

**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?
- (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: Identify one metaphor from this poem and analyse it closely. Comment on the frequency and use of figurative speech in the poem.

**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) Identifying a research problem on the basis of your formal analysis: Briefly suggest how the manner of speaking (tasks (3) and (4)) complements the communicative situation (task 1) and the theme(s) (task 2).
- (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.

Edna St. Vincent Millay (1892-1950)

**"I shall forget you presently, my dear"**

I shall forget you presently, my dear,  
So make the most of this, your little day,  
Your little month, your little half a year,  
Ere I forget, or die, or move away,  
And we are done forever; by and by  
I shall forget you, as I said, but now,  
If you entreat me with your loveliest lie  
I will protest you with my favorite vow.  
I would indeed that love were longer-lived,  
And vows were not so brittle as they are,  
But so it is, and nature has contrived  
To struggle on without a break thus far,  
Whether or not we find what we are seeking  
Is idle, biologically speaking.

**Explanations:**

l.1	presently	soon, instantaneously
l.8	protest	to assure, to reassure
l.14	idle	insignificant, inconsequential, futile