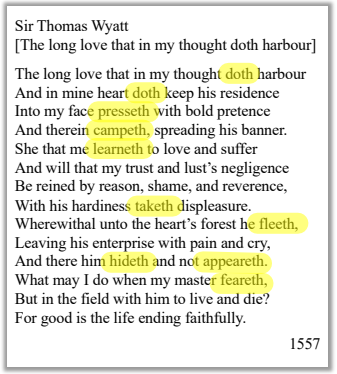
Voice

voice	definition
viewpoint	the poem's speaker or poetic persona; the identity of the "I," "you," or "we" in the poem (not necessarily the poet themselves)
tone	the speaker's attitude, mood, moral outlook, personality, etc. (what the poetic persona sounds like) (*P* 21-23)



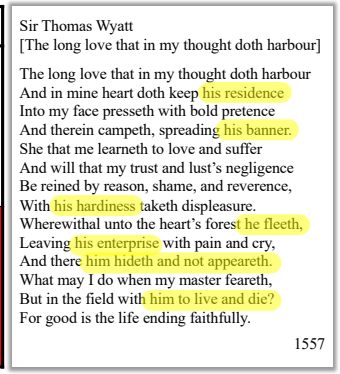
Diction

diction	definition
poetic diction	the decorous, elevated, or artificial diction used by poets until the nineteenth century
plain diction	the more straightforward, less ornamented diction used by poets from the nineteenth century (Cuddon 543-44)



Articulation

articulation	definition
denotative diction	the most literal and limited meaning of words, regardless of feelings, suggestions (Cuddon 193-94)
connotative diction	the suggestion or implication evoked by certain words, over and above what they denote (152)



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Language

language	definition
imagery	the use or patterning of evocative language to represent objects, ideas, experiences, etc.
symbolism	the use of language to suggest that one thing stands for or represents another thing, idea, or concept (*P* 16-18)

Sir Thomas Wyatt
[The long love that in my thought doth harbour]

The long love that in my thought doth harbour
And in mine heart doth keep his residence
Into my face presseth with bold pretence
And therein campeth, spreading his banner.
She that me learneth to love and suffer
And will that my trust and lust's negligence
Be reined by reason, shame, and reverence,
With his hardiness taketh displeasure.
Wherewithal unto the heart's forest he fleeth,
Leaving his enterprise with pain and cry,
And there him hideth and not appeareth.
What may I do when my master feareth,
But in the field with him to live and die?
For good is the life ending faithfully.

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Rhetoric

rhetoric	definition
scheme	a figure of speech featuring a change in word sound and/or order (e.g., alliteration, chiasmus) (Cuddon 519)
trope	a figure of speech featuring a change of the meaning of a word to extend or alter literal meaning (e.g., metaphor, simile) (532)

Sir Thomas Wyatt
[The long love that in my thought doth harbour]

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Sound

- **euphony:** the production of mellifluous sounds (Cuddon 258)
- **cacophony:** the production of dissonant sounds (97)
- **alliteration:** the repetition of consonant sounds (22-23)
- **assonance:** the repetition of vowel sounds (56)
- **rhyme:** the repetition of identical or similar sounds (608-10)
  - **rhyme scheme:** the pattern of end rhymes in a stanza

Sir Thomas Wyatt
[The long love that in my thought doth harbour]

a long love that in my thought doth harbour
b I in mine heart doth keep his residence
b my face presseth with bold pretence
a I therein campeth, spreading his banner.
a that me learneth to love and suffer
b I will that my trust and lust's negligence
b reined by reason, shame, and reverence,
a h his hardiness taketh displeasure.
c erewithal unto the heart's forest he fleeth,
d ving his enterprise with pain and cry,
c I there him hideth and not appeareth.
c at may I do when my master feareth,
d in the field with him to live and die?
d good is the life ending faithfully.

octave
volta
sestet

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Petrarchan sonnet

Rhythm

type of foot	rhythm
iambic	x /
anapestic	x x /
trochaic	/ x
dactylic	/ x x

number of feet	rhythm
trimeter	3 feet
tetrameter	4 feet
pentameter	5 feet
hexameter	6 feet

Sir Thomas Wyatt
[The long love that in my thought doth harbour]

The long love that in my thought doth harbour
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For More Information

The Purdue Online Writing Lab
https://owl.purdue.edu/

- **Close Reading:** Subject-Specific Writing > Writing in Literature
  - Writing About Poetry
  - Poetry: Close Reading
  - Writing About Fiction
  - Writing About Literature

Dr May's Class Web Site
https://www.queensu.ca/academia/drrgmay/docs/



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Syllabus Appendix A1

Writing Assignment 1

The Sonnet

- Choose 1 (and only 1) of the 3 sonnets indicated in the Box below, and analyze it to show how the sonnet form helps reveal the sonnet's theme.
- See Appendix A1 for the three choices.
- Elements to consider include (but are not limited to) type of sonnet (e.g., Petrarchan, Shakespearean, etc.), rhyme scheme, metre, placement of the volta or turn, rhetorical devices (e.g., metaphors, similes, alliteration, assonance, patterns of imagery, etc.).
- Write about 1 (and only 1) of the 3 works indicated. You will receive a zero on the assignment if you write about a work other than one of those indicated.