

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 a sample solution will be published on the Institutswiki. Additionally, you can receive feedback in the office hours of your respective instructors.

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. Present your results in complete sentences. 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, Themes, Figurative Speech, etc.

(1) Communicative Situation: What do you find out about the speaker, the addressee, the communicative situation? Later, in the light of your complete formal analysis, revisit this task and briefly discuss the function of the complexity of the perspectives involved (cf. (5)).

(2) Theme(s): Identify the various sections of the poem. Comment on the theme(s) and its/ their development from one section to the next!

(3) Comment on genre, metre, interplay and rhyme scheme.

(4) Figurative Speech: Analyse the metaphor "[h]e feeds upon her face" (l. 9) closely. Which other figure of speech is salient in lines 9-12?

(5) As indicated in (1): Relate your findings on theme(s), genre, metre, interplay, rhyme scheme, and figurative speech to the communicative situation.

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 differences and similarities in representation and their possible functions.

Christina Rossetti (1830-1894)

In an Artist's Studio

One face looks out from all his canvases,
One selfsame figure sits or walks or leans:
We found her hidden just behind those screens,
That mirror gave back all her loveliness.
A queen in opal or in ruby dress,
A nameless girl in freshest summer-greens,
A saint, an angel — every canvas means
The same one meaning, neither more or less.
He feeds upon her face by day and night,
And she with true kind eyes looks back on him,
Fair as the moon and joyful as the light:
Not wan with waiting, not with sorrow dim;
Not as she is, but was when hope shone bright;
Not as she is, but as she fills his dream.

Explanatory Notes

l. 1	"canvases"	<i>here</i> : paintings
l. 2	"one selfsame"	one and the same
l. 3	"screen"	<i>here</i> : pictures, paintings
i. 5	"opal"	opalescent, shimmering white
l. 12	"wan"	faded; pale, faint
l. 13	"dim"	blurry; forlorn, melancholy