

BM7, Wintersemester 2012/2013, ASSIGNMENT 1 – Analysing Poetry

Please make sure to submit your assignment stapled together but not bound in any folder. Every assignment must include a “title-page” and the statement on plagiarism.

Please address the following three tasks and questions. You may write up to three pages of text, according to the formatting specifications of our style sheet. In fairness to everybody else, any text beyond the first three pages will be ignored.

1. Communicative Situation, Theme and Figurative Speech (60 points)

(a) Communicative Situation

What do you find out about the speaker, the addressee, the communicative situation?
(20 points)

(b) Theme(s)

Identify the various sections of the poem. Comment on the themes and their development from one section to the next.
(20 points)

(c) Figurative Speech

Identify one metaphor and analyse it closely. Identify and comment on two other figures of speech from the poem.
(20 points)

2. Genre, Metre and Rhyme Scheme (20 points)

Comment on genre, metre, rhyme scheme and address their potential irregularities.

3. Spot a problem. (20 points)

Briefly suggest a way to discuss this poem in connection with other poems you have read, and why such a comparison might be relevant. You may build on your response to one or several of the earlier questions.

Charles Hamilton Sorley. "To Germany" (1916)

You are blind like us. Your hurt no man designed,
And no man claimed the conquest of your land.
But gropers both through fields of thought confined
We stumble and we do not understand.
You only saw your future bigly planned,
And we, the tapering paths of our own mind,
And in each other's dearest ways we stand,
And hiss and hate. And the blind fight the blind.

When it is peace, then we may view again
With new-won eyes each other's truer form
And wonder. Grown more loving-kind and warm
We'll grasp firm hands and laugh at the old pain,
When it is peace. But until peace, the storm
The darkness and the thunder and the rain.

Explanatory Notes

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| l.3 | groper | <i>here</i> : a blind man; the blindfolded player in the game of blind-man's buff |
| l.6 | tapering | narrowing; coming to a crisis |