

ENG 2003: Introduction to Poetry
Prof. Nina Barnett: Fall 2018

Midterm Review Sheet: Structure and How to Prepare

Structure of the Midterm: I'll be asking you to write an essay comparing one sonnet we've read to one prose poem we've read. For your essay, you'll be comparing similarities and differences between these two poems. One clear difference that you'll be expected to discuss is the two poetic forms (sonnet and prose poem). *For the midterm, you can use your annotated copies of the two poems, as well as this review sheet*

There will be a choice of three essay questions, and you will choose one question and write an essay in response. The essay question will ask you to compare a specific theme in two poems, one of which is a sonnet and one which is a prose poem.

The theme you will write about will be given to you on the day of the exam. You will be expected to quote from each poem and use MLA format appropriately when you quote.

Midterm Choices—choose only #1, 2 or 3 to prepare for:

1. Shakespeare's Sonnet 130 "[My mistress' eyes are nothing like the sun]" **and** Lydia Davis' "The Thirteenth Woman"
2. Ada Limon's sonnet "Instructions on Not Giving Up" **and** Mark Strand's prose poem "Success Story"
3. Rita Dove's sonnet "Persephone, Falling" **and** W.S.Merwin's prose poem "The Lonely Child"

How to Prepare for the Midterm (worth 10% of course grade):

- **reread and annotate** the two poems you've chosen to write about for the midterm—annotating the poems will help you think through
- look back at **class notes** for these poems
- review on OpenLab the posts that discuss the **features of a sonnet and a prose poem**: an essay that doesn't discuss these two different poetic forms won't be considered complete
- spend some time thinking about what **themes these two poems have** in common
- use the back of this handout to **compare and contrast key poetic elements**
- **review MLA format** for writing about poems
- **bring annotated texts** to the midterm

Poetic features

poem 1

poem 2

Speaker

Subject

figurative language
(similes, metaphors,
Personification)

Alliteration

poetic structure
(meter/rhyme scheme)

Tone

themes

Sonnet/prose poem