

The Pastoral and the Sonnet

Please complete all work on a separate piece of paper, and on the copy of each poem itself, as required by the task.

The Pastoral	The Sonnet

Background on "The Passionate Shepherd to his Love"

The poem begins with a request from the speaker, "come live with me, and be my love," pretty please with a cherry on top, and goes on to list a series of promises from the speaker to the object of his affections about all the fun activities they'll do together if the offer is accepted.

They'll explore valleys, groves, hills and fields, they'll sit on rocks and watch the shepherds, and they'll listen to birds sing to the tune of waterfalls. But that's not all. Fancy duds from the city won't do for all that time in the great outdoors, so the speaker promises to make some clothes and accessories better suited for the occasion: caps of flowers, straw belts, lambs' wool gowns, beds of roses, you get the picture. And we're still not done. The speaker's final promises, gold buckles, coral clasps, amber studs, and dancing shepherds, are loftier still.

As the promises continue to drift outside the realm of what the speaker can actually guarantee, the speaker makes a crucial change of gears. The poem opened with a general request—come live with me and be my love—but it closes with a conditional one. The speaker now only wants the love to come *if* she is "move[d]" by the delights and pleasures that were listed in the poem, delights that it seems increasingly unlikely the speaker will be able to provide (we mean, who has a troupe of dancing shepherds on retainer?). The poem ends with a cliffhanger, as we never get to hear the love's reply. <http://www.shmoop.com/passionate-shepherd-to-his-love/summary.html>

1. What does the speaker ask his love to do in the first stanza?
2. What gifts does the shepherd offer his love?
3. What kind of future life together does the speaker envision?
4. Pick out some of the images that refer to: the countryside, shepherds, what the poet will do, the gods
 - a. What effects do your chosen images create? (e.g. 'ivory' is lustrous and very rare: the image therefore makes us realise how sensuous the idea of eating from such a table would be) How does the poet make the words suit/develop his purpose?
5. Using the detail of the images, consider what he might be saying about the countryside, the lives of shepherds etc. Consider: why *madrigals*?, Why do shepherds *feed* their flocks?, What symbolism and punning is there in *beds of roses*?, Why a belt of *straw* and *ivy buds*?
6. This poem describes an empirical world i.e. one of sense experiences – identify the different ways that the senses are used.
7. Where does repetition occur in the poem? What is its purpose? How would you describe the tone of 'Come live with me'? What is the tone of 'Then live with me' bearing in mind that it comes at the end of the poem.
8. Look for alliteration – how does it help the meaning and purpose of phrases?
9. How does the poet suggest that love has an enduring quality that is everlasting?

Sonnet 12

1. Number the lines of the sonnet (remember, in a sonnet there should be _____ lines).

2. Put a box around each quatrain.

4. Put a double box around the couplet.

5. Remember that iambic pentameter identifies the rhythm. It is evidenced by an unstressed syllable followed by a stressed syllable (see the first to lines—bold is stressed, no bold is unstressed). Using your pencil bold and mark off couples with boxes. Make sure there are 5 couples in each line.

Ex: I see a lit tle boy of four or five

Whose face lights up whenever we would play

6. Identify the rhyme scheme by writing the letter on the right hand side of the line. For each new rhyme use a new letter.

7. Circle the volta, or turn of the poem.

8. What is the speaker's main concern in this poem? How do you know?

9. What understanding or epiphany is contained in the rhyming couplet?

10. Identify at least 3 uses of figurative language in this piece.

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The Passionate Shepherd to His Love

Come live with me and be my love,
And we will all the pleasures prove
That valleys, groves, hills, and fields,
Woods, or steepy mountain yields.

And we will sit upon the rocks,
Seeing the shepherds feed their flocks,
By shallow rivers to whose falls
Melodious birds sing madrigals.

And I will make thee beds of roses
And a thousand fragrant posies,
A cap of flowers, and a kirtle
Embroidered all with leaves of myrtle;

A gown made of the finest wool
Which from our pretty lambs we pull;
Fair lined slippers for the cold,
With buckles of the purest gold;

A belt of straw and ivy buds,
With coral clasps and amber studs:
And if these pleasures may thee move,
Come live with me, and be my love.

The shepherds' swains shall dance and sing
For thy delight each May morning:
If these delights thy mind may move,
Then live with me and be my love.

Credit:

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Sonnet 12 by William Shakespeare

When I do count the clock that tells the time,
And see the brave day sunk in hideous night;
When I behold the violet past prime,
And sable curls, all silvered o'er with white;
When lofty trees I see barren of leaves,
Which erst from heat did canopy the herd,
And summer's green all girded up in sheaves,
Borne on the bier with white and bristly beard,
Then of thy beauty do I question make,
That thou among the wastes of time must go,
Since sweets and beauties do themselves forsake
And die as fast as they see others grow;
And nothing 'gainst Time's scythe can make defence
Save breed, to brave him when he takes thee hence.