



English Virtual Learning

English IV

May 18, 2020



Lesson: May 18, 2020

Objective/Learning Target:

- I can determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative and connotative meanings.
- I can read and understand literature, including stories, dramas, and poems, independently and proficiently.
- I can explain my thinking in a well-organized and developed written response and include textual evidence.

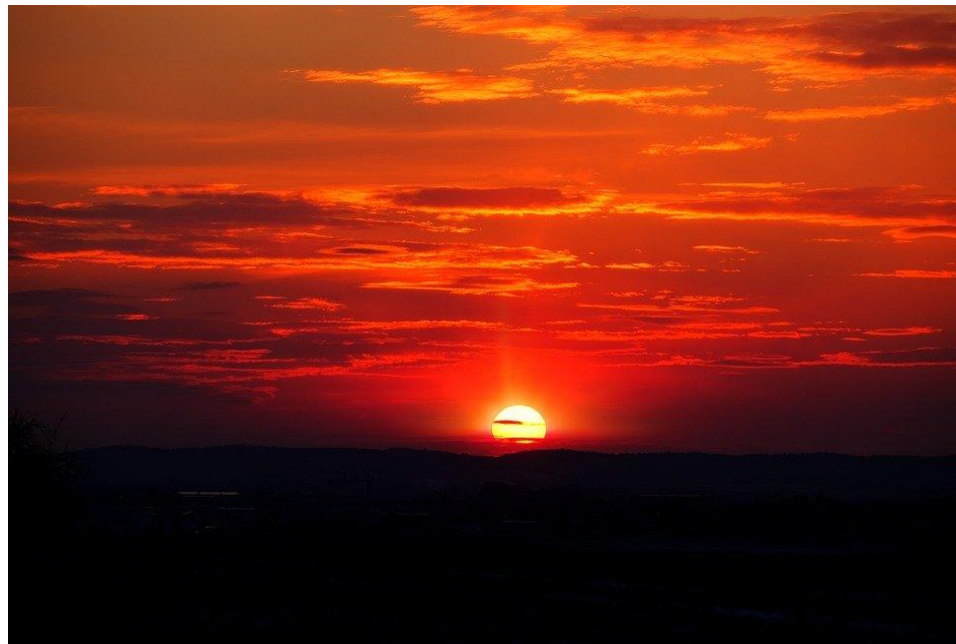
Bell Ringer:

On a sheet of paper or Google Document that you will be using to take notes and write for the remainder of this lesson, respond to the the following quote:

What message is Hemingway trying to convey to his readers? Why do you think he wrote this? How might this apply to your life?

“Every man’s life ends the same way. It is only the details of how he lived and how he died that distinguish one man from another.”

—Ernest Hemingway



Poetry Lessons

The purpose of these lessons is to encourage you to reflect on your high school experiences and ponder your future as you say goodbye to friends, teachers, and parents and move on while thinking about the changes you are about to face and how to make good choices.

You will be asked to engage thoughtfully with the text using figurative language techniques and critical thinking skills.

If you need to review figurative language, click on this link:

[30 Literary Devices You Should Know](#)

Do Not Go Gentle into that Good Night by Dylan Thomas - Background

Dylan Thomas was born in Swansea, Wales in 1914. He left school at the age of 16 to become a writer. He worked at the newspaper the South Wales Evening Post. His most famous poem is this one "Do Not Go Gentle Into That Good Night," which was published in 1952. Thomas passed away a year after this poem was published. This poem was written in 1951 when he addressed it to his father, whose eyesight and general health were failing. At this time, Thomas himself was also struggling with mental and physical illness. The poem is in a villanelle, which is a nineteen-line poetic form consisting of five tercets followed by a quatrain. There are two refrains and two repeating rhymes, with the first and third line of the first tercet repeated alternately until the last stanza, which includes both repeated lines. The villanelle is an example of a fixed verse form.

Learn:

- Read the poem below, take notes over the basics such as figurative language, setting, etc.
 - Then listen to an audio of the poem, read by the author. Note the inflections in the author's voice and think about the emotions he is imparting. (Remember, this poem was written to his father whose health was failing.) Take notes over the tone and any connections you make with the poem.
- Read: [Do Not Go Gentle into that Good Night by Dylan Thomas](#)
- Listen: [Do Not Go Gentle into that Good Night read by Dylan Thomas](#)

Poetry Practice

Answer the following questions using evidence from the poem with complete sentences.

1. Paraphrase the poem in your own words.
2. What is a theme of the poem?
3. What does the title mean?

Practice Answer Key:

(Answers will Vary)

1. Paraphrase the poem in your own words.

“Do Not Go Gentle Into That Good Night” tries to teach its readers how to face death and live your best life in the meantime. It starts with a basic fact: death is inevitable. As Thomas says in line 4, “wise men at their end know dark is right.” In other words, they recognize that they can’t escape from death. But that doesn’t mean that these “wise men” simply *accept* death. Instead, the speaker, notes they “do not go gentle into that good night.” They resist death, trying to win more time and more life. The speaker treats this as a model for other people to emulate. The speaker wants people to “rage, rage” against death: they should “burn and rave”—fight fiercely and bravely—as their lives approach the end.

2. What is a theme of the poem?

The theme of the poem is - Even though death is inevitable, you can fight it by leaving behind a legacy of great words and actions. The theme of this poem applies to Thomas and his father. Both were struggling to survive.

2. What two lines does Thomas keep repeating? Write them. Put these two lines in your own words. *Do not go gentle into that good night. Struggle against death, referred to here as "the dying of the light." Rage, rage against the dying of the light. Don't succumb to the peaceful release of death.*

3. What does the title mean? *Don't give up so easily on life.*

Poetry Practice Constructed Response

Thomas uses three adjectives to describe men in the poem. Write or type those adjectives in your Google Document.

Now consider how Thomas might be using them figuratively given the order in which they appear and the topic of the poem. Hint: Look at how the last one “grave” could be a pun.

Practice Answer Key:

(Answers will Vary)

- Check your answer to make sure it meets the following criteria:
 - Did you write in complete sentences and use standard conventions (spelling, punctuation, grammar)?
 - Did you answer every part of the prompt?
 - Did you support and explain your answer using details from the source text?

Sample Proficient Answer:

In the poem, Do Not Go Gentle into that Good Night, Dylan Thomas uses three adjectives to describe men in the poem - wise men, good men, wild men. Doing this, he connects all men together by writing that they all will face death. When they do, he urges them to fight--"rage"--for more life, rather than gracefully slipping into darkness - "against the dying of the light" (15). No matter what these men have done with their lives, whether they were wise, good, or even wild, they shouldn't give up the struggle for more. The poem goes through all the phases of life up until death. In line 13, when he says, "Grave men" he is using the word grave as a pun for an actual grave. Thus, the ending of life.

Poetry Reflection:

Listen to the poem -
"Death, be not Proud" by
John Donne. Compare
his thoughts on death to
that of Dylan Thomas's.

**"Death, Be
Not Proud"**
John Donne



If you want to learn more...Additional Resource:

Watch this documentary of how Dylan's difficult life, the choices he made, and the period in which he grew up was reflected in his writing:

