

ang070 S/Ü "Introduction to the Critical and Scholarly Discussion of Literature"
Assignment 1: "Analysing Poetry"

This assignment is a mandatory part of your portfolio and needs to be handed in on time. It is ungraded but you will receive feedback. Additionally, a sample solution will be published on the Institutswiki.

Please make sure to submit your assignment stapled together but not bound in any folder. Every assignment must include a cover sheet and the statement on plagiarism. You may write up to three pages of text, according to the formatting specifications of our style sheet. Any text beyond the first three pages will be ignored.

Formal and Media-specific Analysis: Communicative Situation, Theme, Figurative Speech, etc.

- (1) Communicative Situation: What do you find out about the speaker, the addressee, the communicative situation?
- (2) Theme: Identify the various sections of the poem. Comment on the theme and its development from one section to the next!
- (3) Figurative Speech: Identify two different metaphors from this poem and analyse one of them closely. Identify one other figure of speech and give an example from the poem.
- (4) Comment on genre, metre, interplay and rhyme scheme.

Functional Analysis: Toward a Problem-oriented Sample Analysis

Build your functional analysis on the data generated through your formal analysis and suggest a possible problem orientation:

- (5) Identify a research problem on the basis of your formal analysis.
- (6) Suggest one other poem that corresponds and/or contrasts with the given poem in an aspect relevant to the research problem you have specified.
- (7) Briefly discuss how both texts relate to this problem. Address potential differences in representation and their possible functions.

Sonnet on the Death of Mr. Richard West
Thomas Gray

In vain to me the smiling mornings shine,
And redd'ning Phoebus lifts his golden fire:
The birds in vain their amorous descant join,
Or cheerful fields resume their green attire:
These ears, alas! for other notes repine,
A different object do these eyes require.
My lonely anguish melts no heart but mine;
And in my breast the imperfect joys expire.
Yet morning smiles the busy race to cheer,
And new-born pleasure brings to happier men:
The fields to all their wonted tribute bear;
To warm their little loves the birds complain.
I fruitless mourn to him that cannot hear,
And weep the more because I weep in vain.

Explanations:

- l.2 Phoebus Greek god, associated, among other things, with light and with the sun
l.9 race here: mankind