

# AP Literature and Composition

Summer Reading  
Poetry Packet  
2023-2024

## **Directions**

Read the following 10 poems carefully and annotate each for its use of poetic devices, including Diction, Imagery, and other devices of note. Attached you will find a TP-CASTT sheet. Feel free to use it as a guide of your analysis. Your grade will depend on the thoroughness of your annotations and the insight that you provide in your notes.

**Note:** While there are obviously analyses of these poems on the internet, relying on the internet for your annotations and understanding of the poems will be a detriment to your development as a analytical reader of poetry. Please rely on your own skills when developing your analyses. You are not graded on being “correct,” but you will be graded on your interaction with the language and the effort that you put forth (as demonstrated through your annotations).

## **Billy Collins**

### **“Introduction to Poetry”**

I ask them to take a poem  
and hold it up to the light  
like a color slide

or press an ear against its hive.

I say drop a mouse into a poem  
and watch him probe his way out,

or walk inside the poem's room  
and feel the walls for a light switch.

I want them to waterski  
across the surface of a poem  
waving at the author's name on the shore.

But all they want to do  
is tie the poem to a chair with rope  
and torture a confession out of it.

They begin beating it with a hose  
to find out what it really means.

## **Dr. Josephine Davis (Translator)**

### **“Kabul”**

Ah! How beautiful is Kabul encircled by her arid mountains  
And Rose, of the trails of thorns she envies  
Her gusts of powdered soil, slightly sting my eyes  
But I love her, for knowing and loving are born of this same dust

My song exhorts her dazzling tulips  
And at the beauty of her trees, I blush  
How sparkling the water flows from Pul-I-Bastaan!  
May Allah protect such beauty from the evil eye of man!

Khizr chose the path to Kabul in order to reach Paradise  
For her mountains brought him close to the delights of heaven  
From the fort with sprawling walls, A Dragon of protection  
Each stone is there more precious than the treasure of Shayagan

Every street of Kabul is enthralling to the eye  
Through the bazaars, caravans of Egypt pass  
One could not count the moons that shimmer on her roofs  
And the thousand splendid suns that hide behind her walls

Her laughter of mornings has the gaiety of flowers  
Her nights of darkness, the reflections of lustrous hair  
Her melodious nightingales, with passion sing their songs  
Ardent tunes, as leaves enflamed, cascading from their throats

And I, I sing in the gardens of Jahanara, of Sharbara  
And even the trumpets of heaven envy their green pastures

*Saib-e-Tabrizi 17th Century*

## **Emily Dickinson**

**“479”**

Because I could not stop for Death –  
He kindly stopped for me –  
The Carriage held but just Ourselves –  
And Immortality.

We slowly drove – He knew no haste  
And I had put away  
My labor and my leisure too,  
For His Civility –

We passed the School, where Children strove  
At Recess – in the Ring –  
We passed the Fields of Gazing Grain –  
We passed the Setting Sun –

Or rather – He passed us –  
The Dews drew quivering and chill –  
For only Gossamer, my Gown –  
My Tippet – only Tulle –

We paused before a House that seemed  
A Swelling of the Ground –  
The Roof was scarcely visible –  
The Cornice – in the Ground –

Since then – ‘tis Centuries – and yet  
Feels shorter than the Day  
I first surmised the Horses’ Heads  
Were toward Eternity –

## **Paul Laurence Dunbar**

### **“Sympathy”**

I know what the caged bird feels, alas!

When the sun is bright on the upland slopes;  
When the wind stirs soft through the springing grass,  
And the river flows like a stream of glass;

When the first bird sings and the first bud opes,  
And the faint perfume from its chalice steals—  
I know what the caged bird feels!

I know why the caged bird beats his wing

Till its blood is red on the cruel bars;  
For he must fly back to his perch and cling  
When he fain would be on the bough a-swing;  
And a pain still throbs in the old, old scars  
And they pulse again with a keener sting—  
I know why he beats his wing!

I know why the caged bird sings, ah me,

When his wing is bruised and his bosom sore,—  
When he beats his bars and he would be free;  
It is not a carol of joy or glee,  
But a prayer that he sends from his heart's deep core,  
But a plea, that upward to Heaven he flings—  
I know why the caged bird sings!

# **Matthew Arnold**

## **“Dover Beach”**

The sea is calm tonight.  
The tide is full, the moon lies fair  
Upon the straits; on the French coast the light  
Gleams and is gone; the cliffs of England stand,  
Glimmering and vast, out in the tranquil bay.  
Come to the window, sweet is the night-air!  
Only, from the long line of spray  
Where the sea meets the moon-blanch'd land,  
Listen! you hear the grating roar  
Of pebbles which the waves draw back, and fling,  
At their return, up the high strand,  
Begin, and cease, and then again begin,  
With tremulous cadence slow, and bring  
The eternal note of sadness in.

Sophocles long ago  
Heard it on the Ægean, and it brought  
Into his mind the turbid ebb and flow  
Of human misery; we  
Find also in the sound a thought,  
Hearing it by this distant northern sea.

The Sea of Faith  
Was once, too, at the full, and round earth's shore  
Lay like the folds of a bright girdle furled.  
But now I only hear  
Its melancholy, long, withdrawing roar,  
Retreating, to the breath  
Of the night-wind, down the vast edges drear  
And naked shingles of the world.

Ah, love, let us be true  
To one another! for the world, which seems  
To lie before us like a land of dreams,  
So various, so beautiful, so new,  
Hath really neither joy, nor love, nor light,  
Nor certitude, nor peace, nor help for pain;  
And we are here as on a darkling plain  
Swept with confused alarms of struggle and flight,  
Where ignorant armies clash by night.

## **John Keats**

### **“When I Have Fears that I May Cease to Be”**

When I have fears that I may cease to be  
Before my pen has gleaned my teeming brain,  
Before high-pilèd books, in charactery,  
Hold like rich garnerers the full ripened grain;  
When I behold, upon the night's starred face,  
Huge cloudy symbols of a high romance,  
And think that I may never live to trace  
Their shadows with the magic hand of chance;  
And when I feel, fair creature of an hour,  
That I shall never look upon thee more,  
Never have relish in the faery power  
Of unreflecting love—then on the shore  
Of the wide world I stand alone, and think  
Till love and fame to nothingness do sink.



## **Edgar Allan Poe**

### **“A Dream within a Dream”**

Take this kiss upon the brow!  
And, in parting from you now,  
Thus much let me avow-  
You are not wrong, who deem  
That my days have been a dream;  
Yet if hope has flown away  
In a night, or in a day,  
In a vision, or in none,  
Is it therefore the less gone?  
All that we see or seem  
Is but a dream within a dream.

I stand amid the roar  
Of a surf-tormented shore,  
And I hold within my hand  
Grains of the golden sand-  
How few! yet how they creep  
Through my fingers to the deep,  
While I weep- while I weep!  
O God! can I not grasp  
Them with a tighter clasp?  
O God! can I not save  
One from the pitiless wave?  
Is all that we see or seem  
But a dream within a dream?

# **Theodore Roethke**

## **“My Papa’s Waltz”**

The whiskey on your breath  
Could make a small boy dizzy;  
But I hung on like death:  
Such waltzing was not easy.

We romped until the pans  
Slid from the kitchen shelf;  
My mother’s countenance  
Could not unfrown itself.

The hand that held my wrist  
Was battered on one knuckle;  
At every step you missed  
My right ear scraped a buckle.

You beat time on my head  
With a palm caked hard by dirt,  
Then waltzed me off to bed  
Still clinging to your shirt.

# **William Shakespeare**

## **“Sonnet 116”**

Let me not to the marriage of true minds  
Admit impediments. Love is not love  
Which alters when it alteration finds,  
Or bends with the remover to remove:  
O no; it is an ever-fixed mark,  
That looks on tempests, and is never shaken;  
It is the star to every wandering bark,  
Whose worth's unknown, although his height be taken.  
Love's not Time's fool, though rosy lips and cheeks  
Within his bending sickle's compass come;  
Love alters not with his brief hours and weeks,  
But bears it out even to the edge of doom.  
If this be error and upon me proved,  
I never writ, nor no man ever loved.

# **John Donne**

## **Holy Sonnet #1**

Thou hast made me, and shall thy work decay?  
Repair me now, for now mine end doth haste,  
I run to death, and death meets me as fast,  
And all my pleasures are like yesterday;  
I dare not move my dim eyes any way,  
Despair behind, and death before doth cast  
Such terror, and my feeble flesh doth waste  
By sin in it, which it t'wards hell doth weigh;  
Only thou art above, and when towards thee  
By thy leave I can look, I rise again;  
But our old subtle foe so tempteth me,  
That not one hour my self I can sustain;  
Thy Grace may wing me to prevent his art,  
And thou like Adamant draw mine iron heart.