

New York City College of Technology
ENG 2003: Introduction to Poetry
Dr. Nina Bannett

Group Work on Poetry

Claude Mc Kay's "America" (1922)

Edna St. Vincent Millay's "[Pity me not because of the light of day]" (1923)

New poetic terms:

Tone-the emotions conveyed in the poem by the speaker. The tone may be constant or change.

Simile-indirect comparison of two things using the words like or as

Metaphor-direct comparison of two things without using the words like or as

Today, you'll be working in small groups to analyze one of the two sonnets in detail. Each group will hand in written work at the end of class today, and will contribute to a class discussion of their assigned poem.

Each group should choose one person to be the note-taker; make sure that everyone in the group is listed on what you turn in (first and last names, please). Each group should also choose at least one point person who is willing to talk about the poem when we talk as a class.

Answer these four questions in complete sentences and quote from the poem as necessary to support your answer. *Put line numbers in parentheses at the end of sentences that contain quotes—this is MLA format.*

1. What do you know about each poem's speaker?
2. What is the tone (emotion) conveyed in the poem-is it constant or does it change as the poem develops?
3. What kinds of figurative language (similes, metaphors, personification) are used in this poem? Where? Pick out two examples and discuss how they work.
4. Identify one theme (abstract idea) this poem is exploring.