

New Bedford Public Schools
Division of Adult & Continuing Education

New Bedford High School Evening Extension

2019 – 2020 School Year
Trimester III

Learning Packet #3
for
English I /II

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Email Ms. Baker with questions/concerns regarding
this packet at the email address listed above.

Due date: May 5, 2020

Name _____ Date _____

A POISON TREE

by William Blake

1794

I was angry with my friend;
I told my wrath, my wrath did end.
I was angry with my foe:
I told it not, my wrath did grow.

[5]And I waterd it in fears,
Night & morning with my tears:
And I sunned it with smiles,
And with soft deceitful wiles.

And it grew both day and night.
[10]Till it bore an apple bright.
And my foe beheld it shine,
And he knew that it was mine.

And into my garden stole,
When the night had veild the pole;
[15]In the morning glad I see;
My foe outstretched beneath the tree.

1. Annotate the poem by circling the words that are responsible for the tone of the text. These are the words that have a negative or positive connotation. Author's write these words purposefully in a text to create a specific mood. Look for these words. (Ex: Vintage-----Old-----Decrepit)
2. Change the words in the second poem with the same meaning; however, the word may not have the exact meaning. For example ecstatic and joy mean to be happy; however, ecstatic insinuates a higher degree of happiness than joy.

A POISON TREE

by William Blake

1794

I was _____(angry) with my friend;
I told my _____(wrath), my wrath did end.
I was _____(angry) with my _____(foe):
I told it not, my _____(wrath) did grow.

[5]And I waterd it in _____(fears),
Night and morning with my tears:
And I _____(sunned) it with smiles,
And with soft _____(deceitful)l wiles.

And it _____(grew) both day and night.
[10]Till it _____(bore) an apple bright.
And my _____(foe) beheld it shine,
And he knew that it was mine.

And into my garden _____(stole),
When the night had _____(veild) the pole;
[15]In the morning _____(glad) I see;
My _____(foe) _____(outstretched) beneath the tree.

3. Now analyze the words that Blake chose to write in the poem, versus the changes you made. How did you change the meaning of the poem? Write this in a 2-3 paragraph response.

Text-Dependent Questions Directions:

For the following questions, choose the best answer or respond in complete sentences. Use your strategies to answer these questions most effectively.

1. PART A: Which of the following best describes a major theme of the poem?
- A. Deceitful people are always punished by their own trickery.
 - B. Envy and greed can permanently damage a relationship.
 - C. Bottling up one's feelings leads to resentment and even violence.
 - D. A healthy friendship is built on trust and communication.

2. PART B: Which of the following quotes best supports the answer to Part A?

- A. "I was angry with my friend; / I told my wrath, my wrath did end." (Lines 1-2)
- B. "I was angry with my foe: / I told it not, my wrath did grow." (Lines 3-4)
- C. "And I sunned it with smiles, / And with soft deceitful wiles." (Lines 7-8)
- D. "And my foe beheld it shine, / And he knew that it was mine." (Lines 11-12)

3. How do the speaker's actions in the first stanza provoke action in the poem?

- A. The speaker expresses their anger to their friend but withholds this anger from their foe, creating some tension between the friend and the foe.
- B. The speaker tricks the foe into trusting them by hiding their anger in the first stanza and offering the foe a poisoned apple later on in the poem.
- C. The speaker does not express their anger to their foe, and because of this, their anger worsens until it eventually grows into a poisonous tree.
- D. The speaker acts differently towards their friend than their foe, which makes the foe jealous and pushes them to steal from the speaker.

4. What impact does the figurative language in lines 5-8 have on the poem's meaning?

- A. The speaker's wrath ripens like a piece of fruit that, like the foe, is outwardly beautiful but inwardly rotten.
- B. The speaker tends to their wrath like a plant, implying that the speaker actually does care for the foe because of all of the attention they pay to them.
- C. The speaker's wrath grows every time their foe smiles at or acts kindly towards the speaker, which suggests that nothing can overcome hatred.
- D. The speaker tends to their wrath like a plant that later produces a poisoned fruit, implying that anger can feel satisfying but is toxic to let grow.

5. How does the conclusion of the poem impact the poem's theme. Answer the question using a CER format. Research what others say about the poem, this is called commentary. Include at least one other source and cite it appropriately. Please contact me if you have any questions.(2-3 paragraphs)